

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Venice Island Performing Arts Center's New Musical Series returns for its second season with *You Are Mine* by Susan Cinoman

An original new musical about love, loss, and the courage to begin again.

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Venice Island Performing Arts Center, located in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia, presents *You Are Mine*, by Susan Cinoman based on the music of Maia Sharp, an original new musical, as the featured production of its 2026 New Musical Series. The production will play two performances only, **Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21 at 7:30 p.m.** at Venice Island Performing Arts Center, 7 Lock Street.

You Are Mine features a book by Philadelphia native, playwright, and television writer **Susan Cinoman**, set to the soulful, rock-infused songs of acclaimed singer-songwriter **Maia Sharp**. The production is directed by **Beth Criscuolo** and produced by **Kelly Orenshaw** for Venice Island Performing Arts Center. Musical Direction by **Jeff Smith**, Set Design by **Griffin Warner Anderson**, Costume Design by **Sibelle Arslanian**, Choreography by **Maria Jackson**.

"It's an honor and a joy to be welcomed back to my hometown bringing with me a new piece and remembering my artistic roots, all at the same time," Susan Cinoman said.

"There's something magical about starting with an idea and watching it develop into a fully formed creative theatre piece, and sharing new work with the audience and actors alike, connecting on opening night," Kelly Orenshaw said. "Venice Island's New Musical Series is our chance to give both artists and audiences the opportunity to be an integral part of fresh, new work, and part of the experimental process of taking chances together. *You Are Mine* felt like the perfect fit for our second production – Susan brought her own Philadelphia roots to a story of love, setting it right in Abington, and with the heartfelt music of Maia Sharp, the whole piece offers that connection we hoped this series would bring."

You Are Mine is a romantic comedy that unfolds over one transformative night in a broken-down apartment. When an Ivy League-bound dishwasher, a hotheaded cook in recovery and his longtime girlfriend, a buttoned-up restaurant hostess and the ghost of her wealthy Manhattanite girlfriend, and a Subaru saleswoman all collide in various states of unrequited love, the result is a story about the seductive pull of the past – and the soaring possibilities that open up when we're brave enough to let go.

Venice Island Performing Arts Center invites audiences to experience *You Are Mine* as it embarks on its future journey. The New Musical Series continues Venice Island's mission to nurture all voices, bring new works to life on stage, and make art and theatre accessible to everyone.

For press inquiries or additional information, please contact Kelly Orenshaw at VeniceIslandPerformingArtsCenter@phila.gov.

For more information about Venice Island Performing Arts Center, visit veniceisland.org

About the Creative Team

Susan Cinoman (Book) is a Philadelphia native and a graduate of Temple University and Bryn Mawr College. Her plays and screenplays have been produced and published internationally, with work seen at Capital Repertory Theatre, Troy Foundry Theatre, Naked Angels, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Tristan Bates Theatre, and Paradise Factory Theatre, among others. Her prose is published by Harvardwood Publishing. Her honors include the Maxwell Anderson Playwright's Prize, Best Connecticut Filmmaker (2008), Best Narrative Screenplay at the New England Film and Video Festival, a selection at the Berkshire International Film Festival, Best Play at the Maine New Play Competition, and a spot on the Top Ten Unproduced Pilots of 2024 list. For television, Cinoman created the recurring role of drama teacher Miss Cinoman on ABC's *The Goldbergs*. She is a proud member of the Writers Guild of America.

Maia Sharp (Music) is an acclaimed singer-songwriter whose songs have been recorded by artists including Bonnie Raitt, Trisha Yearwood, Cher, The Chicks, Carole King, Taj Mahal, and Lisa Loeb. A gifted multi-instrumentalist and recording artist in her own right, Sharp has released numerous critically praised solo albums and toured extensively, including performances alongside Bonnie Raitt. Known for her emotionally incisive lyrics and sophisticated pop craftsmanship, she has built a devoted international following.

Beth Criscuolo (Director) directs the production for Venice Island Performing Arts Center. Criscuolo has co-authored four original musicals and has mentored dozens of new playwrights.

Kelly Orenshaw (Producer) manages the Venice Island Performing Arts Center, which produces the Children's Theatre Series, the Shoe Box Short Theatre Festival, and the New Musical Series and other community programming in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

About Venice Island's New Musical Series

Venice Island Productions' New Musical Series provides production space and support for composers and lyricists, with ties to Philadelphia, giving new works the chance for a fully staged production and the opportunity to connect with the audience. Submissions are accepted and reviewed annually.

The 2026 series is made possible, in part, by the Gertrude Solkov Memorial Fund, established in memory of Gertrude Solkov to support artists for whom, in her words, "music is my life."

Solkov was instrumental in shaping Manayunk – her vision as president of the Manayunk Business Association for more than a decade helped transform the neighborhood into a vibrant arts and cultural district. She spearheaded the creation of the annual Manayunk Arts Festival, which continues to draw thousands of visitors each year and celebrate the creative spirit she championed.

Performance Information

What: *You Are Mine* – a new musical, book by Susan Cinoman, music by Maia Sharp

When: Friday, November 20 and Saturday, November 21, 7:30p.m.

Where: Venice Island Performing Arts Center, 7 Lock Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127

Run Time: Approximately 90 minutes

Tickets: \$25

<https://events.ticketleap.com/tickets/veniceislandperformingartscenter/you-are-mi#/>

Info: veniceisland.org

About Venice Island Performing Arts Center

Located at 7 Lock Street in the Manayunk section of Philadelphia, the Venice Island Performing Arts & Recreation Center is a Philadelphia Parks & Recreation facility that serves as a vibrant community hub for arts, recreation, and education. The complex includes a 250-seat performing arts theater, multi-purpose studios, meeting spaces, and a children's spray park, offering year-round programming for residents and visitors alike.

Original productions are produced through Venice Island Productions, including its New Musical Series, Children's Theatre Series, and Shoe Box Short Theatre. These programs provide opportunities for local playwrights, composers, and performers to develop and present new works in collaboration with the community.

Organization Information:

Venice Island Performing Arts Center

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veniceisland.org

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