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## The Cast of **GAME ON** is Ready to Compete! World Premiere Musical Opens November 9 at the CLO Cabaret

# GAME ON

### WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH \$10 MILLION?

**Pittsburgh, PA · October 11, 2018** – Pittsburgh CLO is proud to announce the cast of the world premiere of **GAME ON**, November 9, 2018 – January 27, 2019 at the CLO Cabaret. **GAME ON** is the second musical to be given a world premiere from Pittsburgh CLO's inaugural SPARK festival, which showcased musicals designed to cultivate the next generation of small-cast shows that will thrive in small venues around the country. **GAME ON** is written by Pittsburgh CLO alums Marcus Stevens and David Dabbon. Tickets for this hilarious game show extravaganza are now available online at [CLOCabaret.com](http://CLOCabaret.com), by phone at **412-456-6666** or in person at the Theater Square Box Office, and start at \$31.25.

### ABOUT THE SHOW

#### **AN INTERACTIVE MUSICAL AND EVERYBODY WINS**

Three ambitious contestants risk it all to win a record-setting \$10 million jackpot. Inspired by primetime game shows that make every viewer feel like they're in the hot seat, this one-of-a-kind WORLD PREMIERE musical will have your blood pumping with every twist and turn. Who will take a chance? Who will play it safe? And who will claim the prize? Join the studio audience for a "live" taping of **GAME ON** and find out!

### THE CAST

**MARISSA BUCHHEIT** (*Gillian/Deborah*) is a 2014 graduate of Point Park University's

Conservatory of Performing Arts. Marissa has been seen at various theaters around Pittsburgh and Southern Florida including Lincoln Park Performing Arts Center, Front Porch Theatricals, Gulf Coast Symphony and The West Coast Black Theatre Troupe. Past roles include *In the Heights* (Vanessa), *South Pacific* (Liat) and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Janet).

**CHRISTINE LAITTA** (*Grace*) has appeared in several CLO Cabaret productions including: *Perfect Wedding*, *Up and Away*, *Girls Only - The Secret Comedy of Women*, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, *Forbidden Broadway* and *Forbidden Broadway: SVU*. Other past roles include: *Sound of Music* (Maria), *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Scout), *Carousel* (Carrie), *Hairspray* (Female Authority Figure) and *The Magic School Bus* (Ms. Frizzle). Chris is also the co-author of *The Dramatically Different Classroom* (Kagan Publishing).

**CONNOR McCANLUS** (*Felix*) recently appeared in *Boeing Boeing*, *First Date* and *Judge Jackie Justice* at the CLO Cabaret and *Newsies* at the Benedum Center. Theater: barebones productions, Bricolage, Kinetic Theater, Miniature Curiosa, PICT Classic Theatre, Pittsburgh Playwrights, The REP and Unseam'd Shakespeare. Improv/Musical Improv: NYC (UCB East, Magnet Theater, The People's Improv Theater), Chicago (Second City - Donny's Skybox, iO Theater - Jason Chin Harold Cabaret, Athenaeum, MCL Chicago). He performs monthly with Well Known Strangers and in *The babyGRAND Show* at Arcade Comedy Theater.

**JOSEY MILLER** (*Natalie*) has appeared locally in *Oklahoma!* (Ado Annie), *Pump Boys and Dinettes* (Prudie Cupp), *Tokens of Affection* (Claire), *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* (Woman 2).

**JASON SHAVERS** (*Monty Price*) appeared as the male understudy in both *First Date* and *Perfect Wedding* at CLO Cabaret. He has worked with local companies such as City Theatre, Pittsburgh Public Theater, Bricolage, Pittsburgh Musical Theater, Stage Right and is entering his 13th year of employment with Pittsburgh CLO.

**CAROLINE NICOLIAN** (*Female Understudy*) was last seen on stage this summer as Francesca in *The Bridges of Madison County* with Carnivale Theatrics. Past Pittsburgh CLO credits include *The Toxic Avenger* (Mayor/Ma Ferd), *First Date* (Casey) and *Xanadu* (Understudy). She was a runner-up for Best Actress in Pittsburgh City Paper's Best of the Burgh in 2017.

**QUINN PATRICK SHANNON** (*Male Understudy*) is returning for his tenth production with the Pittsburgh CLO. He most recently appeared as Pittman/Etches in Pittsburgh CLO's *Titanic*. Other credits include the Pittsburgh Public Theater's *Guys and Dolls* (Nicely Nicely Johnson) and Pittsburgh Musical Theater's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Quasimodo).

### **THE CREATIVE TEAM**

**MARCUS STEVENS** (*Book & Lyrics*) is a member of the BMI Musical Theater Workshop, ASCAP and the Dramatists Guild. He has written the book and lyrics to *Red* (Richard Rodgers Award), *Eastburn Avenue* and *Yo, Vikings!* (published by Samuel French, Inc.). He

recently contributed material to *Dragons Love Tacos and Other Stories* for Theaterworks USA and had the world premiere of his musical *Mythic* (music by Oran Eldor) at Charing Cross Theatre in London this October. Marcus is also an actor who was seen Off-Broadway in two editions of *Forbidden Broadway* and in many productions throughout Pittsburgh, including the inaugural production of the CLO Cabaret, *Forever Plaid*.

**DAVID DABBON** (*Music & Concept*) is a New York-based composer and arranger who got his start at Pittsburgh CLO as the music intern having worked on various summer seasons at CLO as well as conducted the Gene Kelly Awards. David is the dance arranger for the upcoming Broadway musical *Beetlejuice*. Other Broadway credits include: *Disaster!* (Dance Arranger), *Sondheim on Sondheim* (additional orchestrations). Off-Broadway: New York Theatre Workshop: *The Events* (Music Supervisor), Playwrights Horizons: *The Christians* (Music Supervisor). Disney: *Beauty and the Beast Live* onboard the Disney Dream (Dance Arranger). As composer: The Civilians R&D Group: *Our New Town*, The Flea: *The Mysteries* (Composer). Seattle Children's Theatre: *The Little Prince* (Composer). Orchestrator on *Audra McDonald: Sing Happy* and *Audra McDonald: Go Back Home* albums. Films: *All God's Creatures* (Composer) and HBO's *Six by Sondheim* (Arranger). David earned his master's degree from Carnegie Mellon University studying Choral Conducting with Dr. Robert Page and his bachelor's degree from The Hartt School of Music, Theatre and Dance.

**JEN WINEMAN** (*Director & Choreographer*) New York: *Less Than 50%* (59E59), *Surfer Girl* (Animus Theatre Company), *My Heart is in the East* (La Mama), *Fable* (NYMF), *The King's Whore* (Walkerspace), *F#%king Up Everything* (Elektra Theater), *Estrella Cruz [The Junkyard Queen]* (Ars Nova). Regional: *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity* (Asolo Rep & Miami New Drama), *Shakespeare in Love* (Virginia Rep), *Into the West* (Tantrum Theater), *Baskerville* (Dorset Theatre Festival), *Sweeney Todd* (Playmakers Rep), *The 39 Steps*, *Shipwrecked* (Triad Stage). Touring productions: *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Asolo Rep). Education: BA, Vassar College. MFA, Yale School of Drama.

**TIM MACKABEE** (*Set Designer*) Pittsburgh CLO: *Brigadoon*, *Mary Poppins*. Broadway: *The Elephant Man* (starring Bradley Cooper), *Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth* (dir. Spike Lee). West End: *The Elephant Man*. Off-Broadway: *Heathers The Musical*, *The Last Match* (Roundabout), *Vietgone*, *Important Hats of the Twentieth Century* (MTC), *Guards at the Taj* (Lortel Award), *Describe The Night*, *The Penitent*, *Our New Girl* (Atlantic), *Luce* (LCT), *Gigantic* (Vineyard). TV: *Amy Schumer: Live at the Apollo* (HBO), *Gotham*, *Smash*, *The Today Show*. Education: North Carolina School of the Arts, Yale School of Drama.

**CHRISTIAN FLEMING** (*Costume Designer*) is currently designing Pittsburgh Opera's re-imagined production of Mozart's *Idomeneo: Afterwards* and is pursuing his MFA at Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. NYC: *Beauty and the Beast*, *Urinetown*, *Spamalot* (ACANY), *The Haunted Train* (TFNC), *Noises Off*, *9 to 5: The Musical* (NCT). Regional: *Legally Blonde: The Musical* (DCC), *9 to 5: The Musical* and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (STC).

**ADAM WACHTER** (*Music Director*) is a composer, lyricist, and music director, and is the recipient of the 2018 Stiles Drewe Prize for songwriting. He wrote both the score and

screenplay for the award-winning short film “Sign,” and his original musical *Tarrytown* won the 2017 San Diego Critics’ Circle Award for Best New Musical. His music-directing credits include the New York productions of *Old Jews Telling Jokes*, *Carrie*, *Unlock’d*, and *Yank!*, as well as shows at many regional theaters, including the Old Globe, Signature Theatre, Barrington Stage, Shakespeare Theatre, Bay Street, The Wallis Annenberg, Weston Playhouse, and more. He was recently featured conducting *Into the Woods* on the primetime ABC television special “Encore!” hosted by Kristen Bell, and his Broadway keyboard credits include *War Paint*, *Allegiance*, *Finding Neverland*, and *The Addams Family*. Adam received his BTA from the University of Michigan and his MA from Goldsmiths, University of London.

### **Pittsburgh CLO Kara Cabaret Series Performance Schedule**

**Wednesdays**     7:30pm  
**Thursdays**     1:00pm\* & 7:30pm  
**Fridays**         7:30pm  
**Saturdays**     2:00pm & 7:30pm  
**Sundays**        2:00pm

*\*Select Thursdays with a buffet lunch on November 29, December 13 and January 24.*

Pittsburgh CLO graciously acknowledges the generosity of Dolores and Michael Kara, and the Charity Randall Foundation for their series support. *GAME ON* was commissioned by Pittsburgh CLO through the EQT Commissioning Fund.

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*Since 1946, Pittsburgh CLO has been the driving force behind live musical theater in Pittsburgh and the entire Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Under the direction of Van Kaplan since 1997, this not-for-profit arts organization appreciates the support of nearly 200,000 patrons yearly who attend its performances at three venues in the Cultural District: a seasonal subscription series at the Benedum Center, A Musical Christmas Carol at the Byham Theater and year-round shows at the CLO Cabaret. Its dedication to the musical theater art form includes educational programs such as the CLO Academy for Performance and Art, the CLO Mini Stars, the Gene Kelly Awards, the Richard Rodgers Award and The National High School Theatre Awards. As part of its new works development, the organization has been involved with 22 Broadway shows (30 Tony Awards®), and in 2014 produced the world premiere of *An American in Paris*, on Broadway (4 Tony Awards®) and in London’s West End. In addition, Pittsburgh CLO launched the SPARK festival for new small-cast musicals in 2018. For more information please visit [pittsburghCLO.org](http://pittsburghCLO.org).*

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