



PRYOR RENDERING

A NEW MUSICAL

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
FRANK SCHIRO

BOOK BY
SHAWN CHURCHMAN

FAITH. FRIENDSHIP. LOVE.
AND THE MOMENT YOU DISCOVER...YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY
GARY REED

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SYNOPSIS



Born on a pool table in his grandfather's bar, Charlie Hope is a 12-year-old boy coming of age in 1960s rural Oklahoma. He is a lost boy. Born into a family of secrets and shame, Charlie is both desperate for attention and praying not to be noticed, for fear his own secrets and shame will be exposed. As he struggles to fit in, his mother, Ida, is lost in a different way, retreating into religion as a defense against her shame, and against the tragic secret she fears may be discovered. Like the animals boiled down in the processing plant of the title, Charlie feels rendered into nothingness. Charlie's 17-year-old self watches as young Charlie struggles with his isolation and the realization that he is having sexual feelings towards boys.

In time, Charlie, now 17, meets Dewar, an orphan, equally alone as he longs to flee a brutal and heartless institution. The two boys form a tentative, then intimate relationship. Charlie thinks that he has found love...until Dewar vanishes.

“Brilliant New Musical.”

– The Gayly, 10/2/2016

“Nicely varied score.”

– Tulsa World, 1/2/2017

It is only then that Charlie begins to heal, to accept himself, to seek—and give—forgiveness, and, with help and love, resolves his past with Ida. Unsure but finally hopeful, Charlie finds his truth and moves into a life that is all his own.

Pryor Rendering explores the thorny relationships between being LGBTQ, family, and religion. LGBTQ teens still face endless difficulties becoming their authentic selves. Quite often this is complicated by familial relationships with faith and worship. *Pryor Rendering* tells the story of a family who refused to give up on one another, even when their paths seem irreparably divergent from one another. This is a story for all audiences. *Pryor Rendering* is about first love, family, acceptance and the discovery that one is not alone.

“‘Pryor Rendering’ is an important show.”

– The Oklahoman, 10/10/2016

“Engaging theater.”

– Red Dirt Report, 10/3/2016

Charlie's tale has a universality that resonates with audiences of all ages. It holds a special meaning to anyone who has ever felt persecuted by faith in childhood. *Pryor Rendering* touches the hearts of those who are searching for who they are. Despite the

gritty setting in rural Oklahoma in the 1960s, the book and lyrics are poetic, and this artistry is part of the emotional impact of this simple but deeply human show.

The cast includes 7 men and 4 women. Some roles are doubled. It features Charlie at ages 12 and 17, his mother Ida, and Dewar, the 17-year old boy who awakens Charlie's heart. Supporting roles include Chick, Charlie's grandfather, and various characters who fill out the world of Pryor and the other locations. This musical is intended to be performed in two acts on a minimal set with lighting and projections signifying time and place; the music can be presented simply with 5 or more musicians.

WORLD PREMIERE

A world premiere production of *Pryor Rendering* ran from September 30 to October 16, 2016 at Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre in Oklahoma City, OK and at American Theatre Company in Tulsa, OK.

PRYOR RENDERING—WHY NOW?



Tanner Rose and Mark Jammal as Charlie Hope and Dewar. *Pryor Rendering*, October 2016

“This is definitely a show you should not miss.”

– The Gayly, 10/2/2016

“Beautiful vocals”

– The Oklahoman, 10/10/2016

“An intriguing, picaresque coming-of-age story that featured Schiro’s nicely varied score.”

–Tulsa World, 1/2/2017

- This gorgeous, intimate musical is a classic, coming of age story that truthfully reflects the struggles of young people to find themselves in a harsh, unforgiving culture.
- Its message of forgiveness and love as being essential to overcoming challenges resonates with audiences of all ages.
- It’s particularly relevant to younger audiences (teens-20s) who are driving the success of shows through social media, creating virtual (and sometimes real) communities around the shows that move them.
- The show is scale-able. It can be performed in a variety of different production sizes and scopes without losing any of its emotional impact.
- *Pryor Rendering* is a show that is particularly relevant at this moment in history. Hate crimes in the U.S. in 2017 spiked 17% higher than the previous year, and are expected to show an even higher increase in 2018 once the facts are in. As the country is allowed – even encouraged -- to foster its basest, most selfish and hateful impulses, each faction becomes more entrenched in its own beliefs. The rampant tribalism prevalent in this country now has not been seen in nearly 100 years. As Hungary, Poland, Austria and now Brazil follow suit, the message of hope, forgiveness and resolution of conflict, which *Pryor Rendering* imparts, is a sorely needed balm for a chaotic, fragmented and fearful nation.
- This is the type of show that inspires conversation among audiences and community engagement.

“Most of all, ‘Pryor Rendering’ is a story of hope and the human experience.”

– The Gayly, 10/2/2016

“A depth of emotion through the beautiful lyrics.”

– The Oklahoman, 10/10/2016

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



Frank Schiro (*Composer/Lyricist*) - ***Pryor Rendering*** (music/lyrics): World Premiere, City Repertory Theatre, Oklahoma City and The American Theatre Company, Tulsa, OK, 2016. ***Simple Math*** (accompanying music): 2018 New York Fringe Festival. ***Twice Upon A Birthday*** (music), an opera for children's sung by adults, World Premiere Tulsa Opera, 2015-16; commissioned by Connecticut Opera; ***The Happy Prince***, (Book, music and lyrics), produced on Theatre Row in NYC, NYMF festival; ***The Beloved Dearly*** (Music), TADA! Theatre; ***Dog And His Master*** (Music and sound design), Lark Theater; ***Commedia Tonite!*** (Music and lyrics), Lark Theatre; ***Twelfth Night, Wild Pantalettes Of Verona*** and ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (Music and sound design), American Globe Theater.



Shawn Churchman (*Book Writer*) – is an award winning actor, director, author, and educator in the field of musical theatre. Shawn began as an actor and singer appearing in over 80 musicals and plays, Off-Broadway, as well as appearing as a soloist at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. As a cast member of one of the first companies of ***Forever Plaid***, Shawn embarked on a directorial career at the helm of numerous companies of ***Plaid***. Since then, he has directed new works at New York's famous NYMF Festival, the NY Fringe Festival, Ensemble Studio Theatre, Soho Rep, and York Theatre Company, as well as classics in regional theatre, summer stock, and opera companies around the country.

For Stamford Theatre Works in Connecticut, he co-created (with arranger David Bishop), the ***Great American Composer Series***, a series of retrospectives/revues honoring America's classic songwriters. They are performed in regional theatres all over the country.

He wrote the libretto for ***Storyville***, a 2004 Eugene O'Neill Music Theatre Conference participant. Currently performing for the Tulsa Opera, Shawn wrote the libretto for a family opera, ***Twice Upon a Birthday*** with composer Frank Schiro, and is currently librettist for a new musical ***Pryor Rendering***, also with Mr. Schiro.

Shawn is Associate Professor of Performance at the University of Oklahoma School of Musical Theatre. He is a member of the Society of Directors and Choreographers, Actors Equity, and the Dramatist Guild. He also serves as an Associate Artist and Board Member of Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre (City Rep) and on the Board of Music Theatre Educators Association.

MORE REVIEWS

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*“Major amounts of
sassy.”*

- Tulsa World, 10/13/2016

*“Heartbreaking
honesty.”*

- The Gayly, 10/2/2016

*“Charlie has
brains and heart.”*

- Red Dirt Report, 10/3/2016



Stacey Logan and Julie Johnson as Ida and Fay Rose in *Pryor Rendering*. October



Garrett Langley, Terry Runnels and Stacey Logan as Young Charlie Hope, Chick and Ida in *Pryor Rendering*. October 2016

“Joyful laughter.”

- The Gayly, 10/2/2016

*“Pryor Rendering’
has played to great
acclaim”*

- The Oklahoman, 10/10/2016

*“A joyful and
emotional journey.”*

- The Gayly, 10/2/2016

“Most of all, ‘Pryor Rendering’ is a story of hope and the human experience.”

– The Gayly, 10/2/2016

“Schiro’s score includes a pleasing variety of major and minor.”

– Red Dirt Report, 10/3/2016



Rachel Coloff and Tanner Rose as Pauline and Charlie Hope. *Pryor Rendering*, October 2016



“Calls forth feelings of pride and hope.”

– The Gayly, 10/2/2016

“Charlie’s story is optimistic.”

– Red Dirt Report, 10/3/2016

Garrett Langley, Grey Randolph and Tanner Rose as Young Charlie Hope, Hunter and Charlie Hope. *Pryor Rendering*, October 2016.