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**Beck Center for the Arts Announces
Heartwarming Broadway Musical
*How To Dance In Ohio***

Lakewood, OH—[Beck Center for the Arts](#), long known for the licensed music therapists and professionals in Creative Arts Therapies and adapted arts programs, is the proud to produce the regional premiere of the second production of its **2026-2027 Theater Season**, the Broadway musical, [How to Dance in Ohio](#).

Based on the documentary, [How to Dance in Ohio](#) follows a group of teens with autism as they prepare for a dance that will challenge their comfort zones, expectations, and ideas of independence. As they navigate friendships, family dynamics, and first love, they discover what it means to go on this adolescent journey. A musical with a ton of heart, it celebrates all identities and human dynamics.

Beck Center for the Arts' Artistic Director, and director of this musical production, Scott Spence shared, "When I look for shows to take a spot in our season lineup, one of things I look for are shows that will stay with you long after you've left the theater. **How To Dance In Ohio** is absolutely one of those shows. And when Beck Center is provided with the opportunity to offer the first professional production after a show's initial Broadway run, it makes it all the more special. **How To Dance In Ohio** (a musical based upon a 2015 documentary by the same name) features seven characters on the Autism spectrum. The Beck Center actors performing those roles are on themselves on the Autism spectrum. The plot follows these individuals and their families on a journey led by [Dr. Emilio Amigo](#). He is determined to help fulfill their lives with enriching experiences, including their own version of Prom. What follows is a beautiful slice of life story where we get to know these characters not as people outside of our everyday experiences, but rather, as our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers.....and as peers. It is warm, funny, joyous, and life-affirming....and this is a show that you are not likely to see pop up regularly at area theaters. That makes **How To Dance In Ohio** a show (and an experience!) NOT to be missed. Come share this show with us!"

Beck Center President & CEO, Edward Gallagher, LPMT, MT-BC said as founder of the Creative Arts Therapies program, "We are thrilled to present *How to Dance in Ohio*! Beck Center's breadth and depth of offerings in creative arts therapies, adapted



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programs, and inclusive arts education, combined with nearly a century of high-quality professional theater makes us uniquely equipped to bring this story to life. This is a feelgood story of possibilities, successes and finding our way!"

With a production team that includes Sarah Nelson as Musical Director, Caitlin Reilly Miller* as Choreographer, Libby White* as Production Stage Manager, Cheri DeVol as Scenic and Lighting Designer, Susanne Houstle as Costume Designer, and Carlton Guc as Sound Designer, this production is sure to hit all the right notes. The cast representing the students depicted in the documentary include Nash Feiler, Oberlin College Conservatory of Music Theater's Emerson Taylor and Tony Fitzgerald III, Rose Schwochow, Sabrina Maristela, Blithe Pluger, and Simeon Schmitt with Leah Jennings*, and Stephen Mitchell Brown* playing the adults. Please note * denotes member of Actors' Equity Association.

Because of Beck Center's highly successful Creative Arts Therapy program this institution is well positioned to produce this piece and that so closely aligns with our mission. Founded in 1994, Beck Center's **Creative Arts Therapies (CAT)** program was the first community-based program of its kind in Ohio. Each week, our credentialed therapists work with over 3,500 individuals on-site and across 70+ partner organizations, including schools, hospitals, social service agencies, and retirement communities. The mission is to enhance quality of life through the arts—helping individuals of all ages and abilities express themselves, build skills, and connect through creativity. We proudly offer Music Therapy, Art Therapy, and adapted programming in music, theater, and visual arts.

Find out more about Creative Arts Therapies on the Lakewood campus and around Northeast Ohio at <https://beckcenter.org/arts-education/creative-arts-therapies>

Curtain times for [How to Dance in Ohio](#) are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Preview performances are 7:30 p.m. the Thursday before opening night, with general admission seating for just \$15. Smart Seats are available for each performance at just \$15 per person. Regular adult pricing starts at \$43 each, Seniors at \$39 each and Students at \$20 each. Children are \$17 each. Individual tickets for professional theater have a fee of \$3 added per ticket. For more information on the **2026-2027 Theater Season** please visit beckcenter.org.

[How to Dance in Ohio](#), runs in the Senney Theater from December 4, 2026 through January 3, 2027. Added performances are Saturday, December 5, 12, 2027 at 2:30 pm ONLY. Thursday, December 10, 17, 2026. Matinee at 2:30 pm AND 7:30 pm on Saturday December 19, 2026. Sunday, December 27 has a 2:30 pm and a 7:30 pm



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curtain. Saturday, January 2, 2027 has a matinee at 2:30 pm ONLY. Special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). Regionally produced premiere.

"Groundbreaking. Thoughtful and poetic. This feel-good show is a milestone."- *The New York Times*

All performances are at theaters inside [Beck Center for the Arts](#) located at 17801 Detroit Avenue in Lakewood, just ten minutes west of downtown Cleveland. Free onsite parking is available. For more information visit [beckcenter.org](#).

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to be a part of Northeast Ohio's professional theater landscape, operating under a letter of agreement with Actors' Equity Association. We are a Small Professional Theater (SPT) based on the number of seats, number of our performances, and the maximum weekly hours of work we provide to actors. We produce every show on our stages, by choosing the play, casting and rehearsing it, building the sets, props, and costumes, directing and performing the live music, and designing lights and sound. We proudly utilize regional resources and talent.

While attending *How to Dance in Ohio*, patrons and the public alike are invited to visit [Art Treasures](#), a visual and wearable art exhibition featuring the work of dozens of local artists, just outside the theater in the Hoffman-Stach Gallery. This art exhibition runs November 6 to December 28, 2026. Items are available for sale at Customer Service. Perfect for gift giving! All are invited to the Artist Reception on December 11, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the main building.

During the run of this production, *Nutcracker* will be performing in the Music & Creative Arts Therapies (MCAT) in the back of the Lakewood campus. Opening Friday, December 4, performing Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm, Sunday at 2:00 pm, and the following week, Friday, December 11 at 9:30 am and 11:00 am are Sensory Friendly performances. The weekend run continues on Saturday, December 12 at 2:00 pm, and 6:00 pm, and ends on Sunday, December 13 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$14 for those under the age of 18. Tickets go on sale to the public on November 9, 2026.

Beck Center for the Arts also offers arts education for all ages, all skill levels, and all abilities with classes and lessons in music, dance, visual arts, and theater, as well as creative arts therapies. Financial assistance is offered to qualified applicants so that these programs can be enjoyed by all.

Beck Center thanks their corporate supporter of [Hickman Lowder Lidrbauch & Welch co. l.p.a](#) of *How to Dance in Ohio*. Programming at Beck Center for the Arts is made



THEATER

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Beck Center for the Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that offers professional theater productions on two stages, arts education programming in dance, music, theater, visual arts, early childhood, and creative arts therapies for individuals with disabilities, free gallery exhibits year-round, and community education programming.

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Creating Arts Experiences