

**BEND IN THE ROAD**, a new musical comedy, is an official selection of the New York Musical Theatre Festival's (NYMF) 2013 Next Link Project.

**BEND IN THE ROAD** is based on the classic novel ANNE OF GREEN GABLES and centers on young Anne Shirley, an orphan, who is mistakenly adopted by siblings Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert. Although they had hoped for a boy to help with their Avonlea farm, Anne's joyous, intelligent and vivacious spirit changes the lives of all those around her, including Matthew, Marilla and nosy town gossip Mrs. Rachel Lynde. Anne finds fast friendships at school, while her rivalry with handsome classmate Gilbert Blythe changes unexpectedly as they enter adulthood.

**BEND IN THE ROAD** received unanimous rave reviews in its 2012 premiere at the Carrie Hamilton Theatre at the Pasadena Playhouse. Written by **Benita Scheckel** and **Michael Upward**, **BEND IN THE ROAD** will play five performances only beginning July 18<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> at The Pearl Theatre, 555 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (between Tenth & Eleventh Ave.)

The cast of **BEND IN THE ROAD** will be headed by **Alison Woods** as Anne Shirley, under the direction of **Benjamin Endsley Klein**. The entire 17-member cast and performance schedule will be announced soon.

"Funny, thoughtful and very savvy!

— Lauri's List L.A.

"One may be watching the birth of a hit!"

- The Stage Struck Review

"Delightful! A masterpiece production!"

– Yahoo News

Making her New York stage debut, **Alison Woods** was selected by director Jason Alexander to play the leading role of Luisa in his all-star production of *THE FANTASTICKS* at Reprise with Eric McCormack and Lucas Grabeel. Alison's film and TV credits include "Big Love," "CSI: NY," "90210," "Safe Harbor," and *DETENTION*. For Walt Disney Pictures, she was the animation reference for Rapunzel in the hit movie *TANGLED*.

**BEND IN THE ROAD** director **Benjamin Endsley Klein** is currently represented on Broadway by the critically acclaimed play *ANN* starring Holland Taylor. He also served as



Associate Director for the entire *COAST OF UTOPIA* trilogy, and he was Resident Director for the Tony-winning Best Play *WAR HORSE*.

Since publication, ANNE OF GREEN GABLES has sold more than 50 million copies and has been translated into 20 languages. Numerous best-selling sequels followed by author Lucy Maud Montgomery. The original book is taught to students around the world.

**BEND IN THE ROAD** is presented by the New York Musical Theatre Festival and 134 West - produced by Susan Lambert, co-produced by Sarahbeth Grossman. For more information, visit www.BendInTheRoadMusical.com.

## MORE BEND IN THE ROAD LINKS

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