



THE MOLLY HOUSE

A NEW MUSICAL

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
RICHARD HANSON

MUSIC BY

DIVYA MAUS

THE MOLLYHOUSE: A NEW MUSICAL

THE HISTORY



“molly house” (n.) : one of the earliest precursor to a modern gay bar; a private location where homosexuals could safely meet when sodomy was still a capital offense in Great Britain.

At a time when sodomy and other “un-natural” forms of intercourse were punishable by death, Margaret Clap ran one of the most well-frequented illegal gay bars in London. Historic pamphlets suggest that her molly house was home to celebrations including gay marriage ceremonies, fertility rituals, and drag pageantry, until a police raid in 1726 resulted in widespread arrests, Maggie’s imprisonment, and eventually the hanging of three gay patrons.

Mark Partridge—a patron of Maggie’s molly house—became an unwilling asset to the police in these events. Outed by a vengeful former lover, Partridge was apprehended by the Society for the Reformation of Manners and blackmailed into leading undercover policemen into the molly house in order to spy on the patrons. His involvement ultimately led to the pivotal police raid that led to the molly house’s end.

THE MUSICAL

Loosely based on the true events, *THE MOLLYHOUSE* captures the lively, rebellious world of Maggie Clap's underground gay pub with the sounds of folk, rock, pop and funk music. There, Irish runaway Adam Mackintosh finds a new home and romance with Maggie's mysterious right-hand man, Mark Partridge. London is in a period of reformation, and while the Society for the Reformation of Manners actively persecutes gay men, the patrons of the Mollyhouse do their best to find hope and celebration amidst the constant threat of imprisonment and hanging.

Even Josephine, a teenage girl from a powerful upper class family, escapes at night to the Mollyhouse to find freedom from her family's oppressive clutches amongst Maggie's patrons.

When Mark is caught and forced to become an informant for the righteous Justice Gonson and his violent police force, he must choose between saving himself or his community—and the man he has come to love.



THE MOLLYHOUSE: A NEW MUSICAL

THE MUSIC

01. London Morning

10. Sewn Into You

13. Now, Fellas



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PRODUCTION HISTORY

Richard Hanson and Divya Maus began writing THE MOLLYHOUSE in the Fall of 2015 while pursuing their master degrees at the NYU Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. It was presented as an **Equity Staged Reading** at NYU featuring numerous Broadway actors, including Julie Benko (*Funny Girl*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Les Miserables*) and Mykal Kilgore (*Motown The Musical*, *Hair*).

In the spring of 2017, as a collaboration between NYU StageWorks and Tisch New Musicals, **a Workshop Production** of The Mollyhouse was mounted, featuring graduating actors from the New Studio on Broadway, including such emerging talents as Holly Gould (Broadway: *Suffs*, *Camelot*, *The Ferryman*), Cam Cote (National Tour: *Fiddler On The Roof*), and Max Meyers (US Tour: *BUDDY - The Buddy Holly Story*). This workshop process allowed for the larger sequences and production numbers of the show to be finessed, and resulted in a full orchestration of the score for a 6-piece band.

In January of 2018, a staged concert version of The Mollyhouse was presented at Rockwell Table & Stage in Los Angeles, where it caught the attention of the **Foundation for New American Musicals**, who presented a staged 90-minute version of the Mollyhouse at a benefit event in October of 2018. In February of 2019, the full musical was presented in an AEA staged reading at the historic **Montalban Theatre in Hollywood**.

Songs from the Mollyhouse have been featured in numerous concerts at venues such as the **Lincoln Center**, **Feinstein's 54 Below**, and **Green Room 42** in New York, and are regularly played on Musical Theatre Radio, New York.

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CREATIVE TEAM



RICHARD HANSON | Book & Lyrics

Richard Hanson is an NYC-based writer and lyricist. In addition to *The Mollyhouse*, he has written book and lyrics for *Remains* and *The Girl Who Made the Stars*, both with composer Sadie Soohyun Cho. With Divya Maus, he was an artist in residence at the Catwalk Institute. In 2017, songs from *The Mollyhouse* were featured in the Broadway's Future Songbook Series at Lincoln Center. He is a proud graduate of NYU Tisch's Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program.



DIVYA MAUS | Score & Vocal Arrangements

Divya Maus is a Lucille Lortel Award-winning musician whose work spans the spectrum of theatrical, contemporary, and choral music. Her pieces have been performed by recognized vocalists including Shoshana Bean, the cast of Nickelodeon's *Baby Shark's Big Show*, and *Pentatonix*'s Kirstin Maldonado. The lead single 'Salty Water' from her debut album *Bigger* earned her a finalist placement in the Great American Song Contest and led to her opening for the Beach Boys in 2014. Divya's work as a theatrical composer includes the film musical *ELIJAH*, the children's musical *KALLADA* (book & lyrics by Alex Kocaja), and the new opera *HYSTERIA* (libretto by Divya, music by Molly Pease) incubated by Overtone Industries in Los Angeles.



DANIEL WEIDLEIN | Music Director & Orchestrator

Daniel is an award-winning music producer, director, and performer. As a music director and musician, he has appeared on the *Steve Harvey show*, the *Late Late Show with James Cordon*, and NBC's *The Sing-Off*. As a producer and music director, he has worked with such performers as the drag queen and activist, Peppermint, Christian rock singer Crystal Lewis, actor Cheyenne Jackson, pop artist Morgxn, and theatre star Shoshana Bean. He has music-directed workshop presentations of new musicals at Z-Space in San Francisco, orchestrated and conducted concert performances for the Transcendence Theatre Company in Sonoma, CA, and was awarded a Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award for his music-direction of *A Chorus Line* for Transcendence Theatre Company.

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MUSIC, PHOTOS, & NEWS:

www.mollyhousemusical.com

[@themollyhouseofficial](https://www.instagram.com/themollyhouseofficial)

<https://soundcloud.com/divyamaus/sets/the-mollyhouse>

<https://www.facebook.com/themollyhousemusical/>

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