

COMMUNITY NEWS

Nicholas Center performs 'Pop-Evolution' musical

The energy of a new millennium returned to Port Washington on Thursday, March 26, as a sold-out crowd of about 350 filled the Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street for The Nicholas Center's third annual musical, "Pop-Evolution."

The production culminated after more than a year of preparation and rehearsal and featured a cast and crew of 85 neurodiverse individuals. From center-stage vocalists and dancers to backstage production roles, the show highlighted talent, dedication and inclusion while reflecting the "evolution" of confidence among participants.

The musical featured a setlist performed by eight live bands, with songs from the 1990s and early 2000s. The large-scale production was supported by 40 staff members who worked alongside participants on choreography, set design and digital media.

"Seeing this fabulous community theater space filled to capacity is a testament to the talent of our participants and the support of our neighbors," said Nicole Ferrara, executive director of The Nicholas Center. "This wasn't just a performance; it was 85 people proving that with opportunity and support, neurodiverse individuals don't just participate in the arts — they lead them."

The production was supported in part by a grant from HEARTS PW, which promotes inclusive arts programming in the community. Additional support came from event sponsors.

Organizers said the musical underscored the value of community-integrated programming, providing a professional stage for neurodiverse performers and demonstrating the impact of inclusion in both the arts and workforce.

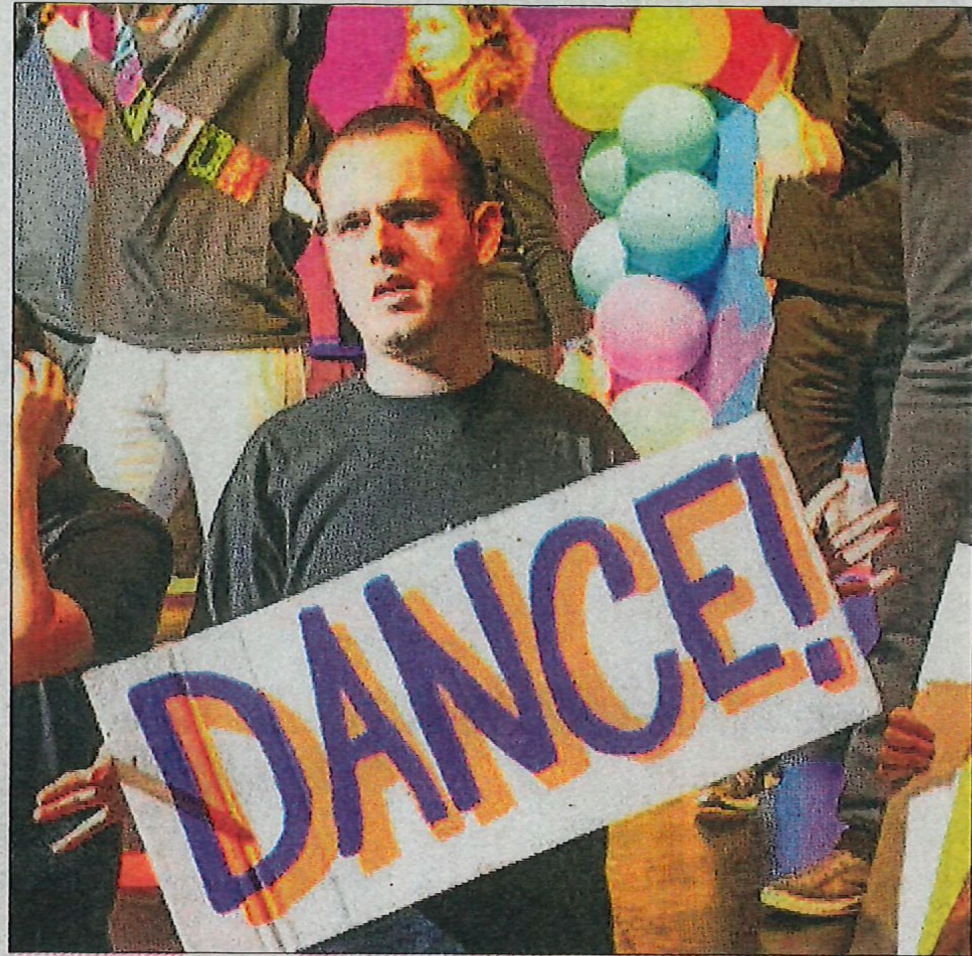


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Nicholas Center clients performed "Pop-Evolution" for its third annual musical.