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"All Over the World": *Xanadu* and *Legally Blonde* to Premiere in Philippines

By *Adam Hetrick*
07 May 2009

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The Philippines will see newly conceived productions of the Tony-nominated pop musicals *Legally Blonde* and *Xanadu* beginning in the summer of 2010.

Atlantis Productions, which premiered the first Asian production of *Avenue Q* and is currently at work on a new staging of the hit musical *Spring Awakening*, has announced that the two movie-inspired musicals will debut in fresh English language productions featuring all-new creative teams from the Philippines.

The first to open will be the Laurence O'Keefe-Nell Benjamin-Heather Hach stage musical adaptation of *Legally Blonde*, which is set to open in July 2010 under the direction of by Chari Arespacochaga, who is also staging *Spring Awakening* for Atlantis. Casting for the production starts in September.

In September 2010, the Philippines will get its first look at Douglas Carter Beane's comedic take on the 1980 movie musical *Xanadu*, featuring songs by Jeff Lynne and John Farrar. *Xanadu* will feature Filipino pop star Rachel Alejandro, who also appeared in *Avenue Q*, as the muse Clio/Kyra. Bobby Garcia (*Cinderella* with Lea Salonga) will direct the production.

The Atlantis staging of *Avenue Q* has also announced a return this coming July. Atlantis previously presented productions of *Rent*, *Urinetown*, *Doubt*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *tick, tick... BOOM!* and *Proof* starring Lea Salonga.

Xanadu will be produced as a special agreement with Music Theatre International, while *Legally Blonde*, also an MTI title, is presented through an arrangement with Broadway Asia Entertainment.

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