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Chicago Shakespeare Theater
announces that ticket sales begin today for

Heartbreakers

A new musical powered by the music of four-time Grammy Award winners and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo

Book and Direction by Bradley Bredeweg
Performances begin May 4 – June 6 in the Carl and Marilynn Thoma Upstairs Studio

Chicago—November 17, 2026—Chicago Shakespeare Theater (CST) is pleased to announce that tickets for ***Heartbreakers***, a rock-fueled reimagining of *Romeo and Juliet* featuring the music of **Pat Benatar** and **Neil Giraldo**, will be on sale starting today, Tuesday, November 17, 2026.

Tickets can be purchased online at chicagoshakes.com



Heartbreakers drops *Romeo and Juliet* into a fever-pitched, neon-lit 1980s underground—the iconic love story told as a high-voltage collision of passion, rivalry, and identity that is dangerous, immediate, and alive. Featuring an electrifying catalog of rock anthems including "Love Is a Battlefield," "We Belong," "Shadows of the Night," "Promises in the Dark," "Heartbreaker," "Invincible," and "We Live for Love," alongside new original songs written for the production by Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, the show imagines Shakespeare's timeless romance as a pulse-driving theatrical experience where desire takes over, loyalties fracture, and love is a contact sport. The Carl and Marilynn Thoma Upstairs Studio transforms into an immersive nightclub space that is part dance floor, part theatrical playground, and total exhilaration.

"It has been a joy to welcome Pat and Neil into our home for a recent workshop and to develop this new musical with Bradley and a remarkable company of artists," said Edward Hall, Artistic Director. "As we celebrate 40 years at CST, I can't think of a more thrilling way to honor Shakespeare's legacy than with these iconic anthems in the intimacy of the Upstairs Studio."

Married collaborators for more than four decades, Benatar and Giraldo have defined a generation of music with multiple multi-platinum albums, 19 Top-40 hits, and more than 40 million records sold worldwide. **Pat Benatar** and **Neil Giraldo** shared, "It is an immense honor to share this new musical with audiences as part of CST's milestone 40th Anniversary Season. We were inspired by the epic stakes of Shakespeare's story. It truly has the heart and soul of rock music at its core. As artists, it is incredibly rewarding to discover new voice and meaning in this music that means so much to us and to create something completely new. We can't wait for Chicago audiences to rock out and join us on this wild ride."

Bradley Bredeweg, best known for creating the critically acclaimed Television Academy Award-winning drama, *The Fosters*, writes the book and directs.

Presented by special arrangement with **Madison Wells Live** and **Joshua Berg Creative**.

General on-sale tickets will be available at 2 PM CST today.

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Chicago Shakespeare strives to make its facility and performances accessible to all patrons. Accessible seating, assistive listening devices, large-print and Braille programs, and sensory tools are available at every performance.

More information at https://www.chicagoshakes.com/heartbreakers or on social media at @chicagoshakes.

Heartbreakers
Inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*
Reimagined through the Music of **Pat Benatar** and **Neil Giraldo**
Conceived, written and directed by **Bradley Bredeweg**

May 4 – June 6, 2027
Carl and Marilynn Thoma Upstairs Studio

ABOUT CHICAGO SHAKESPEARE THEATER (CST)
CST is a leading international theater company and the nation's largest year-round theater dedicated to the works of Shakespeare. Under the visionary leadership of Artistic Director Edward Hall, the Regional Tony Award recipient is committed to creating vivid, entertaining theatrical experiences that invigorate and engage people of all ages and identities by illuminating the complexity, ambiguity, and wonder of our world. With Shakespeare at the heart of the artistic work, CST also produces compelling, contemporary stories from fresh voices of today. CST brings the world to Chicago and sends Chicago out into the world as Chicago's foremost presenter of international theater, and consistent producer of North American and world premieres. Serving more students and teachers than any theater in the city, CST annually welcomes more than 20,000 students to performances and programs like Chicago Shakespeare SLAM, alongside professional development opportunities for teachers. CST activates its campus with three venues: 700-seat The Yard; the 500-seat Jentes Family Courtyard Theater; and the 200-seat Carl and Marilynn Thoma Upstairs Studio. Shared humanity and unforgettable stories—now THIS is Chicago Shakespeare. www.chicagoshakes.com

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