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IU AUDITORIUM PRESENTS NEW BROADWAY INCLUDING *FINDING NEVERLAND*, JAZZ GIANT BRANFORD MARSALIS, *RENT*, STRAIGHT NO CHASER, AND MORE FOR 2018–2019 SEASON

APRIL 29, 2017

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. – The Indiana University Auditorium 2018–2019 season launches this October, featuring award-winning Broadway shows, contemporary and classical musical acts, dance, and family-friendly favorites. The season will run through April 2019.

The season includes national tours of Tony-winning Broadway musicals ***CHICAGO*** and ***Monty Python’s Spamalot*** as well as new musicals ***ELF The Broadway Musical***, ***Something Rotten!***, and ***Finding Neverland***; a night of masterful jazz by **Branford Marsalis** and his quartet; a holiday season concert by ***Straight No Chaser***; a special 50th anniversary performance of **Dennis James Hosts Halloween**; a performance and educational residency by **The Cleveland Orchestra**; and much more.

“We at IU Auditorium have the privilege of delivering a variety of world-class arts and entertainment right to Bloomington’s doorstep, from circus acts to *Straight No Chaser*, mariachi to *Monty Python*, and everything in between,” said Executive Director of IU Auditorium Doug Booher. “We’re especially excited for the opportunity to connect these artists to our community this season. Plus, this year, IU students will be featured alongside prominent artists such as The Cleveland Orchestra and Dennis James during their performances. We look forward to bringing a season of experiences that our community can join in and enjoy.”

To get the best possible seats, patrons may become IU Auditorium Subscribers by choosing five or more season events. They can purchase these using a variety of payment options—including **payroll deduction for IU employees and bursar billing for IU students**. Subscribing at this time allows patrons to get the best seats available before tickets go on sale to the general public on August 14, 2018. For more information visit IUauditorium.com or call (812) 855-1103. The priority date for subscriptions to the 2018–2019 season is July 20.

The IU Auditorium 2018–2019 season is presented with support from season partners Curry Auto Center, The Herald-Times, B97, IU Residential Programs and Services, and the Cook Family of Companies.

To see the complete list of events for the 2018–2019 season, visit IUauditorium.com. The website features video clips and select songs from next season’s performances, in addition to direct links to the IU Auditorium Facebook page, Twitter page, and Email Club, whose members receive exclusive benefits throughout the year. Tickets are available online 24/7 at IUauditorium.com or in person at the IU Auditorium box office, open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2018-2019 IU Auditorium Season

CHICAGO
Wednesday & Thursday
October 10 & 11
8 p.m.

There’s never been a better time to experience *CHICAGO*, Broadway’s razzle-dazzle smash. Since its Broadway debut in 1966, the triumphant hit musical has earned its place as the longest-running American

musical in Broadway history, receiving of six Tony Awards, two Olivier Awards, a Grammy, and thousands of standing ovations. After its success on the stage, the show was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film in 2002.

CHICAGO has everything that makes Broadway great: a universal tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz, accompanied by one show-stopping number after another, including “Cell Block Tango,” “Roxie,” and Mama Morton’s unforgettable “When You’re Good to Mama.”

It’s no surprise that *CHICAGO* has wowed audiences from Mexico City to Moscow, from Sao Paulo to South Africa, and will make its way to Bloomington this fall.

Dennis James Hosts Halloween

Friday
October 26
7:30 p.m.
Family Friendly

Bloomington’s favorite musical mastermind returns for a special 50th anniversary performance as Dennis James Hosts Halloween this fall.

To celebrate 50 years since his annual show’s debut, James will be joined on stage by a full orchestra of students from IU’s Jacobs School of Music playing the original organ and orchestral music to accompany the 1925 silent film *The Phantom of the Opera*. This film is the first that the now world-renowned organist played behind in his first concert on our stage in 1967.

The orchestra will be directed by special guest Hayden Denesha, who currently serves as staff conductor and youth orchestra director for the South Carolina Philharmonic Orchestra and as graduate assistant conductor for the University of South Carolina Symphony Orchestra.

This spooky celebration is a family-friendly event.

Monty Python’s Spamalot

Tuesday & Wednesday
October 30 & 31
8 p.m.

The Tony Award-winning Best Musical *Monty Python’s Spamalot* stops in Bloomington on its quest for the Holy Grail this fall. This outrageous musical comedy is adapted from the 1975 classic film *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Spamalot tells the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their quest for the Holy Grail. Flying cows, killer rabbits, taunting Frenchmen, and show-stopping musical numbers are just a few of the reasons audiences worldwide are eating up *Spamalot!*

The classically laughable Monty Python skits and antics meet big, bold Broadway numbers and lavish medieval design in this cheeky musical that teaches us to “always look on the bright side of life.”

ELF The Broadway Musical

Tuesday & Wednesday
November 13 & 14
7:30 p.m.
Family Friendly

ELF The Broadway Musical is the hilarious and heartwarming musical based on the beloved 2003 New Line Cinema film, *ELF*.

The musical follows the tale of Buddy who, as a young orphan child, mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Unaware that he is actually human, Buddy's enormous size and poor toy-making abilities put him face-to-face with the truth. With Santa's permission, Buddy embarks on a journey to New York City to find his birth father, discover his true identity, and help the city remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Featuring songs by Tony Award nominees Matthew Sklar and Chad Beguelin (*The Wedding Singer*), with a book by Tony Award winners Thomas Meehan (*Annie*, *The Producers*, *Hairspray*), and Bob Martin (*The Drowsy Chaperone*), this modern day Christmas classic is sure to make everyone embrace their inner *ELF*.

Chimes of Christmas

Saturday

December 1

2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Family Friendly

The Grammy-nominated Singing Hoosiers return to IU Auditorium this December for the jolliest family-friendly event of the season, Chimes of Christmas. The Singing Hoosiers deck their annual concert with a revue of contemporary songs, favorite carols, and classical choral arrangements sure to make your holiday spirits bright.

The Singing Hoosiers carry over half a century of tradition in contemporary vocal performance, and have enchanted audiences all over the country and around the globe with performances in more than 26 countries.

Featuring performances by Jacobs School of Music ensembles, the groups combine to deliver their holiday cheer to audiences in what is now a beloved Bloomington tradition.

Straight No Chaser

Thursday

December 13

8 p.m.

A cappella sensation Straight No Chaser returns home to IU Auditorium this holiday season, bringing with them a live show packed pop hits, holiday favorites, and some laughs along the way.

As original member Randy Stine comments, "We take the music very seriously; we just don't take ourselves too seriously." In the process, the group has pulled a cappella into the modern pop landscape with inventive arrangements of pop hits, medleys, and classic holiday songs.

SNC's return to IU Auditorium marks 22 years of perfecting their signature sound and tongue-in-cheek charm. It is always a special evening when the guys return to where it all began, here at Indiana University.

The Cleveland Orchestra

Wednesday

January 23

8 p.m.

Now in its centennial year, The Cleveland Orchestra is undergoing a new transformation and renaissance. Under the leadership of Franz Welser-Möst, The Orchestra is acknowledged among the world's very best for its unrivaled performances of standard repertoire and new works. This revered ensemble gives concerts spanning the breadth of the classical catalogue year-round—on tours both within the United States and across the globe.

For their engagement at IU Auditorium, the Orchestra will perform Mahler's Symphony No. 2 with Joëlle Harvey (soprano), Sasha Cooke (mezzo soprano), and members of the Jacobs School of Music's University Chorale.

In their continuous commitment to educating communities, the Orchestra has always created memorable educational opportunities for Jacobs School of Music students with their biannual residency, teaching and inspiring the University's top musicians. This year their commitment to education goes a step further, as our students will be showcased on stage alongside these distinguished musicians.

RENT 20th Anniversary Tour

Monday & Tuesday

January 28 & 29

8 p.m.

Mature Audiences

Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning musical *RENT* forever changed the landscape of American theatre. And now, this Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning masterpiece returns to Bloomington in a vibrant 20th anniversary touring production.

A re-imagining of Puccini's *La Bohème*, *RENT* follows an unforgettable year in the lives of seven artists struggling to follow their dreams without selling out. With its inspiring message of joy and hope in the face of fear, this timeless celebration of friendship and creativity reminds us to measure our lives with the only thing that truly matters: love.

After 20 years, Jonathan Larson's Broadway hit *RENT* continues to speak loudly and defiantly to audiences across generations and all over the world.

Mariachi Los Camperos

Saturday

February 9

7 p.m.

Family Friendly

IU Auditorium is proud to present Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Los Camperos as part of the Arts and Humanities Council's Spring 2019 Mexico Remixed festival. This preeminent mariachi group was founded in 1961 by the late Natividad "Nati" Cano, who played an integral role in bringing mariachi performance out of the traditional venue, the cantinas, and into the concert hall.

In 2014, Jesús "Chuy" Guzmán succeeded Nati Cano as music director of Los Camperos and the group continues to thrive. With nine albums released since their inception and multiple Grammy Award wins and nominations, their performance will showcase to the Bloomington community the vibrancy and intensity that distinguishes this group as one of the finest mariachi bands in the world.

SOMETHING ROTTEN!

Wednesday & Thursday

February 27 & 28

8 p.m.

SOMETHING ROTTEN! is "Broadway's big, fat hit!" (New York Post). Set in 1595, this hilarious smash tells the story of Nick and Nigel Bottom, two brothers who are desperate to write a hit play. When a local soothsayer foretells that the future of theatre involves singing, dancing, and acting at the same time, Nick and Nigel set out to write the world's very first MUSICAL!

With its heart on its ruffled sleeve and sequins in its soul, *SOMETHING ROTTEN!* is hailed as "The Producers + Spamalot + The Book of Mormon. Squared!" (New York Magazine).

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Tuesday
March 19
8 p.m.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is renowned for celebrating the human spirit through the African-American cultural experience and the American modern dance heritage. Their mission to further the pioneering vision of the choreographer, dancer, and cultural leader Alvin Ailey by building an extended cultural community allows them to play a crucial social role using the beauty and humanity of the African-American heritage and other cultures to unite people of all races, ages, and backgrounds.

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater grew from a now-fabled New York City performance in March 1958. Led by Alvin Ailey and a group of young African-American modern dancers, that performance forever changed the perception of American dance.

Since then, the Ailey company has gone on to perform for an estimated 25 million people at theatres in 48 states and 71 countries on six continents—as well as millions more through television broadcasts, film screenings, and online platforms.

Reversible

Tuesday & Wednesday
April 2 & 3
7:30 p.m.
Family Friendly

Reversible, the newest production from the Montreal-based circus company 7 Fingers, will arrive in Bloomington in 2019. Through a unique and riveting mix of theatre, circus, dance, music, and acrobatics, the same company that brought *Traces* to the Auditorium stage will tell the stories of the generation who forged the world we live in today.

Reversible showcases the best of contemporary circus—moments of pure grace yield to rushes of adrenaline as a cast of multi-talented performers travel through time and space. Audiences are called to peek through the key hole at a *Reversible* world, where everyday life is turned upside down into new spectacular universes filled with beauty, emotion, and hope.

An Evening with Branford Marsalis

Saturday
April 6
8 p.m.

As one of the most revered instrumentalists of his time, three-time Grammy Award winner Branford Marsalis, along with the Branford Marsalis Quartet, will bring new energy to the Bloomington jazz scene and to the IU Auditorium stage in the spring of 2019.

Marsalis is widely known for his time as musical director of *The Tonight Show Starring Jay Leno* and his work on the Spike Lee film *School Daze*. Since his early acclaim as a saxophonist, Marsalis has refined and expanded his talents and horizons as a musician, composer, bandleader, and educator, including the creation of the Branford Marsalis Quartet.

Known for the telepathic communication among its uncommonly consistent personnel, its deep book of original music replete with expressive melodies and provocative forms, and an unrivaled spirit in both live and recorded performances, the Branford Marsalis Quartet has long been recognized as the standard to which other ensembles of its kind must be measured.

Marsalis himself has played with a legion of jazz giants, including Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Herbie Hancock, and Sonny Rollins. His unparalleled energy and versatility enriches his contribution to the art of jazz.

Finding Neverland

Tuesday & Wednesday

April 23 & 24

7:30 p.m.

Family Friendly

The winner of Broadway.com's Audience Choice Award for Best Musical, directed by visionary Tony-winner Diane Paulus, and based on the critically-acclaimed Academy Award-winning film, *Finding Neverland* tells the incredible story behind one of the world's most beloved characters: Peter Pan.

Packed with mesmerizing visuals, irresistible songs and plenty of laughs, *Finding Neverland* tells the story of struggling playwright J.M. Barrie who finds inspiration in four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys' enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatregoers. With a little bit of pixie dust and a lot of faith, Barrie takes this monumental leap, leaving his old world behind for Neverland, where nothing is impossible and the wonder of childhood lasts forever.

This innovative musical features an original score by noted composer Gary Barlow and Grammy winner Eliot Kennedy, with a book by celebrated playwright James Graham and choreography by three-time Emmy winner Mia Michaels ("So You Think You Can Dance," Cirque du Soleil's Delirium).

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