

MONDAY, 25 JULY, 2011

MARY POPPINS FLIES INTO QUEENSLAND

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH present

MARY POPPINS

THE SUPERCALIFRAGILISTIC MUSICAL

BASED ON THE STORIES OF P.L. TRAVERS AND THE WALT DISNEY FILM

Based on the beloved books by Australia's P.L. Travers and the classic 1964 Walt Disney film, MARY POPPINS, the world's most magical musical, will open at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre on January 5, 2012.

Produced by Cameron Mackintosh and Thomas Schumacher for Disney Theatrical Productions, the Australian production of MARY POPPINS follows productions in London, New York and Holland as well as British and North American touring productions.

Tickets for the Brisbane season will be on sale through QPAC from August 8, 2011.

**THE WORLD'S MOST MAGICAL MUSICAL TO OPEN
AT BRISBANE'S QPAC IN JANUARY 2012**

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Premier of Queensland Anna Bligh together with President of Disney Theatrical Productions Thomas Schumacher announced the forthcoming season at an event at QPAC earlier today.

Premier Anna Bligh said:

“I am delighted to announce Mary Poppins is coming to Brisbane, marking the first time a major Disney musical theatre work has been presented in Queensland.

“This story has delighted children and families for generations and now Queenslanders can see this world class production without having to travel overseas or interstate.

“It is especially fitting that Disney’s first production here is Mary Poppins as there is a strong Queensland connection to this wonderful story.

“The creator of these magical characters, Pamela Travers, was born in Maryborough in 1899 in an old bank building which still stands today.

“Each year Maryborough holds a Mary Poppins Festival to celebrate its ties to the world’s most famous nanny.

“Now she is coming to Brisbane in a musical production which, since it premiered on London’s West End in 2004, has played to millions around the world and won numerous awards.”

Disney Theatrical President, Thomas Schumacher said today:

“From the imagination of a young Queensland girl came one of the most enduring characters the world has ever seen.

“We are thrilled to announce that our production of **MARY POPPINS** will open at QPAC this January.

“Walt Disney first fell in love with Pamela Travers’ stories when he discovered his own children reading her magical books. 25 years later he made the Academy Award®-winning film and perhaps the greatest triumph of his career.

Many years later and sell-out seasons around the world, we are very proud, together with Cameron Mackintosh, to bring the stage musical of MARY POPPINS to Queensland, the state in which Pamela was born.”

From London Cameron Mackintosh said:

“The journey of “Mary Poppins” has been a long and magical one thanks to the inspired flight of Pam Traver’s imagination from her earliest childhood experiences in Maryborough, where she was born, and her subsequent touring of Australia working as an actress, to the little cottage in Mayfield in Sussex where she first put pen to paper and brought Mary Poppins to life inspiring Walt Disney to make his wonderful movie and now back to the stage, in this hugely successful adaptation, drawn from all her books, finally Mary returns to where it all started in Queensland.

Tom Schumacher and I are thrilled to have assembled one of the world’s finest creative teams who will ensure that every night will be practically perfect in every way.”

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MARY POPPINS was first created in the pen of author P.L. Travers, who was born in Maryborough, Queensland, and was an actor and journalist in Sydney before moving to London.

The first **Mary Poppins** book was published in 1934 and the enduring story of the ‘practically perfect governess’ enchanted millions of readers of all ages.

Now the musical is taking Mary to stages around the globe.

The musical production began in September 2004 at the Bristol Hippodrome before opening on December 15th 2004 at the Prince Edward Theatre, London, where it ran for over 1,000 performances and won many prestigious awards including an Olivier Award for Best Theatre Choreography (Matthew Bourne and Stephen Mear), the Variety Club Award for Best Musical, the Evening Standard Award for Best Set Design (Bob Crowley) and Whatsonstage.com Theatregoers’ Choice Award for Best Design.

A U.K. tour opened in Plymouth and moved on to successful engagements across Great Britain, including Birmingham, Edinburgh, Manchester and Cardiff.

On November 16, 2006 the musical opened on Broadway at the New Amsterdam Theatre to applause from critics and audiences alike. The Broadway production recouped its entire investment in 52 weeks, received seven 2007 Tony® Award nominations, including Best Musical and won the Tony® Award for Best Set Design (Bob Crowley). It continues to consistently be one of the top grossing shows on Broadway, playing almost 2000 performances at the New Amsterdam, making the musical one of the few in Broadway’s history to do so.

The musical opened in Holland in April 2010 and other European productions followed in Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Hungary.

To date, MARY POPPINS has been seen by more than 7 million theatregoers worldwide and grossed over (US) \$521 million.

It has been over 75 years since P.L. Travers first wrote about the magic of **Mary Poppins** in her cherished novels, and the tale remains fresh and resonant to so many generations today. **MARY POPPINS** the stage musical features the Academy Award®-winning music and lyrics of Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman.

The stage production has been created, in collaboration with Cameron Mackintosh, by Academy Award®-winning screenwriter Julian Fellowes, who wrote the book, and the Olivier Award-winning team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, who composed new songs and additional music and lyrics.

Olivier Award-winning director Richard Eyre led the **MARY POPPINS** creative team, with co-direction and choreography by Tony® and Olivier Award winner Matthew Bourne. **MARY POPPINS** features set and costume design by Tony Award® winner Bob Crowley, co-choreography by Olivier Award winner Stephen Mear, lighting design by Howard Harrison, orchestrations by William David Brohn and music supervision by Stephen Brooker.

MARY POPPINS features such beloved songs as “Chim Chim Cher-ee,” “Step In Time,” “Spoonful of Sugar,” “Feed The Birds,” “Let’s Go Fly A Kite,” and “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious” along with new songs such as “Practically Perfect” and “Anything Can Happen.”

It took Walt Disney twenty-five years to make the film of **Mary Poppins**, from the time he first tried to secure the film rights to its triumphant premiere in 1964. The film was an immediate and phenomenal success, earning universal acclaim and nominations for an unsurpassed thirteen Academy Awards®, taking home 5. The film played to an estimated 200 million people when it was released, engendering extraordinary affection in its audiences, and has remained one of Disney’s most enduring and best-loved films.

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WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT MARY POPPINS AROUND THE GLOBE

“★★★★ THIS IS A GREAT SHOW,
A PERFECTLY ENGINEERED
PIECE OF AMUSICAL THEATER THAT
HAS BROADWAY SINGING AGAIN”
NEW YORK POST

“SPECTACULAR!
I’LL BE SURPRISED IF IT DOESN’T
RUN FOR AT LEAST A CENTURY.”
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

“A ROOF-RAISING,
TOE-TAPPING,
HIGH FLYING
EXTRAVAGANZA”
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

“THE MUSIC THEATRE
EVENT OF THE YEAR”
THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

“A FIVE STAR
TRIUMPH!”
THE TIMES, LONDON

“MARY SWEEPS US
OFF OUR FEET”
DAILY TELEGRAPH, LONDON

“MAGIC!
THIS CONTINUALLY
INGENIOUS MUSICAL
FLIES HIGH AS A KITE”
CHICAGO SUN TIMES

“A MUST-SEE
BRILLIANT
SHOW!”
7 NETWORK AUSTRALIA

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DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS

For the past 15 years, DISNEY THEATRICAL PRODUCTIONS (DTP) has been a leading producer of live stage entertainment on Broadway and around the world.

Currently under the direction of producer and president Thomas Schumacher, DTP has produced six award-winning Broadway musicals including *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, Elton John & Tim Rice's *Aida*, *TARZAN*®, *Mary Poppins*, a co-production by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, and *The Little Mermaid*. In total, these six shows have been seen by over 24 million people in New York alone and, cumulatively, over 111 million people worldwide.

CAMERON MACKINTOSH

Cameron Mackintosh (Producer and Co-Creator) has been producing for over 40 years, during which time he has put on hundreds of productions including *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera* – the three longest-running musicals in history – and *Miss Saigon*.

He also produced *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Side by Side* by Sondheim, *Follies*, *Martin Guerre* and *The Witches of Eastwick* as well as acclaimed revivals of *My Fair Lady*, *Oklahoma!* and *Oliver!* He was knighted in the 1996 for his services to British theatre.

BOOKING DETAILS

Waitlist open now

Pre-sale 3-7 August

On sale 8 August

CALL 136 246

VISIT www.marypoppinthemusical.com.au

IN PERSON QPAC, or any QTIX outlet

Groups 20+ Call 07 3840 7466 or groups@qpac.com.au

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

QPAC publicity department on 3840 7589, Cindy Ullrich on 0434 366 038
or National Publicist Peter Bridges on 0417 390 180

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