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Have a purrrfectly Jellicle experience when @CATStheMusical comes to Philly as part of @KimmelCenter #BWYPHL season. Running 06/18-06/30 at the Forrest. More info at kimmelcenter.org. #ArtHappensHere

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“CATS is back and better than ever!”
- *The Huffington Post*



CATS WILL PLAY PHILADELPHIA’S FORREST THEATRE FROM
JUNE 18 – JUNE 30
AS PART OF KIMMEL CENTER’S BROADWAY PHILADELPHIA SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, May 7, 2019) One of the biggest hits in theatrical history, **CATS** will come to Philadelphia’s Forrest Theatre from June 18 to June 30 as part of the Kimmel Center’s Broadway Philadelphia 2018-19 season, presented collaboratively by the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and The Shubert Organization.

Composed by Andrew Lloyd Webber and based on T.S. Eliot’s *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats*, the record-breaking musical spectacular that has captivated audiences in over 30 countries and 15 languages is now on tour across North America! Featuring new sound design, direction, and

choreography for a new generation — experience *CATS* for the first time as it begins a new life, or let it thrill you all over again!

“We could not be more excited to bring one of the most iconic, historical Broadway musicals to Philadelphia’s Forrest Theatre and to introduce a new generation of theater fans to this revival of *CATS*,” said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. “From the spectacular choreography – from *Hamilton*’s Andy Blankenbuehler – to the costumes, to the timeless score by Andrew Lloyd Webber, this show has been creating ‘memories’ for audiences for over thirty years.”

Since its world premiere, **CATS** has been presented in over 30 countries, has been translated into 15 languages, and has been seen by more than 73 million people worldwide. Originally directed by Trevor Nunn with choreography and associate direction by Gillian Lynne, scenic and costume design by John Napier, lighting design by David Hersey, and sound design by Abe Jacob, *CATS* opened in the West End in 1981.

The musical debuted on Broadway in 1982 where it won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Both the original London and Broadway cast recordings won Grammy Awards for Best Cast Album. Opening at Broadway’s Winter Garden Theatre, it ran for 7,485 performances and 18 years. *CATS* was originally produced on Broadway by Cameron Mackintosh, The Really Useful Company Limited, David Geffen, and The Shubert Organization.

CATS’ hit song “Memory” has been recorded by over 150 artists from Barbra Streisand and Johnny Mathis to Liberace and Barry Manilow. The Tony Award-winning Best Musical held the title of longest-running musical in Broadway history until it was surpassed in 2006 by Lloyd Webber’s *The Phantom of the Opera*. The original Broadway production closed on September 10, 2000 and is currently the fourth longest-running show in Broadway history.

CATS returned to Broadway in 2016 in a stunning revival at the Neil Simon Theatre. Preview performances began Thursday, July 14, 2016, and officially opened on Sunday, July 31, 2016. *CATS* played its final performance on Saturday, December 30, 2017 after 16 previews and 593 regular performances. This marks the first tour of the first-ever Broadway revival of the iconic musical.

The cast of Jellicle cats includes Phillip Deceus as “Alonzo,” McGee Maddox as “Bill Bailey/Rum Tum Tigger,” Lexie Plath as “Bombalurina,” Mariah Reives as “Cassandra,” PJ DiGaetano as “Coricopat,” Liz Schmitz as “Demeter,” Keri René Fuller as “Grizabella,” Kaitlyn Davidson as “Jellylorum,” Emily Jeanne Phillips as “Jennyanydots,” Tion Gaston as “Mistoffelees,” Tony d’Alelio as “Mungojerrie,” Dan Hoy as “Munkustrap,” Timothy Gulan as “Peter/Bustopher Jones/Asparagus,” Tyler John Logan as “Plato/Macavity,” Anthony Michael Zas as “Pouncival,” Rose Iannaccone as “Rumpelteazer,” Ahren Victory as “Sillabub,” Ethan Saviet as “Skimbleshanks,” Laura Katherine Kaufman as “Tantomile,” Devin Neilson as “Tumblebrutus,” Brandon Michael Nase as “Victor/Old Deuteronomy,” Caitlin Bond as “Victoria,” along with Zachary S. Berger, Nicholas Burrage, Erin Chupinsky, Maria Failla, Justin W. Geiss, Marina Lazzaretto, Charlotte O’Dowd, Adam Richardson, Tricia Tanguy, and Andy Zimmermann.

The creative team for the new production of *CATS* includes John Napier (Scenic & Costume Design), Natasha Katz (Lighting Design), Mick Potter (Sound Design), choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, based on the original choreography by Gillian Lynne, and direction by Trevor Nunn.

The first-ever, live-action film adaptation of *CATS*, produced by Universal Pictures and Working Title, will debut on Dec. 20, 2019. The revival of *CATS* is produced by The Shubert Organization, James L. Nederlander, The Really Useful Group and Cameron Mackintosh.

For more information, please visit CatsTheMusical.com

CATS

Forrest Theatre

Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Friday, June 21, 2019 at 8:00 pm

Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Friday, June 28, 2019 at 8:00 pm

Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 2:00 pm and 8:00 pm

Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$62.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling (212) 239-6200, visiting www.telecharge.com, or at the Forrest Theatre Box Office (1114 Walnut St.) beginning May 20. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling (866) 302-0995 or visit www.broadwayinbound.com. More information at www.kimmelcenter.org.

The Shubert Organization

For more than 100 years, The Shubert Organization has been in the forefront of the American theatre. Under the leadership of Philip J. Smith, Chairman, and Robert E. Wankel, President, the Shubert Organization owns and operates 17 Broadway theatres and six Off-Broadway venues, as well as the Forrest Theatre in Philadelphia. The company has produced and co-produced hundreds of plays and musicals, including the original Broadway production of *CATS*, *Dreamgirls*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Amadeus*, *The Real Thing*, *The Grapes of Wrath*, *Equus*, *The Elephant Man*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *School of Rock The Musical*, and *The Humans*. The Shubert Organization is proud of its ongoing refurbishment program for its theatres, seeking to preserve the historic character while modernizing them to accommodate the needs of today's audiences.

The Kimmel Center Cultural Campus

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, our mission is to engage the region's diverse communities with art through performance and education. Our Cultural Campus serves more than 1 million guests per year and includes the **Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts**, the **Academy of Music**, and the **Merriam Theater**- representing more than 160 years of rich history for the performing arts along Philadelphia's Avenue of the Arts. We are home to eight esteemed Resident Companies: **The Philadelphia Orchestra**, **Opera Philadelphia**, **Pennsylvania Ballet**, **The Philly POPS**, **PHILADANCO**, **The Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia**, **The Philadelphia Chamber Music Society**, and **Curtis Institute of Music**. With nearly 9,000 seats per night, we are the region's most impactful performing arts center, and

the second largest in the country. Our Cultural Campus serves as a preeminent and inclusive place to enjoy exceptional experiences that reflect the spirit of our region by cultivating a creative and socially-responsible environment where our community shares experiences that are delivered with pride, integrity, and respect. As a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization, we collaborate on, present, and produce a broad range of relevant and meaningful events, we serve as an active gathering space for social and community events, we educate the region's young people through access to quality arts experiences, and we provide support to artists in the creation of new work. TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank, is our proud sponsor of the Kimmel Center's 2018-2019 Season. American Airlines is the official airline of Broadway Philadelphia. For additional information, visit www.kimmelcenter.org.

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For photography, please visit www.kcpress.smugmug.com