



THE KIMMEL CENTER
ACADEMY OF MUSIC
MERRIAM THEATER

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND - Philly's own funkadelic soul crooner @Johnnyshowcase returns to the @KimmelCenter with "The Johnny Shortcake Show" – a family-friendly event over two groovy weekends, 10/27-10/28 and 11/3-11/4. More info @ KimmelCenter.org

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**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND –
PHILLY'S FAVORITE FUNK ROCKER DAVID SWEENY
BRINGS *THE JOHNNY SHORTCAKE SHOW*
BACK TO THE KIMMEL CENTER CULTURAL CAMPUS
OCTOBER 27 – 28 & NOVEMBER 3 – 4, 2018**

**Family-friendly show developed as part of
2016 Kimmel Center Theater Residency**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Philadelphia, PA, September 5, 2018) – Philadelphia's premier soul crooner David Sweeny returns to the Kimmel Center's SEI Innovation Studio as his kid-centric personality Johnny Shortcake for eight, family-friendly performances, October 27 – 28 and November 3 – 4, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day. *The Johnny Shortcake Show* is a charming children's show that takes audiences on a magical journey filled with unforgettable songs for young and old alike, featuring original music by David Sweeny, Michael Baker, and Ross Bellenoit, and direction by Brad Wrenn.

"As eccentric as he is endearing, and engaging from start to finish, David Sweeny's youthful persona, Johnny Shortcake, stole the hearts of Philadelphia's families last year," said Anne Ewers, President and CEO of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. "A graduate of our Theater Residency program, Sweeny has created a program that educates and entertains our littlest music lovers. With a quirky

approach to his artistic song writing, children learn about love, silliness, and important life lessons like brushing your teeth and eating your vegetables.”

David Sweeny has made a name for himself in the Philadelphia music and arts scene under his other charismatic persona – Johnny Showcase. He’s described as equal parts Andy Kaufman and Prince. Carrying the torch of funk-rock pioneers, Johnny Showcase has gained a massive following and become something of a funky Philly folk hero legend. In 2016, as part of the Kimmel Center’s Theater Residency program in partnership with Joe’s Pub, Sweeny, Michael Baker, and Philadelphia folk rocker Ross Bellenoit embarked on a mission to create a musical for kids, and with that, Johnny Shortcake was born! With fun, engaging, and relatable songs such as “Cupcake Tuesday,” “Brushing your Teeth,” and “Grandma’s Whiskers,” *The Johnny Shortcake Show* truly celebrates childhood in a way that will have parents grooving and laughing along.

Other featured upcoming performances on the Kimmel Center Cultural Campus include: **iLuminate** (September 21 -22, 2018, Merriam Theater), **Chinese Warriors of Peking** (November 2, 2018, Merriam Theater), **Dr. Seuss’ How The Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical** (December 19-29, 2018, Merriam Theater), **The Lighting Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical** (January 22-27, 2019, Merriam Theater), and **American Girl Live** (February 14-17, 2019, Perelman Theater).

The Johnny Shortcake Show

SEI Innovation Studio

October 27, 2018, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

October 28, 2018, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

November 3, 2018, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

November 4, 2018, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Tickets

Tickets are on sale now and start at \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling 215-893-1999, online at www.kimmelcenter.org, or at the Kimmel Center Box Office. Group sales are available for groups of 10 or more and can be purchased by calling 215-790-5883. See www.kimmelcenter.org for more information.

The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts

Located in the heart of Center City, Philadelphia, the Kimmel Center’s mission is to operate a world-class performing arts center that engages and serves a broad audience through diverse programming, arts education, and community outreach. The Kimmel Center Campus is comprised of the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts (Verizon Hall, Perelman Theater, SEI Innovation Studio, and the Merck Arts Education Center), the Academy of Music (owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association), and the Merriam Theater. The Kimmel Center is also home to eight Resident Companies: The Philadelphia Orchestra, Opera Philadelphia, The 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, The Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts is the region’s most impactful performing arts center, and the second largest in the country. TD Bank, America’s Most Convenient Bank, is the season 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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