



NEWS RELEASE

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CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR STAGES ST. LOUIS' 2015 SEASON

(ST. LOUIS) – STAGES St. Louis is proud to announce casting for its exhilarating 29th season: *Smokey Joe's Café*, *Anything Goes*, and *The Full Monty*. This season's exceptional talent voyages through songs and stories of diverse relationships, the bonds of friendship, and strength found in community. STAGES also announces the cast for its Theatre for Young Audiences production, the purrrrr-fect family classic, Disney's *The Aristocats*. All season and single tickets are on sale now.

***Smokey Joe's Café* (May 29 – June 28)** stars **Broadway Actress Emily Afton** as Pattie, **New York Actor Richard Crandle** as Victor, **New York Actor Josh A. Dawson** as Ken, **New York Actor Brent Michael Diroma** as Michael, **New York Actress Keisha Gilles** as B.J., **New York Actor Kent Overshown** as Adrian, **New York Actress J. Nycole Ralph** as Brenda, **New York Actor Jason Samuel** as Fred, and **New York Actress Bronwyn Tarboton** as DeLee. Showcasing the rich song catalog of the prolific songwriting team, Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, *Smokey Joe's Café* offers a nostalgic exploration of the lives, loves, and aspirations of a group of friends who know how to rock 60s style. Featuring nearly 40 chart-topping hits that span over three decades of popular American music, this thrilling Grammy award-winning song celebration will knock your socks off. Relive the glory days of rock and roll with such pop standards as "Stand By Me," "Jailhouse Rock," "I'm A Woman," "Hound Dog," and "On Broadway." Now, Baby, that's rock 'n' roll!

Emily Afton returns to St. Louis, where she appeared at the Fox Theatre in 2013 with the National Tour of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. Other Broadway and National Tour credits include *Hair* and *I Love A Piano*. **Richard Crandle** has performed in the National Tour of *Hairspray* and more recently has been seen on NBC's "The Sing Off" as well as the 2013 feature film, *Black Nativity* starring Jennifer Hudson. Making his STAGES debut, **Josh A. Dawson** has appeared as Ken previously in a regional production of *Smokey Joe's Café*. Other regional credits include *Hair*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Cats*. **Brent Michael Diroma** has performed in the North American Tour of *Avenue Q*. Other credits include *Memphis*, *Jersey Boys*, and *West Side Story*. **Keisha Gilles** joins STAGES, previously appearing in the National Tour of *Dreamgirls*. Other regional credits include *Sistas: The Musical*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Chicago*. Making his STAGES debut, **Kent Overshown** has performed in the National Tours of *Memphis* and *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess*. Overshown also has appeared with the Philadelphia Orchestra as well as in multiple productions at The Muny. Best known for her performance in the Broadway Tour of *West Side Story*, **J. Nycole Ralph** also has appeared in regional productions of *Memphis* and *Hairspray*. Other credits include the Chris Rock film, *Top Five* and the award-winning film, *Homework*. Making his STAGES debut, **Jason Samuel** has appeared in the First National Tour of *The Wedding Singer* and in

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regional productions of *Elf*, *The Full Monty*, and *Smokey Joe's Café*. **Bronwyn Tarboton** returns to STAGES, previously appearing last season in STAGES' 2014 productions of *They're Playing Our Song* and *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Other regional credits include *Oliver!*, *A Chorus Line*, and *Kiss Me Kate*.

Rounding out the cast are **Christian Bufford** (Swing) and **Morgan Amiel Faulkner** (Swing).

The creative team for the production includes: **Stephen Bourneuf** (Direction and Choreography), **Peggy Taphorn** (Co-Choreography), **Lisa Campbell Albert** (Musical Direction), **James Wolk** (Scenic Design), **Brad Musgrove** (Costume Design), **Matthew F. McCarthy** (Lighting Design), **Stuart M. Elmore** (Orchestral Design).

STAGES Theatre for Young Audiences production, Disney's *The Aristocats* (June 3 – 28), performed at the Playhouse at Westport Plaza, stars **New York Actor David Schmittou** as Thomas O'Malley and **St. Louis Actress April Strelinger** as Duchess. Get ready for a feline adventure as Thomas O'Malley and his rag-tag bunch of Alley Cats spring to the rescue of cat-napped Duchess and her Aristokittens. What happens next is anyone's guess! You'll be clapping your paws and wagging your tail to our hep, jazzy beat. With songs like "The Aristocats," "Scales and Arpeggios," and "Ev'rybody Wants to Be a Cat," this modern version of the familiar Disney classic is just purrrrrr-fect for the entire family.

David Schmittou returns to STAGES and to the role of Thomas O'Malley, which he previously played in STAGES' 2010 production of Disney's *The Aristocats*. Other STAGES credits include the 2012 production of *The Sound of Music* and the 2009 production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*. **April Strelinger** also returns to STAGES, where she was last seen as Merryweather in STAGES' 2014 production of Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*. A familiar face with St. Louis audiences, Strelinger also appeared at The Muny last summer in their productions of *Seussical* and *Hello, Dolly!*

Rounding out the cast in alphabetical order are **Stephen Barnowski** (Hep Cat/Vichy), **Craig Blake** (Scat Cat/Lafayette), **Michele Burdette Elmore** (Madame/Amelia), **John Flack** (Edgar), **Erik Keiser** (Wacky Cat/Napoleon), **Maria Knasel** (Marie), **Laurie McConnell** (Roquefort/Abigail), **Alex Meuret** (Berlioz), and **Ronan Ryan** (Toulouse).

The creative team for the production includes: **Michael Hamilton** (Direction), **Ellen Isom** (Choreography), **Justin Smolik** (Musical Direction), **James Wolk** (Scenic Design), **Garth Dunbar** (Costume Design), **Matthew F. McCarthy** (Lighting Design), **Stuart M. Elmore** (Orchestral Design).

***Anything Goes* (July 17 – August 16)** stars **Los Angeles Actress Julie Cardia** as Reno Sweeney, **Broadway Actor Jeffrey Alan Pew** as Billy, and **Broadway and St. Louis Actor Bob Amaral** as Moonface Martin. Set sail on the S. S. American with a zany group of travelers, bound from New York to merry old England, where gangsters, socialites, and arrow-collar lads collide in a true tap-sensation from a by-gone era when travel was still fun and as unpredictable as the weather. This classic musical comedy from Broadway's golden age features such meltingly romantic Cole Porter melodies as "I Get A Kick Out Of You," "It's De-Lovely," "Easy To Love," "You're The Top," and "Anything Goes."

Julie Cardia returns to STAGES, previously appearing in STAGES' 2011 production of *The Secret Garden* and the 2009 production of *Guys and Dolls*. Other credits include the National Tours of *Annie*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *The Music Man: In Concert* led by Shirley Jones. Also returning to STAGES is **Jeffrey Alan Pew**, who was last seen in STAGES' 2011 production of *A Chorus Line*. Broadway and National Tour credits include *Cinderella*, *First Wives Club*, *Billy Elliot*, and *The Radio City*

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Christmas Spectacular. Making his STAGES debut, **Bob Amaral** has performed on Broadway in *Guys and Dolls*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*, and *The Lion King*. Television guest appearances include “N.Y.P.D. Blue,” “Son of the Beach,” and “Any Day Now.”

Also starring is **Broadway Actress Heidi Giberson** as Hope Harcourt. Giberson has performed on Broadway in *Cinderella* and *Les Miserables* as well as in the Off-Broadway production of *The Fantasticks*. Giberson also recently has been seen as Liesl in STAGES’ 2012 production of *The Sound of Music*. **New York Actor Dan Fenaughty** makes his STAGES debut as Sir Evelyn Oakleigh. Regional credits include *Murder Among Friends*, *Camelot*, *The 39 Steps*, and *A Murder Is Announced*. Fenaughty also has voiced characters in short films and audio books.

Rounding out the cast in alphabetical order are **Craig Blake** (Photographer/Sailor Quartet), **Brennan Caldwell** (Purser), **Jon Cooper** (Fred/Sailor), **Kari Ely** (Mrs. Evangeline Harcourt), **Lois Enders** (Chastity), **Morgan Amiel Faulkner** (Passenger), **John Flack** (Captain), **Gaby Gamache** (Charity), **Patrick Graver** (FBI Agent/Sailor), **TBA** (Purity), **Austin Hohnke** (Henry T. Dobson/Sailor/Passenger), **Drew Humphrey** (Reporter/Sailor Quartet), **Ellen Isom** (Old Lady in a Wheelchair/Passenger), **Erik Keiser** (Luke/Sailor Quartet), **Chris Kotera** (FBI Agent/Sailor Quartet/Passenger), **Jonathan Kwock** (John/Sailor), **Whit Reichert** (Elisha Whitney), **Bronwyn Tarboton** (Virtue), and **Laura E. Taylor** (Erma).

The creative team for the production includes: **Michael Hamilton** (Direction), **Stephen Bourneuf** (Choreography), **Lisa Campbell Albert** (Musical Direction), **James Wolk** (Scenic Design), **Brad Musgrove** (Costume Design), **Sean Savoie** (Lighting Design), **Stuart M. Elmore** (Orchestral Design).

The Full Monty (September 4 – October 4) stars **New York Actor Will Ray** as Jerry Lukowski, **Broadway Actor Todd A. Horman** as Dave Bukatinsky, **Broadway Actor James Ludwig** as Harold Nichols, **Broadway Actor Milton Craig Nealy** as Noah “Horse” Simmons, **New York Actor Chuck Ragsdale** as Malcolm MacGregor, and **New York Actor Adam Shonkwiler** as Ethan Girard. A ten-time Tony Award-nominee, *The Full Monty* recounts a moving story of six unemployed steelworkers who come up with a bold and unconventional way to make some much-needed cash, after witnessing their wives go wild for a group of male strippers. In the process, they discover renewed self-esteem and the importance of family, friendship, and the very human desire to live life to the fullest. With razor-sharp humor and toe-tapping pizzazz, *The Full Monty* is musical theatre at its most heart-warming.

Will Ray makes his STAGES debut as Jerry Lukowski. New York credits include *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *Balls...The Musical*. Ray also has appeared in the First National Tour of *Little House on the Prairie: The Musical* and as a featured soloist with orchestras around the world including the Cincinnati Pops, the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. Returning to STAGES, **Todd A. Horman** most recently was seen in the Broadway production of Sting’s *The Last Ship* and the First National Tour of *Sister Act*. Horman also has appeared on Broadway in *Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* and *Urinetown*. Other regional credits include *The Full Monty*, *1776*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Making his STAGES debut, **James Ludwig** has appeared on Broadway in the original cast of *Spamalot* and the First National Tour of *101 Dalmatians*. Other credits include the Off-Broadway productions of *Two Point Oh*, *Blue Man Group*, and *John & Jen* as well as a regional production of *The Full Monty*. Making his STAGES debut, **Milton Craig Nealy** has appeared on Broadway in *Motown: The Musical*, *Caroline, or Change*, *Miss Saigon*, and *Five Guys Named Moe*. Nealy also has performed at The Muny in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and recently returned in 2012 for *Dreamgirls*. **Chuck Ragsdale** makes his STAGES debut, returning to the role of Malcolm, which he recently played at Maine State Music Theatre and The Fulton

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Theatre in Lancaster, PA. Ragsdale also appeared in the original company for the National Tour of *The 101 Dalmatians*. Off-Broadway credits include *Silence!*, *How to Save the World...*, and *The Ark*. **Adam Shonkwiler** returns to STAGES, where he was last seen as Huck in STAGES' 2010 production of *Big River*. Shonkwiler has appeared in the National Tour of *Whistle Down the Wind* and in regional productions of *Red*, *Camelot*, and *Next Fall*.

Also starring is **St. Louis Actress Zoe Vonder Haar** as Jeanette Burmeister. A familiar face with St. Louis audiences, Vonder Haar has performed in over sixty productions at STAGES including *Hello, Dolly!*, *Gypsy*, *Mame*, and most recently starred as Louise in *Always... Patsy Cline*. Other credits include the First International Touring Company of *A Chorus Line* and numerous productions at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis and The Muny.

Rounding out the cast in alphabetical order are **Leah Berry** (Pam Lukowski), **Shawn Bowers** (Jackson/Police Sergeant/Repo Man), **Julie Cardia** (Vicki Nichols), **Kari Ely** (Marge/Molly MacGregor), **Laura Ernst** (Delores/Power Jogger), **Morgan Amiel Faulkner** (Estelle Genovese/Dance Instructor), **John Flack** (Gary Bonasorte/Tony Giordano), **Cody Heuer** (Marty/Repo Man), **Cole Hoefflerle** (Nathan Lukowski), **Steve Isom** (Reg Willoughby), **Ian Paget** (Buddy "Keno" Walsh), **Whit Reichert** (Power Jogger/Minister), **David Sajewich** (2nd Stripper/Teddy Slaughter), **Angela Sapolis** (Susan Hershey), **April Strelinger** (Joanie Lish), and **Lindsie VanWinkle** (Georgie Bukatinsky).

The creative team for the production includes: **Michael Hamilton** (Direction), **Stephen Bourneuf** (Choreography), **Lisa Campbell Albert** (Musical Direction), **James Wolk** (Scenic Design), **Garth Dunbar** (Costume Design), **Matthew F. McCarthy** (Lighting Design), **Stuart M. Elmore** (Orchestral Design).

STAGES St. Louis is the region's foremost not-for-profit company committed to preserving and advancing the art form of Musical Theatre through excellence in performance and education. In 2015, STAGES celebrates its 29th year of producing Broadway-quality theatre, presenting 144 performances from May through October to nearly 50,000 patrons, during its mainstage season.

STAGES opened in 1987 with a budget of \$50,000 and a part-time seasonal staff of eight. Today, the company employs a full-time staff of more than 25 overseeing a budget of nearly \$4.7 million. During the performance season, an additional 150 actors and crew members bring the productions to life. STAGES professionals have produced 99 musicals, with over 3,250 performances, and during the 2014 season reached the milestone of over 1 million patrons. Annually, STAGES also produces its award-winning Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) production to encourage multiple generations to attend professional, live musical theatre together on family-friendly schedules.

Subscriptions to the 2015 Season begin at just \$99. Single tickets are on sale now and prices range from \$20 - \$57. STAGES performs in the intimate, 377-seat Robert G. Reim Theatre at the Kirkwood Civic Center, 111 South Geyer Road in St. Louis, MO. For more information or to purchase tickets call 314-821-2407 or visit www.StagesStLouis.org.

Each mainstage production will run for a total of five weeks with matinee and evening performances Tuesdays through Sundays. The Theatre for Young Audiences performs Wednesday through Sunday for four weeks.

*New York Casting is done by Scott Wojcik and Gayle Seay of Wojcik/Seay Casting.
Performance Schedule follows on the next page.*

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SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ
The Songs of Leiber and Stoller
Robert G. Reim Theatre
Performance Schedule
May 29 – June 28, 2015

Friday	May 29	8:00 PM
Saturday	May 30	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	May 31	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	June 2	8:00 PM
Wednesday	June 3	8:00 PM
Thursday	June 4	8:00 PM
Friday	June 5	8:00 PM
Saturday	June 6	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	June 7	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	June 9	8:00 PM
Wednesday	June 10	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	June 11	8:00 PM
Friday	June 12	8:00 PM
Saturday	June 13	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	June 14	2:00 PM
Tuesday	June 16	8:00 PM
Wednesday	June 17	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	June 18	8:00 PM
Friday	June 19	8:00 PM
Saturday	June 20	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	June 21	2:00 PM
Tuesday	June 23	8:00 PM
Wednesday	June 24	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	June 25	8:00 PM
Friday	June 26	8:00 PM
Saturday	June 27	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	June 28	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

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ANYTHING GOES
Robert G. Reim Theatre
Performance Schedule
July 17 – August 16, 2015

Friday	July 17	8:00 PM
Saturday	July 18	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	July 19	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	July 21	8:00 PM
Wednesday	July 22	8:00 PM
Thursday	July 23	8:00 PM
Friday	July 24	8:00 PM
Saturday	July 25	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	July 26	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	July 28	8:00 PM
Wednesday	July 29	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	July 30	8:00 PM
Friday	July 31	8:00 PM
Saturday	August 1	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	August 2	2:00 PM
Tuesday	August 4	8:00 PM
Wednesday	August 5	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	August 6	8:00 PM
Friday	August 7	8:00 PM
Saturday	August 8	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	August 9	2:00 PM
Tuesday	August 11	8:00 PM
Wednesday	August 12	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	August 13	8:00 PM
Friday	August 14	8:00 PM
Saturday	August 15	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	August 16	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

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THE FULL MONTY
Robert G. Reim Theatre
Performance Schedule
September 4 – October 4, 2015

Friday	September 4	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 5	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 6	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	September 8	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 9	8:00 PM
Thursday	September 10	8:00 PM
Friday	September 11	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 12	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 13	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Tuesday	September 15	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 16	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	September 17	8:00 PM
Friday	September 18	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 19	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 20	2:00 PM
Tuesday	September 22	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 23	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	September 24	8:00 PM
Friday	September 25	8:00 PM
Saturday	September 26	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	September 27	2:00 PM
Tuesday	September 29	8:00 PM
Wednesday	September 30	2:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Thursday	October 1	8:00 PM
Friday	October 2	8:00 PM
Saturday	October 3	4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
Sunday	October 4	2:00 PM & 7:30 PM

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Disney's *THE ARISTOCATS*
The Playhouse at Westport Plaza
Performance Schedule
June 3 – June 28, 2015

Wednesday	June 3	11:00 AM
Thursday	June 4	11:00 AM
Friday	June 5	11:00 AM
Saturday	June 6	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Sunday	June 7	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Wednesday	June 10	11:00 AM
Thursday	June 11	11:00 AM
Friday	June 12	11:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Saturday	June 13	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Sunday	June 14	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Wednesday	June 17	11:00 AM
Thursday	June 18	11:00 AM
Friday	June 19	11:00 AM
Saturday	June 20	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Sunday	June 21	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Wednesday	June 24	11:00 AM
Thursday	June 25	11:00 AM
Friday	June 26	11:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Saturday	June 27	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM
Sunday	June 28	11:00 AM & 3:00 PM

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