



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please contact:

Ruth Baum Bigus
 Publicist, Theatre in the Park
 (913) 707-774
 ruthwrite1@gmail.com

(*NOTE: Cast list and story ideas appear at the end of this release.)

The Theatre in the Park premiere of musical THE ADDAMS FAMILY July 20-28

It isn't your typical family – a bit creepy and eccentric yet fun-loving. And annually they summon their ancestors back from the dead and dance on their graves!

THE ADDAMS FAMILY, the quirky clan made popular in a 1960s television series, is an entertaining musical that makes its **Theatre in the Park** premiere Friday, July 20 under the stars at Shawnee Mission Park. Additional performances continue through Sunday, July 22, and again Wednesday, July 25 through Saturday, July 28. **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** is the fourth production in TTIP's 2018 summer OUTDOOR season. Showtime for all productions is 8:30 p.m. with gates opening at 7 p.m. This production is rated PG.

With an original story line penned by Rick Elise and Marshall Brickman and music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** includes all your favorite characters-Gomez, Morticia, their daughter Wednesday, Uncle Fester, Lurch, Pugsley and a whole lot of ancestors! The story surrounds daughter Wednesday, the ultimate princess of darkness, who has fallen for a smart yet innocent young man from a respectable family. Her parents have never met Wednesday's beau and she begs her father not to share the secret with his wife and her mother, Morticia. While Gomez promises not to divulge his daughter's news he struggles with keeping a secret from his beloved wife. When the Addams' host a dinner for Wednesday's boyfriend and his parents, their two worlds collide with entertaining results. The ghostly ancestors add a zany flair to all the shenanigans.

Filled with dark humor, **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** features such songs as "Just Around the Corner," "Where Did We Go Wrong," "Live Before We Die" & "Pulled".

Zach Faust makes his TTIP directorial debut with **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** leading an all-local cast of performers. Faust's production team includes Music Director Adele Dancy, Choreographer Regina Lombardo and Hair and Makeup Designer John Hollan, who has created a spooky appearance for the ancestors.

“**The Addams Family** reflects the average, American lifestyle, with a dark twist,” Faust said. “The approach to this piece was finding why the Addams’ have held up for over 80 years and giving a new and sardonic approach on the classic coming-of-age story. I also focused on making sure the production has a feminine touch and is female-driven, as Morticia Addams runs the household, and challenges the stereotype of modern housewife, both in presentation and execution.”

Full details about this production are available on the TTIP web site, www.theatreinthepark.org. Following **THE ADDAMS FAMILY**, TTIP’s outdoor season will conclude with Disney’s fun loving **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 1 & 2 (One Act Versions)** with performances Aug. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11. These G-rated shows include such fan-favorite songs as “Get’cha Head in the Game” and “All For One”.

TTIP’s 2018 Season sponsors are Shawnee Mission Health and First National Bank.

Full details for the entire 2018 season, **OUTDOORS** and **INDOORS**, are available on the TTIP web site: www.theatreinthepark.org.

The TTIP box office opens at 6:30 p.m. and the gates to the seating bowl open at 7 p.m. TTIP **OUTDOOR** ticket prices are \$8 for adults (plus tax), \$6 (plus tax) for youth and children three and under may attend for free (but require a ticket for entrance). Reserve seats and parking are also available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.theatreinthepark.org, or at the theatre box office the nights of performance.

MOVIES IN THE PARK continue for one dollar per person! On movie nights, gates open at 7:30 p.m.; films start at 8:30-8:45 p.m., depending on sunset. This season’s remaining movies include:

- Tuesday, July 24: **THE LAND BEFORE TIME** (Rated G)
- Tuesday, August 7: **Disney’s COCO** (Rated PG)

TTIP ACADEMY

The TTIP Academy program continues this summer. The TTIP Academy focuses on developing children’s talents in the performing arts using local as well as national teaching artists in this hands-on program.

Remaining TTIP Academy productions include:

- **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH JR** (July 27, 6 p.m. & July 28, 2 & 6 p.m.; rated G)
Based on one of Roald Dahl’s most poignantly quirky stories, Roald Dahl’s James and the Giant Peach JR. is a brand new take on this "master peach" of a tale. Featuring a wickedly tuneful score and a witty and charming book, this adventurous musical about courage and self-discovery is destined to be a classic.
When James is sent by his conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, he discovers a magic potion that grows a tremendous peach, rolls into the ocean and launches a journey of enormous proportions. James befriends a collection of singing insects that ride the giant piece of fruit across the ocean, facing hunger, sharks and plenty of disagreements along the way.

The TTIP Winter Academy production, held during the school winter break, is geared to older teens. This is a full production that focuses on the refinement of skills already developed within performers. The Winter Academy is designed to focus on individual performance aspects, and because of that only a maximum of 30 slots are available in the program. This program is audition based and auditions are usually in September.

- **ZOMBIE PROM** (Dec. 28 & 29; rated PG)
Pretty High School Senior Toffee has fallen for the class bad boy. Family pressure forces her to end the romance, and he charges off on his motorcycle to the nuclear waste dump. He returns glowing and determined to reclaim Toffee’s heart. He still wants to graduate, but most of all he wants to take Toffee to the prom. The principal orders him to drop dead while a scandal reporter seizes on him as the freak du jour. History comes to his rescue while a tuneful selection of original songs in the style of 50s hits keeps the action rocking across the stage.

TTIP **OUTDOOR** is located in Shawnee Mission Park at 7710 Renner Road, in Shawnee, KS. TTIP **INDOOR** performances take place at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf, in Overland Park, KS.

A program of the Johnson County Park & Recreation District, TTIP is the largest outdoor community theater in the country, and has been providing quality theatre entertainment in the community for 49 years!

For more information about 2018 TTIP productions, please visit www.theatreinthepark.org.

Cast of THE ADDAMS FAMILY

(Performer, Character & City of residence)

Brian Larios, Gomez; Kansas City, MO
Juel Perry, Morticia; Grandview, MO
Paris Naster, Wednesday; Overland Park
Fritz Sullivan, Pugsley; Kansas City, MO
Ishaan Halder, Lucas; Overland Park
Matt Walberg, Mal; Olathe
Renee Blinn, Alice; Leawood
Matthew Robison, Fester; Shawnee
Mia Cabrera, Cousin Itt; Overland Park
Debbie Blinn, Grandmama; Leawood
Matthew Koehler, Lurch; Kansas City, MO

ANCESTORS:

Shantice White, Shawnee
Erin Cangelose, Overland Park
Madelyn Padget, Blue Springs, MO
Elisa Davis, Grandview, MO
Gabe VanDyne, Liberty, MO
Daniel Verschelden, Lee's Summit, MO
Ali Watson, Mission
Lauryn Hurley, Shawnee
Gavin Hoedl, Olathe
Alec Walberg, Olathe,
Matthew Quinn, Kansas City, MO
Emma Matthieson, Lenexa
Robin Robles, Overland Park

STORY IDEAS:

- Debbie (Grandmama) and Renee Blinn (Alice) are mother and daughter. This is Debbie's 11th year performing at TTIP.
- Alec (Ancestor) and Matt Walberg (Mal) are father and son. Matt played King Triton in TTIP's production of THE LITTLE MERMAID.
- Mia Cabrera was recently seen in TTIP's production of *THE LITTLE MERMAID* as Flounder.
- Robin Robles (Ancestor) was on the national tour of the musical ELF.
- Daniel Verschelden (Ancestor) has his own EP album called *Bring the Stars to Life*.
- Lauryn Hurley (Ancestor) recently won Best Actress at the 2018 Blue Star Awards.

###