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**The Theatre in the Park announces Blockbuster season for 2018 with 12 productions:**  
**Outdoor season auditions Feb. 24 & 25**

The Theatre in the Park's (TTIP) 49th season features a dazzling dozen productions between its Indoor and Outdoor theatre facilities – and it has something for everyone!

TTIP's outdoor venue at Shawnee Mission Park will feature five musical productions opening with **Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID\*** June 8-16. All outdoor productions will have seven evening performances and include the Rogers & Hammerstein classic **SOUTH PACIFIC**, Stephen Sondheim's magical **INTO THE WOODS**, the comedic and quirky **THE ADDAMS FAMILY\*** and Disney's fun loving **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 1 & 2\* (One Act Version)!**

(\*Denotes TTIP premier production.)

"This is a huge season for us," said Tim Bair, TTIP Producing Artistic Director. "It's our first full season since opening the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, and with 12 shows on the docket, we are looking forward to an entire year of OUTDOOR and INDOOR theatre fun!"

**Auditions** for the **TTIP OUTDOOR** summer season will take place Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 24 and 25 at the new Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center (AHC). Full details are on the TTIP web site, [www.theatreinthepark.org](http://www.theatreinthepark.org).

The **TTIP 2018 OUTDOOR** show description, production dates and directors include:

- **Disney's THE LITTLE MERMAID** (June 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 16; directed by Mark Swezey; rated G)  
 This Disney musical, with music by eight-time Academy Award winner Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater and book by Doug Wright, is based upon one of Hans Christian Andersen's most beloved stories and the classic animated film. Ariel, King Triton's youngest daughter, wishes to pursue the human Prince Eric in the world above, bargaining with the evil sea witch, Ursula, to trade her tail for legs. But the bargain is not what it seems, and Ariel needs the help of her colorful friends, Flounder the fish, Scuttle the seagull and Sebastian the crab to restore order under the sea. This

musical is a hauntingly beautiful love story for the ages and features such irresistible songs as "Under the Sea," "Kiss the Girl" and "Part of Your World."

- **SOUTH PACIFIC** (June 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 & 30; directed by Julie Ewing; rated PG)

This Rogers and Hammerstein classic is set in an island paradise during World War II, with two parallel love stories that are jeopardized by the dangers of prejudice and war. Nellie, a spunky nurse from Arkansas, falls in love with a mature French planter, Emile. After learning that the mother of Emile's children was an island native, Nellie is unable to turn her back on the prejudices with which she was raised and refuses Emile's marriage proposal. Meanwhile, the strapping Lt. Joe Cable denies himself a future with an innocent Tonkinese girl with whom he's fallen in love out of the same fears that haunt Nellie. The tables are turned when Emile is recruited to accompany Joe on a dangerous mission that claims Joe's life. Nellie realizes that life is too short not to seize her own chance for happiness, thus confronting and conquering her prejudices. This musical features such memorable songs as "Nothing Like A Dame," "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair" and "Bali Ha'i".

- **INTO THE WOODS** (July 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 & 14; directed by Chris McCoy; rated PG)

Fairy tales become larger than life in this musical written by James Lapine and Stephen Sondheim and re-imagined by the recent film version. The Tony Award-winning book and score are both enchanting and touching bringing new meaning to these traditional tomes in a magical way. Perfect for TTIP's outdoor setting, INTO THE WOODS follows a Baker and his wife, who wish to have a child; Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival; and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. When the Baker and his wife learn that they cannot have a child because of a Witch's curse, the pair sets off on a journey to break the curse. While everyone's wish is granted, the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

This musically sophisticated show features such songs as "Children Will Listen," "Agony," "It Takes Two" and "No One is Alone".

- **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** (July 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27 & 28; directed by Zach Faust; rated PG)

Morticia, Gomez, Wednesday, Lurch and Uncle Fester are just part of the fun in this musical rendition of THE ADDAMS FAMILY, with characters based on the popular television series. With music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, this production features an original story that's every father's nightmare. Daughter Wednesday, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family – a man her parents have never met. Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez does something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on one fateful night when they host a dinner for Wednesday's 'normal' boyfriend and his parents.

Filled with dark humor, this musical features "Just Around the Corner," "Where Did We Go Wrong" and "Live Before We Die".

- **Disney's HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 1 & 2-ONE ACT Versions** (Aug. 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11; directed by Guy Gardner; rated G)

Disney Channel's smash hit movie musical comes to life on stage with Troy, Gabriella and the students of East High. The students must deal with issues of first love, friends and family while balancing their classes and extra curricular activities. The action takes place after winter break when The Jocks, Brainiacs, Thespians and Skater Dudes find their cliques, recount their vacations and look forward to the New Year. Basketball team captain and resident jock, Troy, discovers that the brainy Gabriella, a girl he met singing karaoke on his ski trip, has just enrolled at East High. They cause an upheaval when they decide to audition for the high school musical, led by Ms. Darbus. Although many students resent the threat posed to the "status quo," Troy and Gabriella's alliance might just open the door for others to shine as well.

In **High School Musical 2** The Wildcats are back on the last day of their junior year and the gang can't wait to get the summer started – they're ready for summer jobs, money for college and to have fun. Troy gets them all jobs at Lava Springs Country Club, which happens to be owned by Sharpay's, father. While Sharpay schemes to steal Troy's heart from Gabriella, her brother, Ryan, hopes to win the Star Dazzle Award. Everything comes to a head at the talent show, where the group has to remember their motto: "All for one, and one for all."

These one-act versions of the musical include such fan-favorite songs as "Get'cha Head in the Game" and "All For One".

Showtime for the five 2018 **TTIP OUTDOOR** productions is 8:30 p.m.; the box office opens at 6 p.m. and the gates to the seating bowl open at 6:30 p.m. TTIP OUTDOOR ticket prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 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](http://www.theatreinthepark.org) beginning early 2018 or at the theatre box office the nights of performance.

**MOVIES IN THE PARK** returns to TTIP's outdoor amphitheater for only one buck! Titles will be announced in the spring. For movies, the gates open at 7:30 p.m. with films starting at 8:30-8:45 p.m., depending on sunset.

### **TTIP INDOOR**

**TTIP INDOOR** will have a full season of productions opening with the laugh-out-loud musical **AVENUE Q** **March 9-25** in the Black Box Theatre of the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. **TTIP INDOOR** is also the home for four Academy productions (three in the summer) and the return of holiday favorite, **THE HAPPY ELF**, a main stage production.

TTIP INDOOR production dates include:

- **AVENUE Q** (March 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 15; Rated R & not appropriate for families)  
Winner of the Tony "Triple Crown" for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, AVENUE Q is laugh-out-loud musical filled with adult humor. It tells the timeless story of recent college grad Princeton, who moves into a shabby New York apartment all the way out on Avenue Q. Filled with gut-busting humor, a delightfully catchy score and puppets, AVENUE Q is a truly unique show.
- **IN THE HEIGHTS** (Oct. 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 & 21; rated PG)  
Before Lin Manuel Miranda' star soared with HAMILTON, there was IN THE HEIGHTS. This musical tells the universal story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a place where the coffee from the corner bodega is light and sweet, the windows are always open and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. It's a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures, where the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take with you, and which ones you leave behind.
- **THE HAPPY ELF** (Dec. 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, & 23; rated G)  
Grammy-Award winner Harry Connick Jr penned this holiday musical that tells the tale of Eubie the Elf, a loveable guy wanting to spread Christmas cheer throughout the town of Bluesville. Eubie wants to be a part of Santa's coveted sled team; instead, the spirited elf is stuck checking the "naughty-and-nice" lists. On one Christmas, Eubie discovers that not one person in Bluesville has been nice. Eubie takes off for Bluesville to change things but can he do it?

**TTIP INDOORS** evening productions are 7:30 p.m. and matinees are at 2 p.m. Please check the TTIP web site for exact times. INDOOR tickets are reserved seating but prices vary; pricing is available on line.

## **TTIP ACADEMY**

The TTIP Academy program continues this summer, including two KIDS style shows, and one JUNIOR style show. The Summer Academy is split into three sessions. 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. June Academy sessions are geared for children in third through eighth grades; the July session is for children in fifth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Enrollment is now under way; details are available at [www.theatreinthepark.org/academy](http://www.theatreinthepark.org/academy). The TTIP Winter Academy production, held during the school break, is geared to older teens.

TTIP Academy productions include:

- **WILLIE WONKA KIDS** (June 16 & 30; rated G)

The delicious adventures experienced by Charlie Bucket on his visit to Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory light up the stage in this captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder in addition to a host of fun new songs, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. is a scrumdilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth.

- **LION KING KIDS** (June 16 & 30; rated G)

Disney's The Lion King has captivated the imagination of audiences around the world and now, for the first time ever, we have the opportunity to produce this one-of-a-kind musical in our Community Theatre. The African savannah comes to life on our stage with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters as they journey from Pride Rock to the jungle... and back again, in this inspiring, coming-of-age tale.

- **JAMES & THE GIANT PEACH JR** (July 27 & 28; 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 "masterpeach" 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.

- **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.

The Theatre in the Park 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.

Theatre in the Park is 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 more than four decades.

For more information about 2018 TTIP productions, please visit [www.theatreinthepark.org](http://www.theatreinthepark.org).

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