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NOTE TO MEDIA: Show logos, news releases and photos are available for download at www.theatreinthepark.org/press.

Iconic dance musical “A Chorus Line” premieres at Theatre in the Park

“One singular sensation, every little step she takes...”

Those lyrics from the musical “**A CHORUS LINE**” will ring resonate through starry summer nights as Theatre in the Park presents the iconic dance show opening **Friday night, July 1**. “**A CHORUS LINE**” will continue through Sunday, July 3, and again Wednesday, July 6 through Saturday, July 9. The box office opens at 6 p.m. and the gates to the seating bowl open at 6:30 p.m.; the show begins at 8:30 p.m. “**A CHORUS LINE**” is rated PG-16 for adult language and themes; the show is just under two hours and will be performed without an intermission.

Under the direction of TTIP veteran Greg Shaw, “**A CHORUS LINE**” features an all-local cast of talented performers with choreography by Liz Ernst. Baker Purdon serves as vocal director/conductor. It is a high-energy show with such sizzling dance numbers.

“**A CHORUS LINE**” is based up on actual interviews of dancers through the audition process and was originally directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett with music by Marvin Hamlisch. The story for a “**A CHORUS LINE**” takes place at an audition in which the director and his assistant puts a group of dancers through the paces looking for those special performers to cast in a chorus line. During the course of the audition, the director pushes each dancer to talk about their personal life and why they wanted to be on the stage. Each reacts in their own way to the inquiry, some more forthright than others.

Ultimately, the director puts all of the dancers to the test with a final number, “One,” to see if they can perform in a uniform way despite their differences. The Broadway production of “**A CHORUS**

LINE” won several Tony® Awards including Best Musical, Best Choreography and Best Original Score. It remains the sixth longest-running musical of all time.

“A CHORUS LINE’ is about real people,” said Shaw of the musical. “Everyone in life knows what it’s like to have to prove themselves and they know how it feels to win and lose, but the reality is that we are all unique and special.”

This is Theatre in the Park’s (TTIP) 47th season of musical entertainment featuring talent from all over the Kansas City metropolitan area. Up next on the TTIP stage is the colorful biblical tale of **JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT (July 15-17, July 20-23)**. The TTIP season concludes with everyone’s favorite nanny **MARY POPPINS**, a co-production that will play under the stars at TTIP and on stage at the White Theatre at the Jewish Community Center. **MARY POPPINS** plays at TTIP beginning July 29 through July 31, and Aug. 3-6 after its run at the White Theatre that starts on July 9.

TTIP is holding the line on prices for the 2016 season with general admission only \$8, youth \$6, and children three and under may attend for free (but require a ticket for entrance). Limited reserve seating and parking is available. Tickets may be purchased online at www.theatreinthepark.org or at the theatre box office the nights of performance.

MOVIES IN THE PARK will return for only one buck! Titles are available on the TTIP website, www.theatreinthepark.org/movies; next up is “Meet Stuart, Kevin and Bob-The Minions” on Tuesday, July 5. On movie nights, gates open at 7:30 p.m. with movies starting at 8:30-8:45 p.m., depending on sunset.

The Theatre in the Park is located in Shawnee Mission Park at 7710 Renner Road, in Shawnee, KS, and 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 including entire show synopses for all 2016 TTIP productions, please visit <http://www.theatreinthepark.org>.

Cast of “A Chorus Line”

(Character Name, Performer, city of residence)

Zach-Mitch Simmons; Kansas City, MO

Mike-Will Jewett; Pittsburg, KS

Richie-Evan Lovelace

Don- Alec Armer; Prairie Village

Paul- Dakota Hoar; Lenexa

Mark- John Viso; Lenexa

Greg- James Fengolio; Kansas City, MO

Bobby- Brett Rawlings; Olathe

Al-Josh Arellano; Kansas City, MO

Cassie- Stephanie Ainsworth; Overland Park

Shelia- Leslie Davidson; Kansas City, MO

Val- Mary Williams; Topeka, KS

Diana- Ramsey Self, Kansas City, MO

Judy- Stefanie Stevens; Kansas City, KS

Kristine- Megan Berning; Overland Park

Maggie- Katherin Viviano; Overland Park

Bebe-Larkin Reilly; Leavenworth, KS
Connie-Genevieve Austin; Overland Park
Laura-Marisa MacKay; Lenexa
Vickie-Browyn Troxel; Olathe
Tricia-Tristan Rios; Overland Park
Lois-Blair Butler; Overland Park
Frank-JP O'Donnell; Stilwell
Butch- Alex Gumminger; Kansas City, KS
Roy-Evan Katz; Overland Park
Tom-Nick Nazzarro; Leawood

Ensemble:

Grace Anne Wille; Parkville, MO
Elle McClenny; Overland Park
Alli Baden; Pittsburg, KS
Maddie Baden; Pittsburg, KS
Alaina Jerguson; Olathe
Megan Secrest; Olathe
Noah Kahn; Overland Park

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