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The Theatre in the Park presents most requested show SOUTH PACIFIC June 22-30;

Cast connects with local veterans

Love conquering prejudice is one of the powerful themes of Rodgers and Hammerstein's memorable musical **SOUTH PACIFIC**, the second production on **Theatre in the Park's (TTIP)** 2018 summer outdoor season. **TTIP's** most often requested musical, **SOUTH PACIFIC** will have seven performances at the outdoor amphitheater Friday through Sunday, June 22-24 and the following Wednesday through Saturday June 27-30. Showtime for all productions is 8:30 p.m. with gates opening at 7 p.m.

Rated PG, **SOUTH PACIFIC** features two parallel love stories both set on an island in the south pacific during World War II. Stationed on the island, Nurse Nellie Forbush is far from home. She falls in love with a mature Frenchman Emile de Bucque, who owns a plantation and is very different from those back home in Arkansas. Nellie is charmed and falls in love with Emile, yet when she discovers the mother of Emile's children is of mixed race, she rejects his marriage proposal. Meanwhile, Lt. Joe Cable falls for an island girl and he too struggles with his own racial prejudice. Joe embarks on a secret and dangerous mission with Emile assisting him. While Joe loses his life, it sends a wake-up call to Nellie who confronts her fears, overcomes her prejudices and decides to marry the man she loves.

SOUTH PACIFIC features such memorable songs as "Nothing Like A Dame," "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair," "You've Got TO Be Carefully Taught" and "Bali Ha'i".

SOUTH PACIFIC is based upon James A. Michener's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1947 book, "Tales of the South Pacific". **SOUTH PACIFIC** was ahead of its time, premiering on Broadway in 1949 before the Civil Rights movement forced racial equality into law. Now nearly 60 years later, the issues of racial equality and prejudice still resonate with audiences today.

Julie Ewing leads the cast in her TTIP directorial debut, along with her production team of Musical Director Marsha Canady and Choreographer Carolyn Braverman, both TTIP veterans. The large cast of talented local performers includes a number of people participating in their first TTIP production. (*Cast list follows below.*)

Because **SOUTH PACIFIC** is rooted in historical events, Ewing and the cast have focused on bringing a high level of authenticity to this production.

“I believe in simple, honest story telling,” Ewing said. “We had several World War II veterans, as well as other veterans from both war and peace times, who came to talk with the cast sharing their experiences of serving their country. This has helped our relatively young cast learn an appreciation for the story that is centered around World War II.”

Because of the military connections in this musical, TTIP will recognize area veterans each night at **SOUTH PACIFIC** thanking them for their service.

Full details are on the TTIP web site, www.theatreinthepark.org.

TTIP’s outdoor venue at Shawnee Mission Park will feature three additional musical productions, all with seven evening performances. Additional productions include 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)**. Season sponsors are Shawnee Mission Health, First National Bank and the Johnson County Park and Recreation District.

(*Denotes TTIP premier production.)

Performance dates for the other **TTIP 2018 OUTDOOR** shows are:

- **INTO THE WOODS** (July 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 & 14; directed by Chris McCoy; rated PG)
This musical is legendary composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim’s take on fairy tales – with a twist. Recently featured in a full-length movie, 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)
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)
These one-act versions of the musical include such fan-favorite songs as “Get’cha Head in the Game” and “All For One”.

Full details are 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, \$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 beginning early 2018 or at the theatre box office the nights of performance.

MOVIES IN THE PARK are back and they are just one buck! Movies will all be shown on every other Tuesday with gates opening at 7:30 p.m.; films start at 8:30-8:45 p.m., depending on sunset. This season’s remaining movies include:

- Tuesday, June 26: **WONDER WOMAN** (Rated PG-13)
- Tuesday, July 10: **DESPICABLE ME 3** (Rated PG)
- 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, including two KIDS style shows (grades 3-8), and one JUNIOR (grades 5-12) style show. Enrollment is now under way; details are available at www.theatreinthepark.org/academy. 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. The TTIP Winter Academy production, held during the school break, is geared to older teens.

TTIP Academy productions include:

- **WILLIE WONKA KIDS** (June 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 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 "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.

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.

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.

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

Cast of SOUTH PACIFIC

(Performer & Character)

Madeline Clem, Ensign Nellie Forbush, Kansas City, MO

Paul Morel, Emile de Becque, Kansas City, MO

Julia Balino, Ngana, Olathe

Alex Cross, Jerome, Overland Park

Bob Ehler, Henry, Bonner Springs, KS
Zenia Lee, Bloody Mary, Overland Park
Ivy Huang, Liat, Lenexa
Katarina Romero-Vega, Bloody Mary's Assistant, Olathe
Janiel Balino, Bloody Mary's Assistant, Olathe
Daniel Versheldon, Luther Billis, Lee's Summit
Jacob Thomas, Stewpot, Overland Park
Zach Greer, Professor, Overland Park
Jon Rizzo, Lt. Joseph Cable, Grandview, MO
Don Leonard, Capt. George Brackett, Olathe
David Kepper, Cmdr. William Harbison, Shawnee
Paul McArdle, Lt. Buzz Adams, Kansas City, MO
Wyatt Walberg, Yeoman Hebert Quale, Olathe
Ryan Russell, Radio Operator Bob McCaffrey, Roeland Park
Jonathon Arnold, Seabee Mortin Wise, Kansas City, MO
Zachery Russell, Seabee Richard West, Overland Park
Joel Walley, Seabee Johnny Noonan, Bolivar, MO
Mark McNeal, Seabee Billy Whitmore, Overland Park
Charlie Meacham, Seaman Tom O'Brien, Overland Park
Nathan Bills, Seaman James Hayes, Olathe
Stephen Holbert, Sailor Kenneth Johnson, Olathe
Donnie Miller, Petty Officer Hamilton Steves, Olathe
Andrew Rovello, Seaman Thomas Hassinger, Overland Park
Tom Heathcote, Lt. Eustis Carmichael, Overland Park
Joy Richardson, Lt. Genevieve Marshall, Kansas City, KS
Katie Vereen, Ensign Dinah Marshall, Overland Park
Ann Eddy, Ensign Janet MacGregor, Gladstone, MO
Andrea Bates, Ensign Connie Walewska, Lenexa
Natalie Crane, Ensign Sue Yaeger, Olathe
Klarissa Sheffield, Ensign Cora MacRae, Chesterfield, MO
Lakin Allen, Ensign Lisa Minelli, Olathe

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