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**“CATS is back and better than ever!” – The Huffington Post**



*Playing under the stars at Starlight July 9-14 only!*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – One of the biggest hits in theatrical history, the iconic and beloved musical **CATS** comes to Kansas City to play Starlight Theatre July 9-14 as part of the 2019 AdventHealth Broadway Series. Composed by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and based on T.S. Eliot’s *Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats*, the record-breaking musical spectacular features new sound design, direction and choreography for a new generation—experience **CATS** for the first time as it begins a new life, or let it thrill you all over again!

“This fantastic, straight-from-Broadway tour of **CATS** is truly the audience’s chance to see and share a piece of theatre history—right here on the Starlight stage,” Rich Baker, President and CEO of Starlight, said. “Plus, with fantastic choreography by Andy Blankenbueler of *Hamilton* fame, based on the original choreography by Gillian Lynne, **CATS** features some of the most dance-intensive (and impressive!) choreography on the road today.”

The cast of Jellicle cats include Phillip Deceus as “Alonzo,” McGee Maddox as “Bill Bailey/Rum Tum Tigger,” Lexie Plath as “Bombalurina,” Mariah Reives as “Cassandra,” PJ DiGaetano as “Coricopat,” Liz Schmitz as “Demeter,” Keri René Fuller as “Grizabella,” Kaitlyn Davidson as “Jellylorum,” Emily Jeanne Phillips as “Jennyanydots,” Tion Gaston as “Mistoffelees,” Tony d’Alelio as “Mungojerrie,” Dan Hoy as “Munkustrap,” Timothy Gulan as “Peter/Bustopher Jones/Asparagus,” Tyler John Logan as “Plato/Macavity,” Anthony Michael Zas as “Pouncival,” Rose Iannaccone as “Rumpelteazer,” Ahren Victory as “Sillabub,” Ethan Saviet as “Skimbleshanks,” Laura Katherine Kaufman as “Tantomile,” Devin Neilson as “Tumblebrutus,” Brandon Michael Nase as “Victor/Old Deuteronomy,” Caitlin Bond as “Victoria,” along with Zachary S. Berger, Nicholas Burrage, Erin Chupinsky, Maria Failla, Justin W. Geiss, Marina Lazzaretto, Charlotte O’Dowd, Adam Richardson, Tricia Tanguy, and Andy Zimmermann.

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The original Broadway production of *CATS* opened in 1982 at Broadway's Winter Garden Theatre, where it ran for 7,485 performances and 18 years. *CATS* was originally produced on Broadway by Cameron Mackintosh, The Really Useful Company Limited, David Geffen, and The Shubert Organization.

*CATS* returned to Broadway in 2016 in a stunning revival at the Neil Simon Theatre. Preview performances began Thursday, July 14, 2016, and officially opened on Sunday, July 31, 2016. *CATS* played its final performance on Saturday, December 30, 2017, after 16 previews and 593 regular performances.

The creative team for the new production of *CATS* includes John Napier (Scenic & Costume Design), Natasha Katz (Lighting Design), Mick Potter (Sound Design), choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, based on the original choreography by Gillian Lynne, and direction by Trevor Nunn.

Since its world premiere, *CATS* has been presented in over 30 countries, has been translated into 15 languages, and has been seen by more than 73 million people worldwide. Originally directed by Trevor Nunn with choreography and associate direction by Gillian Lynne, scenic and costume design by John Napier, lighting design by David Hersey, and sound design by Abe Jacob, *CATS* opened in the West End in 1981. The musical debuted on Broadway in 1982 where it won seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Both the original London and Broadway cast recordings won Grammy Awards for Best Cast Album. *CATS* hit song "Memory" has been recorded by over 150 artists from Barbra Streisand and Johnny Mathis to Liberace and Barry Manilow. The Tony Award-winning Best Musical held the title of longest-running musical in Broadway history until it was surpassed in 2006 by Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera*. The original Broadway production closed on September 10, 2000 and is currently the fourth longest-running show in Broadway history. This marks the first tour of the first-ever Broadway revival of the iconic musical. The first-ever, live-action film adaptation of *CATS*, produced by Universal Pictures and Working Title, will open on Dec. 20, 2019.

The revival of *CATS* is produced by The Shubert Organization, James L. Nederlander, The Really Useful Group and Cameron Mackintosh. For more information, please visit [CatsTheMusical.com](http://CatsTheMusical.com)

*CATS* at Starlight Theatre is presented by the Missouri Lottery. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at [kcstarlight.com](http://kcstarlight.com), by calling 816-363-STAR (7827) or visiting the box office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City, Mo. 64132. All performances begin at 8 p.m.

Discount prices for groups of 10 or more are available by contacting group sales department at 816-997-1137 or [groups@kcstarlight.com](mailto:groups@kcstarlight.com). Please note that [kcstarlight.com](http://kcstarlight.com) is the only official ticket source for all shows in the 2019 AdventHealth Broadway Series. If you purchase tickets from another website or ticket broker, we cannot guarantee those tickets are legitimate.

For more information, please visit [www.kcstarlight.com](http://www.kcstarlight.com), or on Facebook and Twitter.

### **About Starlight Theatre**

Starlight Theatre is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City and the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country. Opened as a theater in 1950 and as a

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nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight presents and produces Broadway musicals and concerts. It also offers extensive community outreach and educational programming, including classes, scholarships and Starlight's Blue Star Awards, one of the largest high school musical theatre award programs in the nation.

Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, Starlight's venue includes rehearsal halls, a museum, club area for dining, concessions, gardens, fountains and a 10-story, climate-controlled stage. For more information, visit [www.kcstarlight.com](http://www.kcstarlight.com).

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