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CONTACT:
Rachel Bliss, Starlight Theatre
rachel.bliss@kcstarlight.com
816-997-1151-office
785-259-3039-cell



A Family-Favorite Flies Back to Kansas City!



June 10-16 at Starlight Theatre

The iconic 1939 film celebrates its 80th Anniversary in 2019!

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of a cinematic favorite with the musical theatre classic, *The Wizard of Oz*, playing June 10-16 under the stars. Starlight’s only self-produced show of the 2019 AdventHealth Broadway Series, *The Wizard of Oz* will be director Philip Wm. McKinley’s 13th production at Starlight—a new record!—and features a fantastic cast of performers, many of whom have Kansas City roots.

The heartwarming show tells the tale of Dorothy’s quest to return home and the unlikely friendships she makes along the way. Based upon the book by L. Frank Baum, *The Wizard of Oz* takes audiences from the plains of Kansas to the dreamlike world of Oz, including the whimsical Munchkinland, beautiful Poppy fields and the glittering Emerald City. This version of the show, originally produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, first premiered in London in 1987 and more closely follows the 1939 film. Now, the timeless tale returns to the Starlight stage once again, this time 80 years after premiering on the silver screen.

With the spectacular scenes and enduring songs that audiences have grown to know and love, *The Wizard of Oz* features favorites like “Over the Rainbow” and “We’re Off to See the Wizard.” Audiences of all ages will enjoy following the yellow brick road to the dazzling Land of Oz.

“With our especially large stage house, we’re thrilled to return the magic of this production by reviving its grandiose scale,” Rich Baker, Starlight President & CEO, said. “By producing our own show, it allows us to have full artistic control, utilizing the full expanse of the stage and adding exciting special effects that wouldn’t be possible with a touring production.”

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Broadway veteran Philip Wm. McKinley serves as the show's director. *The Wizard of Oz* will be McKinley's 13th show at Starlight—setting a new record for most shows directed at the historic venue! McKinley is best known for the Broadway production of *Spiderman: Turn Off the Dark* and the five-time Tony nominated Broadway musical *The Boy from Oz*, starring Hugh Jackman.

McKinley and the creative team have assembled an all-star cast including Kansas City locals Cathy Barnett (Witch/Gulch) and Robert Hingula (Lion/Zeke). Also unique to Starlight-produced shows, *The Wizard of Oz* will include a Blue Star Award teen ensemble, comprised of Kansas City-metro high school students, and nearly 50 Kansas City-metro children to play munchkins in the production.

Tickets to *The Wizard of Oz* are on sale now and can be purchased online at kcstarlight.com, by calling 816-363-STAR (7827) or visiting the Starlight 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. Please note that 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, 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 not-for-profit 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, gift store, club area for dining, concessions, gardens, fountains and a 10-story, climate-controlled stage. For more information, visit www.kcstarlight.com.

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