



18 September 2019

IT IS TIME!

THE LION KING MAKES HISTORY WITH THAILAND PREMIERE

Michael Cassel Group in association with Disney Theatrical Productions is proud to announce that the international tour of Disney's THE LION KING will tonight make its Thailand premiere in Bangkok at Muangthai Rachadalai Theatre, promoted by BEC-Tero Scenario.

THE LION KING's Thailand premiere marks a historic moment for the world's #1 musical, with the Bangkok season poised to be the longest-ever run for an international musical in the city, following record-breaking seasons in Taiwan, the Philippines and South Korea.

"THE LION KING tells a story of tremendous heart. It's a universal story, one that connects to audiences and cultures everywhere – as we've seen from the remarkable success of the show around the world," said Felipe Gamba, Director, International Strategy and Production at Disney Theatrical Productions. "It's a real honour and joy to share it now with the people of Thailand."

"This world-class production features an incredible cast from around the globe. We are so excited to be bringing director Julie Taymor's vision to life for local audiences and to be bringing a musical of this scale and magnitude, exactly as audiences have continued to enjoy on Broadway and around the world, to Thailand for the first time", commented Producer of the international tour, Michael Cassel.

Joining the cast and crew in Thailand for the premiere, composer Lebo M commented "I am thrilled to be in Thailand for the very first time, and joining this most impressive company as we share THE LION KING with local audiences for the very first time".

THE LION KING is a worldwide phenomenon and this production is the world's first international tour, having premiered in Manila last year playing to sold out houses. Brilliantly re-imagined by acclaimed director Julie Taymor, Disney's beloved film is transformed into a spectacular theatrical experience that will redefine your expectations of theatre. Audiences in Thailand will be treated to unbelievable performances by a truly global cast and crew, representing 19 nationalities, who have come together for the tour.

"There is simply nothing else like it" *The New York Times*

"The most exciting, most inventive, most moving theatre that has ever come to Broadway" *Newsweek*

For a strictly limited engagement, tickets to THE LION KING can be purchased at all ThaiTicketMajor outlets and Thaiticketmajor.com.

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ABOUT THE LION KING

After 21 landmark years on Broadway, **THE LION KING** continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals in the world. Since its premiere on November 13, 1997, 25 global productions have been seen by more than 100 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions (under the direction of Thomas Schumacher), **THE LION KING** is the only show in history to generate six productions worldwide running 15 or more years. Performed in eight different languages (Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), productions of **THE LION KING** can currently be seen on Broadway; London's West End; Hamburg; Tokyo; Madrid; Scheveningen, Holland; South Korea and on tour across North America and Japan, for a total of nine productions running concurrently across the globe. Having played over 100 cities in 20 countries on every continent except Antarctica, **THE LION KING's** worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in box office history.

THE LION KING won six 1998 Tony Awards®: Best Musical, Best Scenic Design (Richard Hudson), Best Costume Design (Julie Taymor), Best Lighting Design (Donald Holder), Best Choreography (Garth Fagan) and Best Direction of a Musical. **THE LION KING** has also earned more than 70 major arts awards including the 1998 NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album, the 1999 Evening Standard Award for Theatrical Event of the Year and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design. The show's director, costume designer and mask co-designer Julie Taymor continues to play an integral part in the show's ongoing success. The first woman to win a Tony Award for Direction of a Musical, Taymor has in recent years supervised new productions of the show around the world.

The Broadway score features Elton John and Tim Rice's music from *The Lion King* animated film along with three new songs by John and Rice; additional musical material by South African Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor and Hans Zimmer; and music from "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," an album inspired by the original music in the film, written by Lebo M, Mark Mancina and Hans Zimmer. The resulting sound of **THE LION KING** is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa, ranging from the Academy Award®-winning song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" to the haunting ballad "Shadowland."

The book has been adapted by Roger Allers, who co-directed *The Lion King* animated feature, and Irene Mecchi, who co-wrote the film's screenplay. Other members of the creative team include: Michael Curry, who designed the masks and puppets with Taymor, Steve Canyon Kennedy (sound design), Michael Ward (hair and makeup design), John Stefaniuk (associate director), Marey Griffith (associate choreographer), Clement Ishmael (music supervisor) and Doc Zorthian (production supervisor). Anne Quart serves as co-producer.

For more information worldwide, visit LionKing.com

NOTES FOR EDITORS

MICHAEL CASSEL GROUP: The Michael Cassel Group is a leading live entertainment company formed to produce and present the world's greatest musical and theatrical productions, live entertainment experiences, marquee events and concert attractions. Led by CEO/Producer Michael Cassel, named a "visionary" and "a producer with global cred changing the face of the stage" (The Weekend Australian), the entrepreneurial company based in Sydney, Australia has enjoyed a "meteoric rise" (Australian Financial Review). Michael Cassel Group productions include the first international tour of the world's #1 musical *The Lion King*, the Australian premiere of the award-winning production *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, the landmark multi-award-winning musical *Hamilton*, the world-renowned *Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo*, the Australian and New Zealand tour of comedian, actor and social media superstar *Celeste Barber: Challenge Accepted*, Tony® and Olivier Award-winning Broadway star and Disney legend *Lea Salonga in Concert*, International award-winning performer *Tina Arena in Concert* at Sydney Coliseum and the opening celebration of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020. Previous Australian productions include *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Les Misérables*, *Kinky Boots*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Lea Salonga in Concert* and *Darren Criss: Intimate and Live*. In addition to the group's

expanding theatrical interests, the company represents former Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. Julia Gillard AC, former Olympian and global sporting administrator Lord Sebastian Coe CH, KBE and media personality Sami Lukis.

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