



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2011

## CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR

Disney and CAMERON MACKINTOSH present

# MARY POPPINS

### ***Columbus' Limited Premiere Engagement Begins April 20 at the Ohio Theatre***

CAPA, Broadway Across America, and producers Thomas Schumacher of Disney Theatrical Productions and Cameron Mackintosh are pleased to announce full casting for the Columbus engagement of **MARY POPPINS**. Columbus' most eagerly anticipated stage production will begin performances at the Ohio Theatre on Wednesday, April 20, 2011, for a limited engagement of three weeks through Sunday, May 8, 2011. Opening night is Thursday, April 21, at 7:30pm.

With four productions currently running on three continents, **MARY POPPINS** is one of the biggest stage musical successes to emerge from London or New York in recent years. Worldwide to date, the show has grossed over \$521 million and welcomed 7 million guests and cumulatively run 11.5 years. The musical is the winner of 26 major theatre awards around the globe, including Tony®, Olivier and Evening Standard awards.

The entire original creative team has reunited to bring this magical story of the world's most famous nanny to audiences around North America. The **MARY POPPINS** North American tour began performances on March 25, 2009, and has played to 1.5 million delighted theatergoers in 23 cities to date.

**Steffanie Leigh**, who previously understudied the title role in the touring production, will star as "Mary Poppins" while original Broadway company member **Nicolas Dromard** will assume the role of "Bert."

Leigh, a recent graduate of Carnegie Mellon University, has previously been seen on stage in productions of *Jacques Brel is Alive and Well and Living in Paris*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *42nd St.*, *Into the Woods*, *Grease*, *Mame*, and *Les Misérables*.

Leigh will appear alongside original Broadway company member **Nicolas Dromard** who plays the affable chimney sweep, "Bert." Dromard was a member of the original Broadway company of **MARY POPPINS** and recently played the role of "Fiyero" in the San Francisco production of *Wicked*. Originally from Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Dromard has also appeared in the Broadway

productions of *The Boy from Oz* and *Oklahoma!*, and originated roles in the Canadian productions of *Mamma Mia!* and *Hairspray*. Dromard also appeared in stage productions at the Stratford Festival of Canada and the Arkansas Repertory Theatre.

Joining Leigh and Dromard will be **Michael Dean Morgan** as “George Banks.” Morgan’s previous stage credits include *Disney’s The Lion King*, *The Mystery of Mrs. Shakespeare*, and *Disney’s Finding Nemo*. “Winifred Banks” will be played by **Blythe Wilson** who joins the production after appearing on stage in *The Sound of Music*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Oklahoma!*, and *Three Penny Opera*.

**Rachel Izen** will portray “Mrs. Brill.” Izen is making her North American tour debut having appeared in numerous London West End productions including *A Chorus Line*, *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Annie*, and *Thoroughly Modern Mille*. **Dennis Moench**, who will play “Robertson Ay,” was recently seen in the Broadway production of **MARY POPPINS** and has also appeared in the *All Shook Up* national tour and Off-Broadway in *Altar Boyz* and *Fame*.

**Q. Smith** will play “Miss Andrew.” Smith’s stage credits include *Fame on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, *Smokey Joe’s Café*, *Aida*, *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, and the Broadway production of *Les Misérables*. “The Bird Woman” will be played by **Janet MacEwen** who has appeared in the Broadway and touring productions of *Beauty and the Beast*, as well as in productions of *Anne of Green Gables*, *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Suds!*, *Pump Boys and Dinettes*, *Evita*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *Jacques Brel*. “Admiral Boom” will be portrayed by **Michael McCarty**, a stage veteran whose Broadway credits include **MARY POPPINS**, *To Be Or Not To Be*, *Oklahoma!*, *42nd Street*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Big River*, *Teddy & Alice*, *Oliver!*, *Amadeus*, *King Of Hearts*, and *Dirty Linen*.

Performances in the role of “Jane Banks” will be alternated between **Camille Mancuso** and **Marissa Smoker**. Mancuso’s previous theatre credits include the national tours of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *White Christmas*, and *Little House on the Prairie*. Smoker is making her national tour debut and was recently seen in regional productions of *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Radio Girl*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Secret Garden*, *Annie*, *Les Misérables*, and *The Sound of Music*.

Performances in the role of “Michael Banks” will be alternated between **Talon Ackerman** and **Tyler Merna**. Ackerman has previously appeared in the stage productions of *Disney’s Tarzan*, *CATS*, *The Secret Garden*, *Sleepy Hollow*, and *Our Town*. Merna is making his national tour debut and has recently appeared on stage in the Off-Broadway productions of *Shine!* and *Afterlight*.

Rounding out the cast are **Jacob Ben Widmar**, **Kiara Bennett**, **Troy Edward Bowles**, **Elizabeth Broadhurst**, **Arielle Campbell**, **Debra Cardona**, **Eric Coles**, **Carol Angeli Dillard**, **Case Dillard**, **Elizabeth Earley**, **Geoffrey Goldberg**, **Mark Harapiak**, **Eric Hatch**, **Garett Hawe**, **Tiffany Howard**, **Lisa Kassay**, **Sam Kiernan**, **Koh Mochizuki**, **Shua Potter**, **Chuck Rea**, **Nick Sanchez**, **Jesse Swimm**, **Jen Taylor**, **Rachel Wallace**, and **Michelle E. White**.

**MARY POPPINS**, a co-production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, opened on Broadway on November 16, 2006. Based on P.L. Travers’ cherished stories and the classic 1964 Walt Disney film, **MARY POPPINS** the stage play features the Academy Award®-winning music and lyrics of Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman. The stage production has been created, in collaboration with Cameron Mackintosh, by Academy Award®-winning screenwriter Julian Fellowes, who has written the book, and the Olivier Award-winning team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, who have composed new songs and additional music and lyrics.

Olivier Award-winning director Richard Eyre leads the award-winning creative team, with co-direction and choreography by Tony® and Olivier Award winner Matthew Bourne. **MARY**

**POPPINS** features set and costume design by Tony® Award winner Bob Crowley, co-choreography by Olivier Award winner Stephen Mear, lighting design by Howard Harrison, orchestrations by William David Brohn, and music supervision by David Caddick. The tour's creative team includes Tour Director Anthony Lyn, Associate Choreographer Geoffrey Garrett, and Music Director Daniel Bowling.

### **ABOUT MARY POPPINS WORLDWIDE**

**MARY POPPINS** received its worldwide premiere at the Prince Edward Theatre in the West End in December 2004. Following its successful three-year London run, the production launched an acclaimed UK tour.

The Broadway production of **MARY POPPINS** officially opened at the New Amsterdam Theatre on November 16, 2006, recouping its initial Broadway investment within 52 weeks of its premiere in 2006. **MARY POPPINS** is the only show from the 2006-07 theatrical season still in performance.

The **MARY POPPINS** North American tour has garnered continuous critical praise and achieved box office success since its launch in Chicago in March 2009.

**MARY POPPINS** can also be seen in Scheveningen, Netherlands (outside of Amsterdam at the Circus Theatre), Melbourne, Australia (at Her Majesty's Theatre through April 1st), and Sydney, Australia (at the Capitol Theatre, opening May 5th). Productions of **MARY POPPINS** have also been mounted in Finland, Denmark, and the Czech Republic.

### **NORTH AMERICAN TOUR SCHEDULE THROUGH AUGUST 2011**

Boston – Opera House  
February 17 – March 20, 2011

Philadelphia – Academy of Music  
March 23 – April 17, 2011

Columbus – Ohio Theatre  
April 20 – May 8, 2011

Seattle – Paramount Theatre  
May 12 – 29, 2011

Sacramento – Community Center Theatre  
June 2 – 19, 2011

Portland – Keller Auditorium  
June 22 – July 10, 2011

Costa Mesa – Segerstrom Center for the Arts  
July 14 – 31, 2011

San Diego – San Diego Civic Theatre  
August 10 – 28, 2011

In Columbus, **MARY POPPINS** will play April 20 through May 8, Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30pm, Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm, and Sundays at 1pm and 6:30pm. There will also be a 2pm matinee on Thursday, May 5. Ticket prices start as low as \$22.50. Special VIP Ticket Packages are available at select performances, and include premium seating and a complimentary souvenir program. Tickets are available at the Ohio Theatre Box Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). To purchase by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. Orders for groups of 20 or more may be placed by calling (614) 719-6900.

The Columbus engagement of **MARY POPPINS** is presented by arrangement with CAPA and Broadway Across America, and is a 2010-11 season subscription offering.

For more information, please visit [MaryPoppins.com](http://MaryPoppins.com).

[www.capa.com](http://www.capa.com)

### **CALENDAR LISTING**

**CAPA and Broadway Across America present *MARY POPPINS***

**April 20 – May 8**

**Ohio Theatre (39 E. State St.)**

Combining the best of the original stories by P. L. Travers and the beloved Walt Disney film, the Tony® Award-winning *MARY POPPINS* is everything you'd hope for in a Broadway musical and more. Produced by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, the show includes such wonderful songs as "Chim Chim Cher-ee," "A Spoonful of Sugar," "Let's Go Fly a Kite," and of course, "*Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*." *The NY Daily News* hails *MARY POPPINS* as "a roof-raising, toe-tapping, high-flying extravaganza!" Tickets start at \$22.50 and can be purchased at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). To purchase by phone, please call (614) 469-0939 or (800) 745-3000. [www.capa.com](http://www.capa.com)

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The **Ohio Arts Council** helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the support of **the Robert Bartels, William C. and Naoma W. Denison, and Preston Davis Funds of The Columbus Foundation**, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973.

#### **About CAPA**

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex, Lincoln Theatre, Valentine Theatre (Toledo, OH), and the Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), CAPA is a non-profit, award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit [www.capa.com](http://www.capa.com).

#### **About Broadway Across America**

Broadway Across America (Producer), part of the Key Brand Entertainment family of companies which includes Broadway.com, is owned and operated by British theatre producer John Gore (CEO) and entertainment industry veteran Thomas B. McGrath (Chairman). Broadway Across America presents first-class touring musicals and plays across 40 North American cities. Broadway.com is the premier theater website for news, exclusive content and ticket sales. Under the supervision of Beth Williams (COO and Head of Production), Broadway Across America is also dedicated to the development and production of new and diverse theatre. Current Broadway productions include *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* starring Daniel Radcliffe and John Larroquette, *Million Dollar Quartet*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Jerusalem*, *Memphis*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, the West End production of *Million Dollar Quartet* and the touring production of Dreamworks' *Madagascar Live!* For more information, please visit [BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com](http://BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com) and [Broadway.com](http://Broadway.com).

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