

HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST

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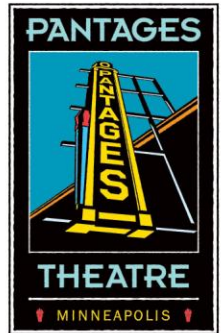
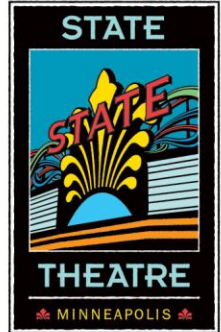
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Casting Announced For



Featuring Original Broadway Stars
Ashley Brown and Gavin Lee

Limited Premiere Engagement Begins
Thursday, Sept. 3 at Orpheum Theatre

MINNEAPOLIS—Hennepin Theatre Trust and producers **Cameron Mackintosh** and **Thomas Schumacher** are pleased to announce full casting for the Minneapolis engagement of **MARY POPPINS**. Minneapolis's most eagerly anticipated stage production will begin performances at **Hennepin Theatre Trust's Orpheum Theatre on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009** for a limited engagement of three weeks through Sunday, Sept. 20. **Press opening night is Friday, Sept. 4 at 8 p.m.** *Mary Poppins* is presented by Hennepin Theatre Trust as part of its 2009/10 Broadway Across America-Minneapolis season. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit our website at HennepinTheatreTrust.org or call 1-800-982-2787.

The entire creative team has reunited to bring this magical story of the world's most famous nanny to audiences across North America. Original Broadway stars, **Ashley Brown** and **Gavin Lee**, will reprise their roles as "Mary Poppins" and "Bert" respectively.

For her portrayal of "Mary Poppins," **Ashley Brown** received Drama League, Drama Desk and Outer Critic Circle nominations for Best Actress. Upon graduating from the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Brown landed a leading role in the touring production of Disney's *On the Record*. Soon after she was offered the chance to star in *Beauty and the Beast* and made her Broadway debut as "Belle" in September 2005. Upcoming projects include concerts with Marvin Hamlisch, the New York Philharmonic and a debut album of American songbook standards.

Gavin Lee made his Broadway debut with *Mary Poppins* after originating the role of "Bert" in the world premiere production in London's West End. Lee received critical acclaim for his portrayal of "Bert," both in New York and London, and was the recipient of the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Featured Actor. He also received Tony, Outer Critic Circle and Olivier Award nominations for Best Actor. His London theatre credits include *Peggy Sue Got Married*, *Contact*, *Oklahoma!*, Sondheim's *Saturday Night*, *Crazy For You* and *Me and My Girl*. In addition, he has appeared in the recent film adaptation of *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Beyond The Sea*.

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Joining **Brown** and **Lee** will be **Karl Kenzler** as “George Banks.” Kenzler’s Broadway credits include *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Caretaker*, *Dinner At Eight* and *The Heiress*. “Winifred Banks” will be played by **Megan Osterhaus**, who comes straight from the Broadway company of *Mary Poppins*. Her other stage credits include *Mamma Mia*, *Martin Guerre*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Children Of Eden*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Gypsy*.

Valerie Boyle will portray “Mrs. Brill.” Boyle has been seen in a wide variety of leading roles in Canada and Europe including *Sophie Tucker*, *Shirley Valentine* and *Nunsense*. **Andrew Keenan-Bolger**, who will play “Robertson Ay,” has previously appeared on Broadway in *Seussical*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *A Christmas Carol* and in the national tours of *Spelling Bee*, *The Grinch* and *Ragtime*.

Ellen Harvey will play “Miss Andrew.” Harvey’s Broadway credits include *The Music Man* and *Thou Shalt Not* and she has appeared in the national tours of *Disney’s High School Musical* (including a recent stop in Minneapolis), *Mamma Mia*, *Doctor Dolittle* and *Sunset Boulevard*. “The Bird Woman” will be played by **Mary VanArsdel**, who has appeared in productions of *Cole Porter’s Paris, Mass, Camelot* (with Jeremy Irons), *110 In the Shade* and *Gypsy*. “Admiral Boom” will be portrayed by **Mike O’Carroll**, a stage veteran whose past credits include *White Christmas*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Showboat*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *Henry IV*, *Inherit the Wind* and *Ragtime*.

Performances in the role of “Jane Banks” will be alternated between **Abigail Droeger** and **Aida Neitenbach**. Droeger has appeared on stage in *The Sound of Music*, *The Pillowman* and *The Brothers Karamazov* and in the films *Bedtime Stories* and *The Blackout*. Neitenbach hails from Colorado and was recently seen in *Anne of Green Gables*, *Les Misérables* and *The Secret Garden*. Performances in the role of “Michael Banks” will be alternated between **Christopher Flaim** and **Justin Hall**. Flaim is making his national tour debut with *Mary Poppins* and has previously appeared in the stage productions of *The Nutcracker*, *Les Misérables*, *Seussical* and *Into the Woods*. Hall’s stage credits include *Shenandoah* and the Off-Broadway productions of *A Christmas Carol* and *Don’t Worry*.

The cast also includes: **Tia Altinay**, **Carol Angeli**, **Gail Bennett**, **Kiara Bennett**, **Brandon Bieber**, **Troy Edward Bowles**, **Elizabeth Broadhurst**, **Michael Gerhart**, **Geoffrey Goldberg**, **Emily Harvey**, **Tiffany Howard**, **Kelly Jacobs**, **Wendy James**, **Justin Keyes**, **Sam Kiernan**, **Brian Letendre**, **Laird Mackintosh**, **Vanessa McMahan**, **Koh Mochizuki**, **Shua Potter**, **Dominic Roberts**, **Nick Sanchez**, **Q. Smith**, **Jesse Swimm** and **Tom Souhrada**.

Mary Poppins, a co-production by 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** 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 Bohn and music supervision by David Caddick. The tour’s creative team includes Director Anthony Lyn, Associate Choreographer Geoffrey Garrett and Music Director Annbriitt duChateau.

Consistently among the top-grossing shows on Broadway, **Mary Poppins** continues in its third smash year at the New Amsterdam Theatre and recently celebrated its 1000th performance—a milestone reached by only a rare few number of shows in Broadway history. The Broadway production has grossed over \$132 million to date and been seen by over 1.6 million theatergoers.

Simultaneously, the show’s popularity grows around the globe. Following a successful three year run (December 2004–January 2008) at the Prince Edward Theatre on London’s West End, a U.K. tour of **Mary Poppins** commenced in summer 2008 and concluded its acclaimed run in Cardiff in April 2009. The Australian debut of **Mary Poppins** is planned for next year.

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An open-ended run of ***Mary Poppins*** will take residence at the Circus Theatre in Scheveningen, Holland, outside of Amsterdam. The show will open in April 2010 at the Circus Theatre following *Tarzan's* record setting run there. ***Mary Poppins*** will be produced in Holland by Stage Entertainment in association with Disney and Cameron Mackintosh.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for *Mary Poppins* are on sale now and range in price from \$25 to \$83, subject to change. Special Premium Ticket Packages are available for \$133.50 at select performances and include premium seating and a complimentary souvenir program. Tickets may be purchased in person at the State Theatre Box Office (805 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, 55402), online at HennepinTheatreTrust.org or through Ticketmaster by calling 1-800-982-2787 or visiting a Ticketmaster Ticket Center. All prices include applicable facility fees and depend on performance time and seating preference. Additional charges may apply. Groups of 10 or more are eligible for discounts and should call 612-373-5665 for information and reservations.

Performance dates for *Mary Poppins* are Thursday, Sept. 3–Sunday, Sept. 20, 2009 at the Orpheum Theatre, 910 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis, 55403.

Show times are Tuesday–Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1 and 6:30 p.m.

HENNEPIN THEATRE TRUST, owner of the historic State, Orpheum and Pantages Theatres, is a non-profit organization devoted to enriching the vibrant cultural atmosphere of the Twin Cities. The Trust's programs include Broadway touring productions, the SpotLight Musical Theatre Program for high schools, Critical View student reviewer program, Teen Ushers, the Access Program and Kids' Night. For more information, go to HennepinTheatreTrust.org.

BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA 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 Broadway musicals and plays, family productions and other live events throughout a network of 43 North American cities. Broadway Across America is also dedicated to the development and production of new and diverse live theatre for productions on Broadway, across America and throughout the world. Broadway Across America most recently produced Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* on Broadway, while current and upcoming productions include *West Side Story*, *Blithe Spirit*, *Minsky's* and the DeafWest production of *Pippin*. Broadway tours include *Dora the Explorer*, *Frost/Nixon*, *Spamalot*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. For more information or to purchase tickets through an authorized agent go to BroadwayAcrossAmerica.com.

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