

Casting Announced for Disney's The Lion King Broadway's Award-Winning Best Musical

*Reno's Limited Premiere Engagement
Plays Friday, Nov. 10–Sunday, Nov. 19,
2023 at The Grand Theater*

RENO, NEVADA, UNITED STATES,
October 23, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ --
Casting has been announced for the
Reno engagement of [Disney's The Lion
King](#). Reno's most eagerly awaited
stage production ever will leap onto
the [Grand Theater stage](#) from Friday,
Nov. 10, with performances playing
through Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023.
Opening night is set for Friday, Nov. 10
at 8 p.m.

The production features Peter
Hargrave as "Scar," Gerald Ramsey as
"Mufasa," Mukelisiwe Goba as "Rafiki,"
Nick Cordileone as "Timon," Drew
Hirshfield as "Zazu," John E. Brady as
"Pumbaa," Darian Sanders as "Simba,"
Forest VanDyke as "Banzai," Martina
Sykes as "Shenzi" and Robbie Swift as
"Ed."

The role of "Nala" will be played by
Syndee Winters from November 10 –
12 and by Khalifa White from
November 14 – 19.

The role of "Young Simba" is alternated between Mason Lawson and Julian Villela and the role of
"Young Nala" is alternated between Jaxyn Damasco and Aniya Simone.



Mukelisiwe Goba as Rafiki. The Lion King North American Tour ©Disney. Photo by Matthew Murphy



Company of The Lion King on Broadway. Circle of Life ©Disney. Photo by Matthew Murphy.

Rounding out the cast are Kayla Rose Aimable, William John Austin, Iman Ayana, Isaiah Bailey, Samantha Lauren Barriento, Eric Bean, Jr., Layla Brent, Vernon Brooks III, Sasha Caicedo, Lauren Carr, Thembelihle Cele, Daniela Cobb, Lyric Danae, Marquis Floyd, Tony Freeman, Aliah James, Joel Karie, Samaree Lawson, Gabisile Manana, Christopher L. McKenzie, Jr., Justin Mensah, Nhlanhla Ndlovu, Aaron Nelson, Jeremy Noel, Sicelo Ntshangase, Erick D. Patrick, Sayiga Eugene Peabody, Maia Schechter, Poseletso Sejosingoe, Jennifer Theriot, Courtney Thomas, Denzel Tsopnang, Brinie Wallace and Jordan Nicole Willis.

In Reno, "The Lion King" will play Tuesdays through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. There will also be a 1 p.m. matinee on Thursday, Nov. 16.

Premium Ticket Packages, which include a prime seat location, a souvenir program and a cinch bag, are also available. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster.com or at the Grand Theatre Box Office at the GSR. Premium individual ticket packages will be available and include a prime seat location, a souvenir program and a cinch bag. Orders for groups of 20 or more may be placed by calling 877-690-2929 or emailing groups@nederlandernatlmkts.com.

For more than 20 years, the North American touring productions of The Lion King have been seen by over 21 million theatergoers. Having already played more than 9,000 performances in over 90 cities across North America, The Lion King now proudly makes its Reno premiere at the Grand Theater

ABOUT THE LION KING

Celebrating 25 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, 28 global productions have been seen by over 112 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Group, under the direction of Andrew Flatt, Anne Quart, and Thomas Schumacher, The Lion King has made theatrical history with three productions worldwide running 20 or more years and two others running 25 or more years.

Performed over its lifetime in nine different languages (English, Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), productions of The Lion King can currently be seen on Broadway; London's West End; Paris; Hamburg; Tokyo; Madrid; Sao Paulo and on tour across North America and the U.K. & Ireland for a total of nine productions running concurrently across the globe. Having played over 100 cities in 24 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 supervises new productions of the show around the world.

The Broadway score features Elton John and Tim Rice's songs 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 Lebo M's rich choral numbers.

Elton John, Lebo M, and Hans Zimmer all collaborated on the 2019 version of the film, executive produced by Julie Taymor and Thomas Schumacher, which has gone onto extraordinary worldwide success.

The book has been adapted by Roger Allers, who co-directed the animated The Lion King 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), Anthony Lyn (associate director), Marey Griffith (associate choreographer), Clement Ishmael (music supervisor), Lisa Dawn Cave (production supervisor), Thomas Schlenk (general manager) and ARC/Mark Brandon, CSA (casting). Anne Quart serves as executive producer.

For more information worldwide, visit LionKing.com, www.facebook.com/thelionkingusa and www.instagram.com/thelionking.

The Reno engagement of Disney's "The Lion King" is presented by arrangement with [Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts](#) and is a subscription offering of the Broadway Comes to Reno series.

Courtney Meredith
Design on Edge
+1 7754607133
[email us here](#)

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