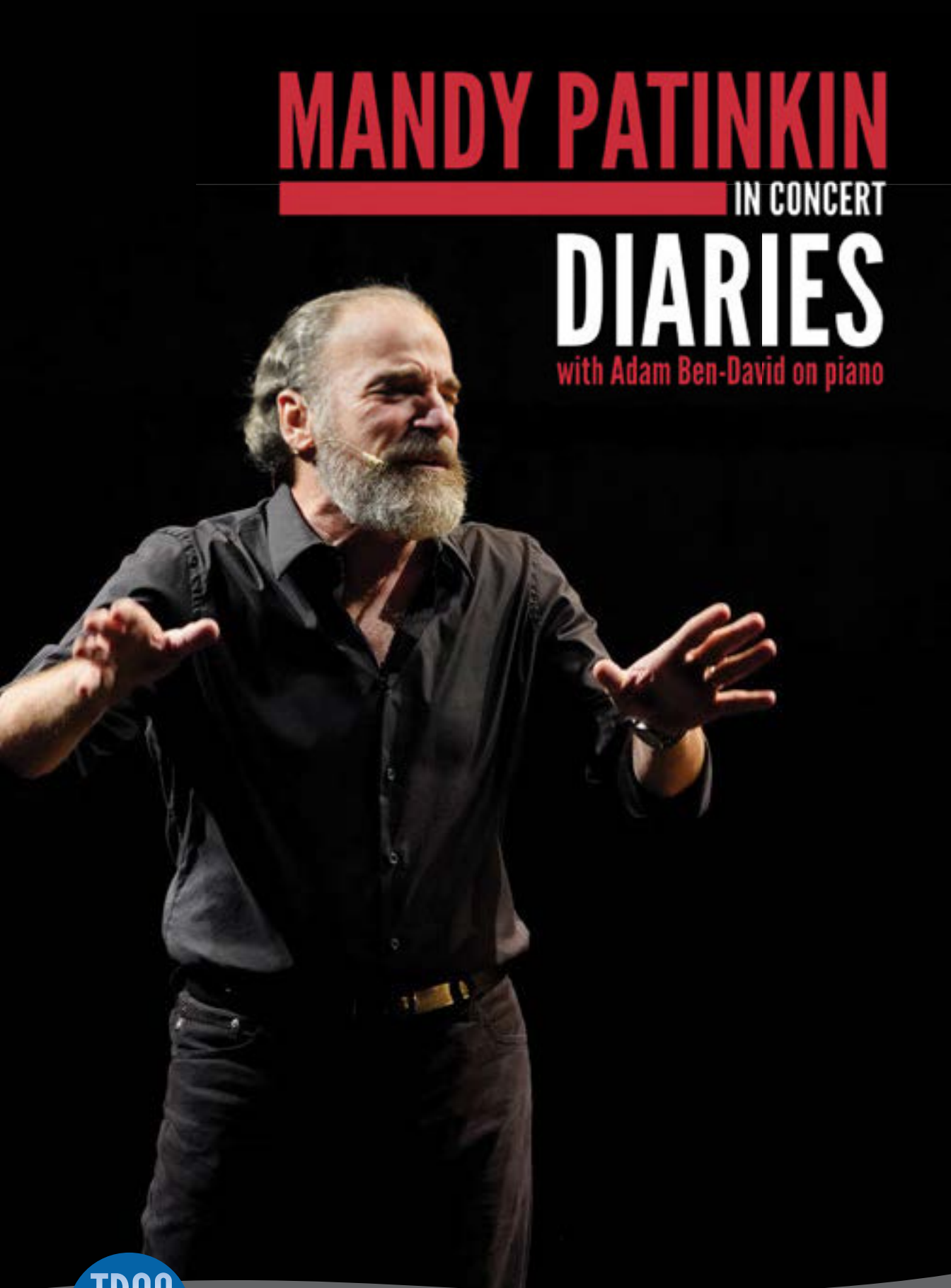
MANDY PATINKIN
IN CONCERT
DIARIES
with Adam Ben-David on piano



Mandy Patinkin In Concert: Diaries | January 29, 2020 | James K. Polk Theater

Photo by Joan Marcus

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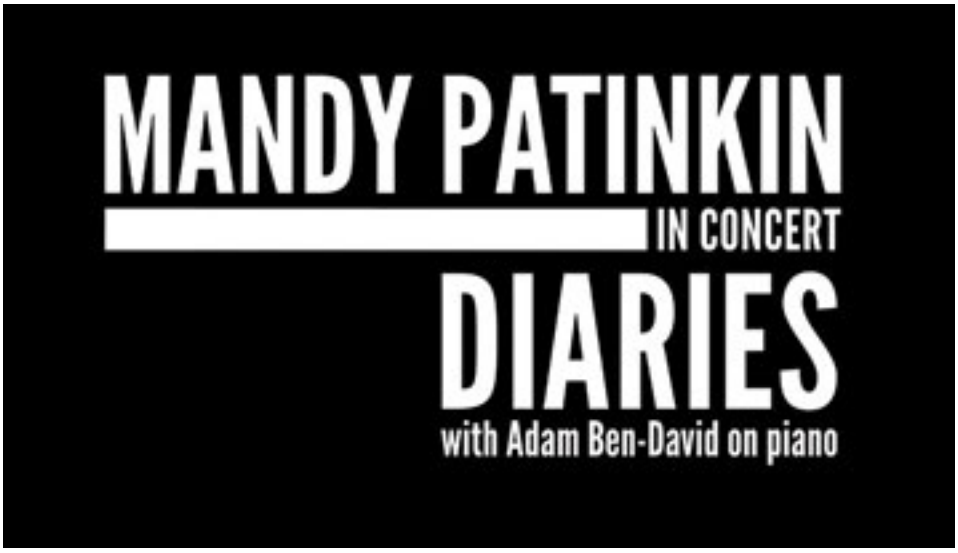

Lighting & Production Design
NATHAN W. SCHEUER

Sound Design
DANIEL J. GERHARD

Projection Design
TOM KALIN

Production Manager
MATTHEW AARON STERN

National Press & Marketing Representative
CATHERINE MAJOR/
CMAJOR ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING

Exclusive Tour Booking Agent
L. GLENN POPPLETON

Produced & Managed by
STACI LEVINE

This concert will be performed without intermission.

Please silence all electronics.
The use of cameras, audio and/or visual recording devices is prohibited.

Who's Who

MANDY PATINKIN has been fortunate to carve out a varied career including theater, the concert stage, film, television, and as a recording artist.

In his 1980 Broadway debut, Mandy won a Tony Award for his role as Che in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Evita*, directed by Hal Prince, and was nominated in 1984 for his starring role as George in the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical, *Sunday in the Park with George*. Mandy's other stage credits include: *Compulsion*, *Paradise Found*, *The Tempest*, *Enemy of the People*, *The Wild Party*, *Falsettos*, *The Secret Garden*, *The Winter's Tale*, *The Knife*, *Leave It to Beaver is Dead*, *Rebel Women*, *Hamlet*, *Trelawney of the 'Wells,' The Shadow Box*, *The Split*, *Savages*, and *Henry IV, Part I*.

In 1989, Mandy began his concert career at Joseph Papp's Public Theater in New York City. Since then he has toured (and continues to tour) his various solo concerts across North America, in London's West End, through Australia and New Zealand, as well as on Broadway and Off-Broadway. His newest solo concert is *Mandy Patinkin in Concert: Diaries*.

In addition to solo concerts, Mandy has created collaborations with artists including opera star Nathan Gunn in *An Evening with Mandy Patinkin & Nathan Gunn*, touring the US, Australia and New Zealand; with his dear friend Patti LuPone in *An Evening with Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin* which has toured since 2007 and played Broadway in 2012; *Bridges*, a concert with musicians from various countries in the Middle East; and most recently, *The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville*, with Taylor Mac, and direction by Susan Stroman.

Mandy's newest feature film is *Before Your Know It*, debuting August 2019 in NYC and Los Angeles. Other feature films include *Life Itself*, *Wonder*, *Smurfs: The Lost Village*, *The Queen of Spain*, *Ali and Nino*, *Wish I Was Here*, *The Wind Rises*, *Everybody's Hero*, *The Choking Man*, *Pinero*, *The Adventures of Elmo In Grouchland*, *Lulu on the Bridge*, *Men with Guns*, *The Princess Bride*, *Yentl*, *The Music of Chance*, *Daniel*, *Ragtime*, *Impromptu*, *The Doctor*, *Alien Nation*, *Dick Tracy*, *The House on Carroll Street*, *True Colors*, and *Maxie*.

In television, Mandy won a 1995 Emmy Award for his performance in the CBS series "Chicago Hope," and starred in the CBS series "Criminal Minds" and in the Showtime Original Series "Dead Like Me." Currently, he can be seen in the Award-winning Showtime Original Series "Homeland" as CIA Agent Saul Berenson.

As a recording artist on CBS Records, Mandy released two solo albums, *Mandy Patinkin* and *Mandy Patinkin In Concert: Dress Casual*. Recently on the Nonesuch label, Mandy recorded three digital albums with pianist/producer Thomas Bartlett: *Diary January 2018*, *Diary April/ May 2018* and *Diary December 2018*. Also with Nonesuch are *Experiment*, *Oscar & Steve*, *Kidults* and *Mandy Patinkin Sings Sondheim*. In 1998 he debuted his most personal project, *Mamaloshen*, a collection of traditional, classic and contemporary songs sung entirely in Yiddish. The recording of *Mamaloshen* won the *Deutschen Schallplattenpreis* (Germany's equivalent of the Grammy Award).

As diverse as his professional life has been, Mandy's education in the field of social activism has been even more varied and continues to evolve. He has helped raise funds for organizations dear to his heart including Brady Campaign, PAX, Doctors Without Borders, Association to Benefit Children, American Jewish World Service, Search For Common Ground, National Dance Institute, and ACLU. Mandy is a board member of the Arava Institute and continues to work with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), highlighting the plight of refugees worldwide.

Mandy resides in New York City with his wife, actress and writer Kathryn Grody.

ADAM BEN-DAVID has been living his "bucket list" dream of accompanying Mandy Patinkin in concert since 2016. He has been active as an arranger, music director, conductor and pianist on

Broadway for the past 22 years. Adam's credits include: *The Book of Mormon*, *Jersey Boys*, *Spring Awakening*, *Wicked*, *High Fidelity*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Bombay Dreams*, *Aida*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*. He has accompanied numerous artists including Kelli O'Hara, Jarrod Spector, James Taylor, Patti LuPone, and Megan Hilty. Adam is currently composing a theatrical adaptation of the children's classic *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. He is a graduate of the Juilliard School.

NATHAN W. SCHEUER *(Lighting & Production Designer)* is a lighting and projection designer based out of NYC and LA. Select credits include *Kinky Boots*, *Singing in the Rain*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Aida*, *Mamma Mia*, *Les Misérables* (The Muny), *A Taste of Things to Come* (Broadway in Chicago), *After the Curtain* (Travis Wall's Shaping Sound), *Oslo*, *Heisenberg*, *Admissions* (The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis), *E/Space, Pretty Peculiar Things*, *Within Without*, *Carry Me Anew* (Barak Ballet), *Jerome Robbins' Broadway*, *Seussical* (TUTS), *Upon This Handful of Earth*, *Tosca* (NYOS), *Water by the Spoonful* (TheatreSquared), *Beneath One's Dignity, The Sleeping Beauty* (LA Ballet), *Spamalot* (Arkansas Rep). Nathan was the associate designer for *Manilow on Broadway* and has designed for Selena Gomez, Alice Cooper, and Toby Keith, as well as having worked with companies such as the NYC Ballet, Paris Opera Ballet, Lincoln Center Festival, Center Theatre Group, San Francisco Opera, and Spectrum Dance. Proud member of USA 829.

DANIEL J. GERHARD *(Sound Designer)* is an Emmy Award winner for his work on "Jesus Christ Superstar". He has designed and engineered many other live telecast events such as "The Wiz Live!," "Showtime at the Apollo," "America's Got Talent," "Comedy Central Presents," "Pitbull's New Year's Eve," "The X Factor," "The Tony Awards," "The Grammy Awards," "The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame," and numerous other specials. Dan has created studio designs for the "Late Show" (with David Letterman as well as Steven Colbert), "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," "Survivor," "The View," and "The Today Show." For over 30 years, Dan was responsible for the sound design and music production for the famed *Radio City Christmas Spectacular* and its touring company *Christmas Across America*. He has designed theatrical and multi-media shows in the US, Europe, and Japan. Recent credits include *A Taste of Things to Come*, *The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville*, *An Evening with Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin*, *Sinatra – His Voice, His World, His Way*, and John Lithgow's *Stories By Heart*. Dan is also an accomplished flutist and graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has performed with the NY Philharmonic, the San Diego Symphony, and the Metropolitan Opera.

TOM KALIN's *(Video Designer)* work traverses diverse forms and genres, from narrative features to mixed media installation to activism. His film, Swoon, was awarded prizes in Berlin, Stockholm, and at Sundance; *Savage Grace* premiered in Cannes, screened worldwide and was named "top ten" by *Artforum* and *The Los Angeles Times*. As a producer, his features include *I Shot Andy Warhol* and *Go Fish*. He was co-writer of Cindy Sherman's *Office Killer*. With frequent collaborator Doveman (Thomas Bartlett), he exhibited at NYC's Participant Gallery and Dublin's National Concert Hall for *Blood and the Moon*, an evening of music, film and performance celebrating the work of Yeats. Fashion designer Geoffrey Beene commissioned Kalin to write and direct *Geoffrey Beene 30*, a lyrical narrative film commemorating his 30th anniversary. Kalin's films are currently installed in the Santa Maria Della Scala, Siena. He was a founding member of the AIDS activist collective Gran Fury, which exhibited in the Venice Biennale and is in collection of the Whitney and Smithsonian. Kalin is a Rockefeller and Guggenheim Fellow, has twice been included in the

Whitney Biennial and has screened in venues including ICA, London; Reina Sofia, Madrid; The Cartier Foundation, MoMA and The Getty Museum among many others.

MATTHEW AARON STERN *(Production Manager/Production Stage Manager)* Broadway credits include: *Finding Neverland*, *On The Town*, *Doctor Zhivago*, *Side Show*, *Spider-Man: Turn Off The Dark*, *Death Of A Salesman*, T*he Little Mermaid*, *Wicked*, *The Full Monty*, *Phantom Of The Opera*, and others. National Tours: *Stories By Heart*, *Billy Crystal's 700 Sundays*, and *Les Misérables*. Other credits with Mr. Patinkin: the Broadway & National Tours of *An Evening with Patti LuPon*e *and Mandy Patinkin* and *Tours of Mandy Patinkin: Dress Casual*. Other credits include: *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*, *Blue Man Group at the Hollywood Bowl*, as well as hundreds of corporate events for clients including: Google, Samsung, Facebook, Lexus, Volkswagen, and more. Matthew produces the Broadway Stage Management Symposium, an annual conference for all stage managers. For more information visit www.broadwaysymposium.com. Matt also teaches at SUNY Purchase and serves on the board of directors of the Stage Managers' Association. Thank you to Staci for the many adventures. For my boys, Noah & Dominick.

L. GLENN POPPLETON *(Exclusive Tour Booking Agent*) also represents *An Evening with Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin*; *The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville* (starring Mandy Patinkin and Taylor Mac); *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical*; *A Christmas Story, The Musical*; and Lisa Lampanelli's *Losin' It*. Past tours include *Cathy Rigby is Peter Pan*; *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*; and *Monty Python's Spamalot*.

STACI LEVINE *(Producer)* president of Groundswell Theatricals, Inc, a New York City-based producing and general management company. Groundswell has been represented on Broadway, Off-Broadway, across North America, London's West End, Australia, and New Zealand. Productions include the national tour of Patti LuPone's *Don't Monkey with Broadway*; Lisa Lampanelli's two touring productions *Losin' It* and *Fat Chance*; *An Evening with Patti LuPone and Mandy Patinkin* (Broadway, tour); John Lithgow's *Stories By Heart* (Broadway, tour); the new musical *A Taste of Things to Come* (Off-Broadway, Chicago); *The Last Two People on Earth: An Apocalyptic Vaudeville*, starring Mandy Patinkin and Taylor Mac with direction & choreography by Susan Stroman (Off-Broadway, tour); the tour of *An Evening with Mandy Patinkin & Nathan Gunn*; Mandy Patinkin's solo concerts: *Dress Casual* (tour, West End, Broadway), *Mamaloshen* (tour, Off-Broadway, Broadway), *Celebrating Sondheim* (tour, Broadway) the current tour of *Mandy Patinkin in Concert: Diaries*; UK sensation *Nina Conti: In Your Face* (Off-Broadway); *The Gideon & Hubcap Sho*w (London, Edinburgh); and the tour of *I See You Made an Effort* starring Annabelle Gurwitch. Staci cut her teeth in commercial theater with Dodger Theatricals, working on numerous Broadway, Off-Broadway, and touring productions including *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Titanic*, *The King & I*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Footloose*, T*he Music Man*, *42nd Street*, *Wrong Mountain*, *Into the Woods*, *Barbra's Wedding*, *BARE*, *Urinetown*, *Dracula the Musical*, and *Good Vibrations*, as a member of Dodger Management Group.

The Team

Producer ..... STACI LEVINE
Music Director & Accompanist..... ADAM BEN-DAVID
Lighting & Production Design ..... NATHAN W. SCHEUER
Sound Design ..... DANIEL J. GERHARD
Projection Design..... TOM KALIN
General Manager..... TIM HURLEY
Production Manager/Production Stage Manager .....MATTHEW AARON STERN
Production Stage Managers..... RICHARD HESTER, JULIA JONES
Press & Marketing Representative ..... CATHERINE MAJOR
Associate Sound Designer.....ELLEN FITTON
Sound Mixers.....MARK FIORE, ELI WALKER
Assistant to the Producer ..... VICTORIA UNGVARSKY
Merchandise Coordinator .....JOE STETTIN

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SPECIAL THANKS TO Bob Hurwitz, Thomas Bartlett,
David Bither everyone at Nonesuch.

Mandy's newest album *CHILDREN and ART* will be sold in the lobby.

Also for sale is a limited-edition tote bag, with all profits benefiting INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE.

For more information on International Rescue Committee, visit rescue.org

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For more information on Mandy Patinkin in Concert, visit mandypatinkin.org

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To listen to Mandy's digital albums, visit mandypatinkindiary.com

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BROADWAY at TPAC

2020-21

In February, we won't be the only ones popping our heads out of the ground. We'll satisfy your temptation and invite you to take a gander at a 2020-21 HCA Heathcare / TriStar Health Broadway at TPAC season that is written in the stars.

We know it's a little earlier than usual. It's just one of those things. You might call it a preamble to TPAC roaring into its 40th birthday this year. Put on your pink and cue the pomp and parade. At the end of the day, we're another year older, and we can't wait to start celebrating with you. Not yet. Soon.

Stay tuned to TPAC.org or sign up for our StageLinks email to be the first to know what comes next.

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BOLD 40 YEARS

What's Next?

Critically acclaimed production of Lerner & Loewe's *My Fair Lady* to play TPAC February 4-9

Preview...7

Shavey Brown, Mark Aldrich, Shereen Ahmed (center), William Michals and Colin Anderson in The Lincoln Center Theater Production of Lerner & Loewe's *My Fair Lady*
Photo by Joan Marcus

"A thing of beauty. A masterful piece of entertainment."

– Entertainment Weekly

From Lincoln Center Theater that brought you *The King and I* and *South Pacific*, comes the critically acclaimed production of Lerner & Loewe's ***My Fair Lady***, playing TPAC's Jackson Hall February 4-9.

Boasting a score with now-classic songs such as "I Could Have Danced All Night," "Get Me to the Church on Time," "Wouldn't It Be Loverly," "On the Street Where You Live," "The Rain in Spain," and "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," *My Fair Lady* tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a young Cockney flower seller, and Henry Higgins, a linguistics professor determined to transform her into his idea of a "proper lady."

For director Bartlett Sher, it was important to focus the story more on Eliza than Higgins.

"I tended to think that *My Fair Lady* had come to be dominated by Higgins, and I felt we had to re-center the piece around the person who, in plot terms, you really follow, which is Eliza," Sher says. "So, a lot of the work, including the design work, went into repositioning the show behind her. We open on Eliza, we follow her, we go with her to the house."

Sher's production is "thrilling, glorious and better than it ever was" (*New York Times*), and *Entertainment Weekly* raves it's "A thing of beauty. A masterful piece of entertainment."

The North American tour stars Shereen Ahmed as Eliza Doolittle and Laird Mackintosh as Henry Higgins. Joining them are Leslie Alexander as Mrs. Higgins, Adam Grupper as Alfred P. Doolittle, Wade McCollum as Professor Zoltan Karpathy, Kevin Pariseau as Colonel Pickering, Gayton Scott as Mrs. Pearce, and Sam Simahk as Freddy Eynsford-Hill.

It features choreography by Christopher Gattelli, sets by Michael Yeargan, costumes by Catherine Zuber, lighting by Donald Holder, and sound by Marc Salzberg.

The Lincoln Center Theater's production won five Outer Critics Circle Awards, including Best Revival of Musical, and was nominated for 10 Tony Awards, including Best Musical Revival, five Drama Desk Awards, including Best Musical Revival, and three Drama League Awards, including Best Musical Revival.

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play and Gabriel Pascal's motion picture *Pygmalion*, *My Fair Lady* features a book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe.

The legendary original Broadway production of *My Fair Lady* premiered in March 1956. It won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and ran for 2,717 performances making it, at the time, the longest-running musical in Broadway history.

Get tickets to *My Fair Lady* at TPAC.org, by phone at 615-782-4040, and at the TPAC Box Office, 505 Deaderick St., in downtown Nashville. For groups of 10 or more, call 615-782-4060.

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Lerner & Loewe's MY FAIR LADY

Epley reminds students that science is a part of everyday life by using every day, household items.

How David Epley blended acting and science, to become DOKTOR KABOOM

Michael W. Aldrich, *TPAC Arts Writer*

If you combined Bill Nye and Guy Fieri in a lab, then sent him to acting school, you'd get Doktor Kaboom.

With chrome goggles, orange lab coat, motorcycle boots, and spiked hair, the mad scientist not only embraces the ridiculous, he celebrates it.

Doktor Kaboom has been dazzling young minds with interactive, educational, and comical performances for more than a decade — recently performing as part of TPAC's HOT Season for Young People for the fifth time this past December.

But the man behind the madness didn't always want to entertain young audiences by making water bottles into rockets and catapulting bananas across the stage.

"It took me 40 years to figure out what I wanted to do for the rest of my life," says actor, comedian, and Doktor Kaboom creator David Epley. "But when I found it, I never looked back."

Epley grew up expecting to be a research physicist, a biomedical engineer, a mathematician, an astrophysicist, a chemical engineer, and a marine biologist. So, naturally, he became an actor.

"The stage's calling eventually became too loud to ignore," he says.

After studying to become a chemical engineer at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, Epley spent the next two decades performing and directing original comedy at outdoor festivals and street performances.

It was during his 20-year tenure performing on the Renaissance Festival circuit when he learned how to interact with an audience.

"During those shows, I worked with some brilliant minds who taught me how to deal with any type of situation you can encounter," Epley says.

The idea to mix his two passions of science and performing together hit him like a bus one day while working at a festival in Texas, wondering what he was about to do for the upcoming off-season.

"It was about 12 years ago. I had turned 40 and decided I'm going to have a good idea this year," says Epley. "And when I did, instead of talking about it for a few weeks until I got bored talking about it, I followed through."

The character Doktor Kaboom was born. A German physicist who teaches that science is for everyone through a variety of interactive experiments ranging from optical illusions to chemical reactions and a homemade hovercraft.

During shows, Doktor Kaboom creates artificial gravity. During others, he electrocutes a pickle. No two shows are the same.

"Since I'm an actor, I didn't want to just be me on stage," Epley says. "I wanted the character to be larger than life and over the top — so I made him German."

The accent may be fake, but the science is real.

"Science is like Shakespeare. It's not meant to be read; it's meant to be done." – David Epley

Students witness a variety of science subjects typically digested via textbook: physics, biomedical engineering, mathematics, astrophysics, chemical engineering, and marine biology.

Epley also reminds students that science is a part of everyday life by using household items such as dish soap, balloons, and trash barrels in his experiments to prove science's accessibility.

"My mission is to remind the world that science is all around us," he says. "It's all around us and it's not difficult. It just takes effort; and that's not the same thing as hard."

Doktor Kaboom is a German physicist who teaches science is for everyone.
photo by Martin Albert

But perhaps the most striking moment of his performances is how he empowers children to think well of themselves. He remembers a time when he asked a student volunteer, "you're smart young man, yah?." The student said, "no." Ever since, Epley's made a point of that lesson in his shows.

"That moment floored me," Epley says. "It showed me I had an opportunity to teach science and to empower these kids and show them they are capable."

During his week of performances at TPAC, Epley's voice commanded the attention of nearly 1,000 students staring at him and drove the point home.

"Learn this and never forget it," he told them. "You are smart. Believe it."

Connect with Michael Aldrich on LinkedIn or follow him on Twitter @michaelwaldrich.

David Epley, also known as Doktor Kaboom, recently did his fifth set of performances for TPAC's *HOT Season for Young People*.

Warner Elementary seeing benefits as performing arts magnet with TPAC partnership

Michael W. Aldrich *TPAC Arts Writer*

When **Warner Elementary School** became an arts magnet school in 2018, it was only a matter of time before leaders of the East Nashville school found a willing and able partner.

Now, Tennessee Performing Arts Center is helping educators introduce a new style of learning for students in one of Tennessee's lowest-performing schools — where 93% are considered economically disadvantaged.

Founded in 1892 and one of the oldest schools in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools, Warner is the district's only magnet elementary school for the arts.

"We believe everything builds through the arts," says principal Dr. Ricki Gibbs. "So often students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds get so drilled down with literacy and numeracy, that schools normally push the arts to the side."

Warner is one of nearly a dozen public schools in Middle Tennessee participating in ArtSmart, TPAC's initiative to engage classrooms with arts-integrated learning for both students and teachers. Led by teaching artists, these sessions help students get the most out of a performance from TPAC's Season for Young People, which introduces almost 40,000 school children to theatre, dance, music and more each year.

Funded by TPAC patrons and donors, ArtSmart gives students in underserved communities opportunities to stimulate their imagination, develop critical thinking skills, and strengthen

Teaching artist Alison Brazil leads Warner students in a lesson.

Warner students act out the different roles of *Walk On: The Story of Rosa Parks*.

learning in other subjects. Last year, the program reached 1,570 students in 11 Tennessee counties and one in Alabama.

Arts instruction has declined steadily in America since the 1980s amid increased emphasis on test-based accountability. But research supports what most educators already know – that arts-based learning not only improves writing skills but also reduces disciplinary infractions and boosts students' empathy for others.

Those benefits are being seen at Warner, where the number of disciplinary referrals decreased by nearly 75% last year since becoming an arts magnet school. And this fall, the school has had only 12 disciplinary referrals as of the end of November, compared with nearly 900 in the 2017-18 school year.

"We found that through arts integration in our classrooms, our boys and girls are more engaged during instruction and less likely to have disciplinary issues," Dr. Gibbs says.

Also, Warner recently earned top scores for academic growth, meaning students gained more than a grade-level's worth of learning last year. In fact, the school demonstrated some of the highest literacy growth for economically disadvantaged students in the state.

The programs and partnership – even cosmetic improvements including a full-size professional dance studio – are the result of receiving a federal Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant in 2018. In all, five Nashville public magnet schools received a share of the $15 million turnaround grant to become STEAM Magnet schools, each highlighting one STEAM area.

Dr. Gibbs and his team work to maximize the funding that comes with being an Arts

Magnet school to create interactive educational experiences for students — something that TPAC knows a thing about.

When Warner students attended a play about Rosa Parks earlier this year, the experience was the crescendo of weeks of creative learning about the civil rights icon led by TPAC teaching artist Alison Brazil.

With Brazil's guidance, the students told Park's story through original song lyrics and dance moves. They were prepared to connect with the show, *Walk On: The Story of Rosa Parks*, the moment the curtain rose in TPAC's Polk Theater.

"We sing, we dance, we move, and the kids get to close the books and engage with these challenging subjects on a deeper level through the arts," Brazil says. "Then when they see the show, they get more out of the performance because they are more interested."

Using a guitar, a calming bilingual vibrato, and a trunk full of handheld instruments, Brazil says it all comes down to giving teachers the resources and techniques they need to make a difference in the lives of children.

"The arts have a way of getting into really deep issues," says Brazil, who taught 4th grade at a school in Honduras before moving to Nashville. "There's something about art that makes deep issues more palatable. It's a common language that levels the playing field to think things we may not normally think."

When Warner teacher Dr. Nikki Hughes saw the effect ArtSmart had in her classroom at Warner, she says she was "all in."

"Seeing the eyes on my students' faces light up and seeing them connect with these immersive activities and lessons Alison did was inspiring for me," she says. "I believe it's so important to have that deeper connection with students, to really listen and understand them."

For someone who's worked as a teacher for Metro Schools since 2000, Dr. Hughes clearly sees the impact on her students in terms of engagement and comprehension.

"I saw them make deeper connections with what was going on during the time period of Rosa," Dr. Hughes says. "By integrating the music, the sing-a-longs and the movement, the discussions improve. The shy kids that never talk come out of their shell and become part of the moment."

A main component of ArtSmart is the collaborative relationship between teaching artists and the teachers. This often begins with summer institutes, in which teachers become learners themselves.

"They've already been teachers, but they get to remind themselves what it's like to learn," says Brazil, who participated in the institutes as a teacher at Nashville's Glencliff High School before becoming a teaching artist herself.

There, Brazil taught Spanish, music, and dance for 10 years before joining the ArtSmart team.

"I remember they were the only professional development that made any sort of sense to me because it was so experiential and hands on," Brazil says. "There's a light bulb that clicks as you do it yourself. You feel as the learner feels."

Light bulbs are clicking on for the students, too.

"I like that I get to sing and dance at school now," says 4th grader Kai Carr.

Ultimately, that's what the partnership is about — to uplift and inspire through a deeper connect with the arts. At schools like Warner, it means that children get to imagine possibilities beyond their neighborhoods.

"I can't believe [the performers] get to sing and dance for their jobs even though they're grown-ups," Carr says after watching the show at TPAC. "I hope I get to."

Connect with Michael Aldrich on LinkedIn or follow him on Twitter @michaelwaldrich

Warner students with Principal Ricki Gibbs.

Baby Yoda will wait.

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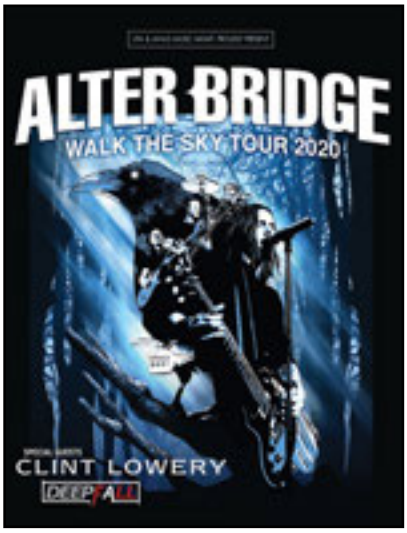
JAN 28

JAN 31



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THE CHIEFTAINS
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THE IRISH GOODBYE

FEB 19

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Robert Battle, Artistic Director Matthew Rushing, Associate Artistic Director

Ailey Revealed

Solomon Dumas, photo by Andrew Eccles

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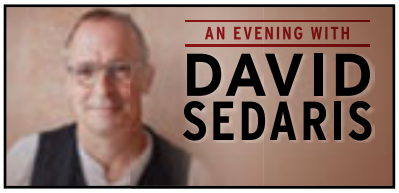
MAR 16

MAR 24-25



APR 17

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Created by The Actors' Gang with Tim Robbins as director.

APR 9-11

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TPAC adds Coffee, Cumberland counties to rural expansion of Disney Musicals in Schools program

Photo by Mimosa Arts

Michael W. Aldrich *TPAC Arts Writer*

Four elementary schools in Bedford, Coffee, and Cumberland counties are participating in their first year of Tennessee Performing Arts Center's Disney Musicals in Schools this year, continuing a rural expansion of the program developed by Disney Theatrical Group to create sustainable theatre in under-resourced schools.

Cascade Elementary School and **East Side Elementary School** in Bedford County, **North Coffee Elementary School** in Coffee County and **Glenn Martin Elementary School** in Cumberland County will join **Ida B. Wells Elementary School**, **Paragon Mills Elementary School** and **Donelson Middle School**, of the Metro Nashville Public Schools system, in hosting 17-week residencies culminating in the production of a Disney KIDS or JR. musical.

Last year, more than 1,300 students in 30 under-resourced schools in Davidson and Bedford counties, at no cost to the students or schools, took their favorite Disney stories from screen to stage. Another two schools from Bedford county will participate this year.

For this second year of expansion, TPAC awarded a grant to Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville, which will work locally with the school and select another school to participate in 2020-21.

"I believe the arts can positively affect the entire school culture, especially student motivation, attitudes, and attendance," says Weslie Webster, education director at the Cumberland County Playhouse. "It fosters student expression of feelings and emotions. Expressive kids are happier kids, and happier kids find learning more enjoyable."

First-year schools receive performance rights for the Disney KIDS or Disney JR. musical of their choice, educational support materials, and guidance from TPAC teaching artists.

Disney KIDS musicals are 30-minute performances that have been adapted from classic Disney films such as *101 Dalmatians*, *Aladdin*, *The Aristocats*, *Frozen*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Lion King*, and *Winnie the Pooh*.

Through the unique world of musical theatre, Disney Musicals in Schools fosters positive relationships between students, faculty, staff, parents, and the community.

Over the course of three years, TPAC helps the schools establish theatre programs they can maintain. Meanwhile, teachers learn how to produce, direct, and choreograph theatre, and students develop a variety of skills including critical thinking, problem solving, ensemble building, and interpersonal communication.

As a capstone, students from first-year schools perform one number from their show for fellow students, teachers, family, and more at the Student Share Celebration in TPAC's Jackson Hall.

Disney Musicals in Schools launched in 2010 to help under-resourced public elementary schools not getting equitable access to the arts. After offering the program in New York City schools, Disney Theatrical Group piloted the program in Nashville the following year and has since expanded to other cities.

This is the ninth year of the partnership between Disney Theatrical Group, Metro Schools and TPAC since the program launched here in 2011. The CMA Foundation has provided financial support for the local program since 2013.

Since 2011, 47 schools have participated in TPAC's Disney Musicals in Schools program, involving more than 8,000 students, more than 900 teachers and producing more than 500 performances for schools and communities.

To learn more about Disney Musicals in Schools and other TPAC programs, visit TPAC.ORG/*Education*.

Disney MUSICALS IN SCHOOLS

TPAC · NASHVILLE

What's Next?

Smash hit *Blue Man Group* returns in all-new tour February 11-16 at TPAC

photo by Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade, 2019

More than 35 million people around the world have experienced the smash hit that is ***Blue Man Group***.

Now, the global entertainment phenomenon – known for its award-winning theatrical productions, iconic characters, and multiple creative explorations – is coming to Nashville February 11-16 at TPAC.

That's right. The world-renowned bald and blue trio are back on the road in a new North American tour.

Under the helm of visionary director Jenny Koons, in her first-time collaboration with the *Blue Man Group*, the new tour features everything audiences know and love, including signature drumming, colorful moments of creativity, and quirky comedy – the men are still blue, but the rest is all new!

Including pulsing, original music, custom-made instruments, surprise audience interaction, and hilarious absurdity, *Blue Man Group* appeals to a broad range of age groups and cultural backgrounds and celebrates human connection through art, music, comedy, and non-verbal communication.

Since debuting at New York's Astor Place Theatre in 1991, the live show has expanded to additional domestic residencies in Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Orlando; an international residency in Berlin; and multiple North American and World tours.

In addition to Koons, the *Blue Man Group* North American tour includes an established and prolific creative team including costume design by Emilio Sosa (*On Your Feet!*, *Motown*), video design by Lucy MacKinnon (*The Rose Tattoo*, *Spring Awakening*), and set design by Jason Ardizzone-West (*Jesus Christ Superstar Live*, *Next to Normal*).

A part of the pop culture zeitgeist, *Blue Man Group* has appeared countless times on hit shows including *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Tonight Show*, *Arrested Development*, *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, *Schlag den Raab* (Germany), *WOWOW* (Japan), *and Caldeirão do Huck* (Brazil).

Blue Man Group continuously identifies and develops ways to impact the entertainment industry, contributing to various film and TV scores and releasing multiple albums including the Grammy-nominated Audio. The rock concert parody, *Megastar World Tour*, played arenas across the globe. The book, *Blue Man World*, is a visually stunning anthropological exploration of the curious bald and blue character.

Blue Man Group is owned and operated by Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group. The North American tour is produced and promoted by Cirque du Soleil Entertainment Group in partnership with NETworks Presentations.

Get tickets to *Blue Man Group* at TPAC.org, by phone at 615-782-4040, and at the TPAC Box Office, 505 Deaderick St., in downtown Nashville. For groups of 10 or more, call 615-782-4060.

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