



Playhouse Square®

Inspiring performance.

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2015

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Inspiring performance.

Playhouse Square Announces its 2015-2016 KeyBank Broadway Series

**The 7-show Series will launch the national tour of
BULLETS OVER BROADWAY
and welcome the return of fan favorite
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
in a spectacular new production**

Cleveland, OH – The GE Chandelier won't be the only glittering jewel in town for long when Playhouse Square welcomes Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** and its legendary chandelier as part of the 2015-2016 KeyBank Broadway Series. The highly-anticipated 7-show Series was announced this evening by Playhouse Square Executive Producer Gina Vernaci to an eager and energized crowd of 2500+. One of the many highlights of the evening came as Vernaci announced that Playhouse Square would launch the national tour of Broadway sensation **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY**.

Vernaci exclaims: "There is an extraordinary amount of positive momentum occurring in and around Playhouse Square right now, and the 2015-2016

KeyBank Broadway Series is guaranteed to keep that momentum going. With the support of our generous sponsor KeyBank, Playhouse Square will once again bring Broadway's most sizzling shows to Cleveland. As always, we are indebted to our season ticket holders and donors who are the sparks that have ignited the success of Playhouse Square. Once again, their loyalty has made our Series the strongest in the nation!"

This year's Series will bring five brand-new shows and two new takes on a couple of classics to the grand, historic theaters at Playhouse Square. The Series will open with a bang with **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY**, based on the original film by comedy legend Woody Allen and Douglas McGrath. Next up is the irresistible production of **A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER** followed by the Broadway smash-hit **IF/THEN**. Next, Cleveland audiences will witness the evolution of legendary singer/songwriter Carole King in **BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL**, followed by the multiple Olivier and Tony Award®-winning production of **MATILDA THE MUSICAL**. The play **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** will convey the humorous and heartwarming story of love, loss, and enduring friendship, and the season will close with the spectacular new production of **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**.

Playhouse Square's **32,000+ loyal season ticket holders** have once again made Cleveland the #1 city for touring Broadway, surpassing such theater-centric cities as L.A., Chicago and Washington D.C. From coast-to-coast Playhouse Square is THE stop that has the attention of everyone in the industry.

Season tickets to the 2015-2016 KeyBank Broadway Series at Playhouse Square are now available by calling 216-640-8800 or online at www.PlayhouseSquare.org/broadway. Season ticket packages range from \$70-\$630 each with monthly payment plans available.

The only way to guarantee YOUR seats to this incredible Series is to become a season ticket holder now!

The 2015-2016 KeyBank Broadway Series

BULLETS OVER BROADWAY

October 6-18, 2015

www.bulletsoverbroadwayontour.com

Hailed by *Time Magazine* as, "Musical Theatre Gold!", **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY** is the hilarious musical comedy about the making of a Broadway show.

Written by Woody Allen, with original direction and choreography by Susan Stroman and based upon the screenplay of the acclaimed film by Woody Allen and Douglas McGrath, **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY** is the story of a young

playwright who, in desperate need of financial backing for his next show, accepts an offer he can't refuse from a mobster looking to please his showgirl girlfriend.

Don't miss what the *New Yorker* exclaims as, "a Fun Machine from Start to Finish!" Loaded with big laughs, colorful characters, and the songs that made the 20s roar, **BULLETS OVER BROADWAY** is bringing musical comedy back with a bang.

A GENTLEMEN'S GUIDE TO LOVE & MURDER

November 3-15, 2015

<http://www.agentlemansguidebroadway.com/>

Coming direct from New York, where a most gentlemanly *NPR* critic said he'd "NEVER LAUGHED SO HARD AT A BROADWAY MUSICAL," **GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE** tells the uproarious story of Monty Navarro, a distant heir to a family fortune who sets out to jump the line of succession, by *any* means necessary. All the while, he's got to juggle his mistress (she's after more than just love), his fiancée (she's his cousin but who's keeping track?), and the constant threat of landing behind bars! Of course, it will all be worth it if he can slay his way to his inheritance... and be done in time for tea. *The Hollywood Reporter* raves, "**GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE RESTORES OUR FAITH IN MUSICAL COMEDY**" and *The New York Times* cheers, "IT WILL LIFT THE HEARTS OF ALL THOSE WHO'VE BEEN PINING FOR WHAT SOMETIMES SEEMS A LOST ART FORM." Kindly get your tickets now for the new musical that will have you *dying* with laughter!

IF/THEN

February 9-21, 2016

<http://www.ifthenthemusical.com/>

IF/THEN is a contemporary Broadway musical about living in New York today – and all the possibilities of tomorrow.

With unforgettable songs and a deeply moving story by the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning creators of *Next to Normal*, this "fascinating, ambitious, and original new musical (*New York Post*)" simultaneously follows one woman's two possible life paths, painting a deeply moving portrait of the lives we lead, as well as the lives we might have led.

"Thrilling! The best musical of the year."
—*New York Magazine*

BEAUTIFUL – THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL

April 5-17, 2016

<http://beautifulonbroadway.com/>

Long before she was Carole King, chart-topping music legend, she was Carol Klein, Brooklyn girl with passion and chutzpah. She fought her way into the record business as a teenager and, by the time she reached her twenties, had the husband of her dreams and a flourishing career writing hits for the biggest acts in rock 'n' roll. But it wasn't until her personal life began to crack that she finally managed to find her true voice.

BEAUTIFUL – The Carole King Musical tells the inspiring true story of King's remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Along the way, she made more than beautiful music, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation.

Featuring a stunning array of beloved songs written by Gerry Goffin/Carole King and Barry Mann/Cynthia Weil, including "I Feel The Earth Move," "One Fine Day," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "You've Got A Friend" and the title song, **BEAUTIFUL** has a book by Tony® Award-nominee and Academy® Award-nominated writer Douglas McGrath, direction by Marc Bruni, choreography by Josh Prince and took home two 2014 Tony® Awards and the 2015 Grammy® for Best Musical Theater Album. **BEAUTIFUL** is currently playing to sold out crowds at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre on Broadway.

MATILDA THE MUSICAL

May 3-22, 2016

<http://us.matildathemusical.com/>

TIME Magazine's #1 Show of the Year! Winner of 50 international awards including four Tony Awards®, **MATILDA THE MUSICAL** is the story of an extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

Based on the beloved novel by Roald Dahl, **MATILDA** continues to thrill sold-out audiences of all ages on Broadway and in London's West End. The *Wall Street Journal* says, "The makers of **MATILDA** have done the impossible – triumphantly! It is smart, sweet, zany and stupendous fun."

STEEL MAGNOLIAS

May 21 – August 21, 2016

<http://clevelandplayhouse.com/shows/2015/steel-magnolias>

Honey. It's the 1980s. In Louisiana. At Truvy's beauty shop—motto: there's no such thing as natural beauty—the women are all sass and brass. Through clouds of hairspray and over the buzz of blow dryers, 6 southern spitfires gather each week to chat and support each other through thick and thin. But those bonds

are about to be tested when M'Lynn and her daughter Shelby face a life-changing crisis. Infused with heart and humor, **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** is a humorous and heartwarming story of love, loss, and enduring friendship.

Playhouse Square is proud to co-produce **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** with Cleveland Play House (CPH), with direction by CPH Artistic Director Laura Kepley.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

June 15 – July 10

<http://www.thephantomoftheopera.com/ustour/>

Cameron Mackintosh's spectacular new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** will come to Cleveland as part of a brand new North American Tour. Critics are raving that this breathtaking production is "bigger and better than ever before" and features a brilliant new scenic design by Paul Brown, Tony Award®-winning original costume design by Maria Björnson, lighting design by Tony Award®-winner Paule Constable, new choreography by Scott Ambler, and new staging by director Laurence Connor. The production, overseen by Matthew Bourne and Cameron Mackintosh, boasts many exciting special effects including the show's legendary chandelier. The beloved story and thrilling score - with songs like "Music of the Night," "All I Ask Of You," and "Masquerade" - will be performed by a cast and orchestra of 52, making this **PHANTOM** one of the largest productions now on tour.

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Playhouse Square is a world-class, not-for-profit performing arts center, arts education champion and downtown developer.

Playhouse Square receives public support with local tax dollars from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, to preserve and enrich our region's artistic and cultural heritage, and state tax dollars from the Ohio Arts Council to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.