

SANGAMON AUDITORIUM

University of Illinois at Springfield
2006-2007 Performing Arts Season Announced!

Press Release

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The University of Illinois at Springfield announces the 2006-2007 Performing Arts Season at Sangamon Auditorium. Like last year, Sangamon Auditorium will present 3 distinct series within its performing arts season, the Performing Arts Series, the Family Series and the Broadway Series. Sangamon Auditorium will also offer 2 exciting performing arts events in the intimate setting of the UIS Studio Theatre located below the main auditorium that will compliment the Performing Arts Series. A subscription opportunity will be offered again for the Broadway Series as well as the Family Five Pack for Family Series events. See what's coming next to the University of Illinois at Springfield's Sangamon Auditorium!

Performing Arts Series

Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet - Dracula

Sponsored by Alterna Care Media Sponsor Springfield Scene Magazine
Sunday, September 24, 7:30 p.m. \$38, 33

Widely acclaimed across Canada and the US, Royal Winnipeg Ballet's DRACULA brings true magic to the immortal myth of the celebrated vampire. Set to the music of Gustav Mahler, Mark Godden more than leaves his mark with fluid and elegant choreography. The impressive visual effects are complete with flying bats, dancing gargoyles and mysterious transformations. It's contemporary ballet at its atmospheric finest!

Bo Diddley and Friends

Tuesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m. \$38, 34

There are few artists that truly merit legendary status – without a doubt Bo Diddley is one of them. His crucial role in the birth of Rock & Roll and his impact on the direction of popular music ever since proves that he indeed has earned his title of "The Originator". This past February, 2005 marked his 50th Anniversary in music.

Celebrating this blues legend, **Bo Diddley and Friends** will also feature two extraordinary headliners – Alvin Youngblood Hart and Ruthie Foster – who are carrying on Bo's tradition of originality and innovation.

Kathy Griffin

Sunday, November 12, 7 p.m. \$38, 34

Two HBO and two Bravo specials weren't enough! She has more stories, more dish, more of what she shouldn't say but you know you want to hear. Best known for her four-year stint on the NBC sitcom "Suddenly Susan", as Vickie Groener, Brooke Shields' acerbic colleague, Kathy Griffin is currently in production on her new reality show, "Kathy Griffin: My Life On The D-List." Come with an open mind and laugh as comedian Kathy Griffin makes her first appearance on the Sangamon Auditorium stage.

MOMIX – Opus Cactus - Sponsored by National City Bank

Saturday, February 24, 8 p.m. \$28, 24

Watch as desert landscapes dance to life through Moses Pendleton's catalytic choreography in MOMIX's performance of Opus Cactus. Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists. For 20 years, MOMIX has been celebrated for its ability to conjure up a world of surrealistic images using props, light, shadow, humor and the sensual human body.

Natalie MacMaster - Sponsored by SIU Physicians and Surgeons

Tuesday, March 20, 7:30 p.m. \$36, 32

Described as the "Most dynamic performer in Celtic music today..." by the Boston Herald, Natalie MacMaster takes Celtic fiddling to new heights while maintaining the sounds of her traditional roots. She has recorded with many Country and Bluegrass music greats like Allison Krauss, Jerry Douglas, Sam Bush and banjo virtuoso Bela Fleck. To date she has recorded and released seven albums in Canada and the US, receiving both a Grammy® nomination and a Juno Award for Best Instrumental Album as well as several Canadian Country Music Awards for Fiddler of the Year.

Tibetan Monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery - Mandala Sand Painting

Wednesday, April 25 - Friday, April 27 Sangamon Auditorium Lobby from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. **Free!**

From all the artistic traditions of Tantric Buddhism, that of painting with colored sand ranks as one of the most unique and exquisite. Millions of grains of sand are painstakingly laid into place on a flat platform over a period of days creating a magnificent, vibrant colored work of art. This event is free to the public. Come learn the art of sand painting while participating in the creation of a Tibetan masterpiece.

Tibetan Monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery - Sacred Music - Sacred Dance

Friday, April 27, 8 p.m. \$28, 24

The Mystical Arts of Tibet: Sacred Music Sacred Dance performance is comprised of nine pieces believed to generate energies conducive to world healing. Robed in magnificent costumes and playing traditional Tibetan instruments, the Tibetan Monks of Drepung Loseling Monastery perform ancient temple music and dance for world healing. To their credit they have shared the stage with Philip Glass, Paul Simon, Sheryl Crow, Michael Stipe, Patti Smith, Natalie Merchant, the Beastie Boys, as well as performed in such prestigious venues as Carnegie Hall, the Herbst Theater, and now, Sangamon Auditorium.

Studio Theatre Performing Arts Events

Melissa Ferrick

Friday, September 8, 2006, 8 p.m. \$27 General Admission

Watch how within minutes of hitting the stage singer songwriter Melissa Ferrick earns a fresh new batch of hardcore fans. Not just a masterful guitarist with a powerhouse voice, she is funny & fierce, outspoken and vulnerable, passionate and playful. Ferrick's latest album, *The Other Side* is packed with all the intensity and subtlety of her live shows which have been described as a fiery, infectious experience.

Sisters Christmas Catechism "The Mystery of the Magi's Gold"

Saturday, November 18, 8 p.m., Sunday, November 19, 2 p.m., Monday, November 20, 8 p.m.
\$35 General Admission

It's "CSI" meets Bethlehem! The infamous Sister of Late Nite Catechism is back and on the case, solving the greatest story never told: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. As she points out in her opening, "We know what happened to the myrrh and the frankincense – Mary used them as a sort of potpourri. They were in a barn after all. But who was the culprit who made off with the gold coins and left Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus in that lousy stable without any chance to upgrade to a suite?" With special forensic tools and audience-participation, Sister proceeds to solve the mystery in a hilarious evening of fun!

Family Series – Sponsored by The Kids Closet

Red Grammer

Friday, November 17, 7 p.m. \$15, 10

Bring your voices, laughter and smiles – and get ready to sing along with Red Grammer. *Parents* magazine calls Red Grammer "... the best voice in children's music." Red's latest album, recently nominated for a Grammy®, is "BeBop Your Best! ... Music to Build Character By". This musical/lyrical tour de force overflows with humor, wit, feistiness, and Red's irresistible charm.

Slim Goodbody

Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m. \$15, 10

A pioneer in the field of health and body education, Slim Goodbody has entertained children with his unique, exciting and enlightening shows for almost thirty years. Currently his programs air on over 120 public television stations nation wide and he has authored more than a dozen children's books. Donning his signature outfit, he educates children by combining humor, music and incredible visuals into an inspiring performance teaching us just how the human body really works!

Junie B. Jones

Friday, January 12, 7 p.m. \$15, 10

Outspoken, precocious, lovable Junie B. Jones stars in a colorful, funny, fast-paced musical about new friends, new glasses, sugar cookies, the annual kickball tournament, and other various first-grade angst-ridden situations. Follow her adventures as she writes down the story of her life in her "Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal." This new musical is based on four volumes in Barbara Park's *Junie B. Jones* series of books, illustrated by Denise Brunkus and published by Random House.

"Junie B. Jones. We saw it, and it was awesome!" *Newsday*

The Star Keeper - Sponsored by Hickory Point Bank

Sunday, April 1, 7 p.m. \$15, 10

The Star Keeper is an award-winning production featuring traditional string marionettes, bunraku-style and shadow puppets manipulated by four puppeteers. They tell the story of a little star which falls from the sky as evening draws near. To the rescue comes an endearing worm named Pretzel and together they set off on a series of fantastical adventures while trying to return the star to its home. *The New York Times* calls the Star Keeper, "...a striking display of highly skilled, creative puppetry and clever storytelling".

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

Friday, April 13, 7 p.m. \$15, 10

Who would suspect that a tiny little mouse could wear out an energetic young boy? Well, if you're going to go around giving an exuberantly bossy rodent a cookie, you best be prepared to do one or two more favors for it before your day is through. The production is performed by the Omaha Theater Company for Young People who last year brought us *Berenstain Bears On Stage!* Children and families will laugh out loud when this mouse starts into his conversational rants.

Adapted by Jody Davidson from the book by Laura Numeroff

Friends of Sangamon Auditorium, at a Terrific or above level, receive the benefit of pre-purchasing individual Performing Arts and Family Series tickets before the general public starting Thursday, June 22 at 10 a.m. through Wednesday, June 28 at 5 p.m. For Good Friends and those who are not yet Friends of Sangamon Auditorium, you also may purchase individual Performing Arts and Family Series tickets before the general public, and received all other benefits of being a Friend, by upgrading your membership or by joining during the pre-purchase period.

Individual seats for Performing Arts and Family Series events go on-sale to the general public Thursday, June 29 at 10 a.m. To order call Sangamon Auditorium Ticket Office at 217-206-6160 or 800-207-6960 Monday – Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Individual tickets can also be purchased online at www.SangamonAuditorium.org

Family Five Pack

The Family Five Pack was designed to make an already affordable Family Series ticket even more affordable. Family Five Packs include five Family Series passes that can be used for any of the five Family Series events. There is no limit on the number of Family Five Packs that one can buy and additional Plus-One tickets can be added at \$10 each to secure the exact number of tickets you desire.

Important Family Five Pack dates and prices:

Friends: June 22nd – September 1st\$39 (Add Plus-One tickets for \$10 each)*

**Public: June 29th – September 1st\$39 (Add Plus-One tickets for \$10 each)*
September 1st – November 17th\$49 (Add Plus-One tickets for \$10 each)***

Broadway Series

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Tuesday, October 31, 2006, 7:30 p.m.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is a rainbow ride through biblical Egypt on the wings of Andrew Lloyd Webber's (*Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Evita*) uplifting music and the humor and poetry of lyricist Tim Rice (Oscar-winning lyricist of Disney's *Aladdin*). This irresistible musical about the trials and triumphs of Joseph, Israel's favorite son, paints a picture of betrayal and hardship, prophecy and forgiveness. This Joseph cannot be missed.

Mamma Mia

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m.

A mother. A daughter. 3 possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Over 20 million people all around the world have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make MAMMA MIA! the ultimate feel-good show!

Writer Catherine Johnson's sunny, funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings 3 men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, and every night everyone's having the time of their lives!

With more productions playing internationally than any other musical, MAMMA MIA! is the World's No.1 Show!

The Producers

Tuesday February 13, 7:30 p.m.

Everything you've heard is true! "Mel Brooks has put the comedy back into musical comedy. **The Producers** is the funniest, most fearlessly irreverent thing ever seen on stage!" (USA Today) And now you can experience the biggest Tony Award winner in Broadway history when it comes to Springfield. Direction and choreography by five-time Tony Award winner Susan Stroman (*Crazy for You*, *Contact*, *The Music Man*). The New York Times raves "The Producers is a blissful spectacle that will leave you delirious!"

Man of La Mancha

Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m.

The life and struggles of the legendary Spaniard Don Quixote come to life in this lush and breathtaking new production based on one of the great literary masterpieces of all time. **Man of La Mancha** ran for nearly six years on Broadway and won five Tony awards including Best Musical and features a memorable score including the classic song "The Impossible Dream."

Rent

Monday, March 12, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Sweeping all major theatre awards, including the Tony Award® for Best Musical as well as the Pulitzer Prize, *Rent* captures the heart and spirit of a generation. Inspired by Puccini's *La Bohème*, *Rent* is a joyous, breathtaking and often heartbreaking musical that celebrates a community of young artists as they struggle with the soaring hopes and tough realities of today's world.

Jesus Christ Superstar

Thursday, April 5, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

Jesus Christ Superstar, the first masterpiece from the legendary writing team of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber, exploded onto the scene in 1971 changing the world of musical theatre forever. With a score of amazing songs - "I Don't Know How to Love Him", "Hosanna", "Everything's Alright", "What's the Buzz", "Superstar", and "Heaven on Their Mind", this original groundbreaking production starring Ted Neeley is as relevant and timeless as ever.

Current Broadway subscribers are receiving information in the mail this week on how to re-new for this exciting new season. Current subscribers have until July 14 to renew their seats until new subscribers will be seated. New orders will be seated in the order they are received. 4-Show Series packages are available from \$143 - \$173. 5-Show Series packages are available from \$168 - \$228. All 6 show Series packages are available from \$208 - \$261. To order a new subscription, call or visit Sangamon Auditorium Ticket Office at 217-206-6160 or 800-207-6960 Monday – Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets are only available by purchasing the 4-Show Series. Only subscribers to the 4-Show series are eligible at the moment to purchase tickets – as an option – to *Mamma Mia* and /or *Rent*.

Single tickets to Broadway events are currently not on sale. Single tickets to Broadway events go on-sale, if available after all renewing series subscribers and new series subscribers are seated, approximately 6 weeks prior to each engagement.

Located on campus of the University of Illinois at Springfield, the auditorium hosts more than 120 performances annually. Home to the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and Springfield Ballet Company, it is the only auditorium of its kind and size in the Springfield area with a seating capacity of 2,018.

With a staff of 9 full-time employees, graduate assistants, more than 400 volunteers, ushers, and local stagehands, Sangamon Auditorium continues to fulfill its mission of presenting and supporting varied cultural and educational professional arts activities to the audiences in Springfield, Sangamon County, and the surrounding areas. The auditorium administrative offices can be reached at (217) 206-6160 or by email at onstage@uis.edu.