



MAMMA MIA!



ABBA-fever hits Halifax with *MAMMA MIA!* opening at Neptune

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Halifax, NS – April 3, 2018 – The music of ABBA hits the Fountain Hall stage next week as Neptune’s highly anticipated musical *MAMMA MIA!* opens in Halifax on April 10.

Tickets for the musical have been on sale since last summer. The show, originally scheduled to run until June 3, was extended for an additional two weeks last month, with a week-long tour scheduled in Glace Bay at the end of June.

“It’s incredible to see the people of Halifax embrace this musical,” said **Jeremy Webb**, Neptune’s Artistic Director and director of the show. “There’s a reason why *Mamma Mia!* is one of the most successful musicals of all time and we’re so excited to share our vision of the show with everyone.”

The musical stars **Julie Martell** as Donna and **Cynthia Smithers** as Sophie, her daughter. On the eve of her wedding, Sophie secretly invites three men from her mother’s past in hopes of learning the true identity of her father, whom she dreams will walk her down the aisle. Set to the music of pop supergroup ABBA, featuring many of their greatest hits and most popular songs.

Mamma Mia! is sponsored by **AUDI Halifax, Premiere Suites, The Berkeley, Exxon Mobil, Imperial, Knightsbridge Robertson Surette** and **TELUS**.

MAMMA MIA! remains one of the longest-running shows in Broadway history, where it ran for 14 years until closing in 2015. It has been on stage in London’s West End for 19 years, where it is still being performed. Later this year, a sequel to the 2008 film based off of the musical will be released to theatres.

Starring alongside **Julie Martell** and **Cynthia Smithers** is **Jahlen Barnes** (playing Sky), **Karen Burthwright** (Rosie), **Clint Butler** (Bill), **Jay Davis** (Sam), **Tim Funnell** (Harry), **Jessica Gallant** (Ali), **Trudy Lee Gayle** (Lisa), **Ryan Gifford** (Eddie, and Dance Captain), **David Light** (Pepper), **Alison Palmer** (Tanya), and **Mitch Wood** (Father Alexandrios and ensemble). The ensemble includes **Danielle Benton, Deborah Castrilli, Kirstin Howell, Galen Johnson, Celia Koughan, Sarah O’Brecht, Brett Owen, Matt Raffy,** and **Natasha Strilchuk**.

Joining director **Jeremy Webb** is Choreographer **Ray Hogg** with the design team of **Geoffrey Dinwiddie** (Set Designer), **Bonnie Deakin** (Costume Designer), **Leigh Ann Vardy** (Lighting Designer), **Vicky Williams** (Lighting Design Associate) and **Emily Porter** (Sound Designer). The stage management team includes **Heather Lewis** (Stage Manager), **Hannah Burrows** (Assistant Stage Manager) and **June Zinck** (Assistant Stage Manager).

The musicians, under the direction of Musical Director **Paul De Gurse**, include **Brad Conrad** (Guitar), **Gwen Dawson** (Keyboard), **Jamie Gatti** (Bass), **James Logan** (Guitar), **Tom Roach** (Drums), and **Lisa St. Clair** (Keyboard).

MAMMA MIA! begins on the Fountain Hall stage with three preview performances on April 10 – the Pay What You Can Performance, April 11 and April 12, before opening to a sold out audience on Friday, April 13. The show has been extended until June 17. Tickets are still available but seating is limited.

Fans of *Mamma Mia!* can enter to win a Grecian Getaway package with a travel voucher from **CAA Travel** and **Trafalgar** or a staycation package with **House of Moda** and **Be Gorgeous and CAA Atlantic**. Tickets for the Grecian Getaway lottery are available online or at Neptune until June 3. The draw will take place from the stage at the June 3 evening performance of *Mamma Mia!*

Tickets can be purchased online at neptunetheatre.com, by phone at 902-429-7070 or toll-free 1-800-565-7345, or in person at the Box Office, 1593 Argyle Street. Find out more about Neptune Theatre on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube channel NeptuneHFX.

Now nearing the end of its 55th Season, Neptune Theatre inspires audiences with great stories. Located at 1593 Argyle Street, Neptune boasts two newly renovated stages: Fountain Hall and the Scotiabank Stage, plus a year-round Theatre School and a province-wide Young Neptune Company Tour.

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