



For Immediate Release

Contact: Nicole Gram 616-235-6285

Email: ngram@bwaygr.org

Website: www.BroadwayGrandRapids.org

Broadway Grand Rapids Re-Announces 2009-2010 Season

Encore Presentation of *RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles* Announced

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – The economic conditions of the United States have greatly affected national Broadway tours and as a direct result, Broadway Grand Rapids. Touring Broadway shows are being forced to cancel or modify their routing which has required BGR to re-announce its season to accommodate the availability of the quality productions it presents. The series will now include (in the order they will appear) the Broadway hits *High School Musical*, *Ethel Merman's Broadway*, *Cirque Dreams Illumination*, and *The Color Purple*.

The 2009-2010 season kicks off with the Broadway sensation *High School Musical* for **8 performances, running August 18-23, 2009**. This musical features all your favorite characters and songs, together with two brand new numbers performed by a new cast of talented theatrical performers and an electrifying live band. So “get’cha head in the game” and go totally wild for what the *Daily Herald* calls “great family entertainment”! Watch the twists and turns of the lovable schoolmates – Troy, the super-popular captain of the basketball team, and Gabriella, the super-smart transfer student and a genius in science class – as they surf the tricky tides of peer pressure and school cliques to follow their dreams and score the leads in the big school show, and a place in each others hearts.

She was the Queen of Broadway during its Golden Age! She sang all the great songs, played all the great roles and knew all the great personalities. *Ethel Merman's Broadway*, **September 29-October 4, 2009 for 8 performances**, stars the bold and brassy Rita McKenzie, recreating a theatrical era filled with charm, wit, personality, and most of all... wonderful music! Relive those amazing tunes: *I Got Rhythm*, *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *Everything's Coming Up Roses* and 20 more of Broadway's all-time greatest songs. McKenzie weaves Merman's bigger-than-life story with her signature tunes in an absolute must-see evening. “McKenzie is delicious in this tribute!” – Jerry Herman, composer *Mame*, *Hello Dolly!*

Cirque Dreams Illumination will come to Grand Rapids for **8 performances running January 26-31, 2010**. In the spirit of the enormously successful *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy*, comes the newest stage spectacle from *Cirque Dreams*, created and directed by Neil Goldberg. *Cirque Dreams Illumination* is a bustling city of incredible dreamers set in a landscape of towering buildings and infinite possibilities. Ablaze with lights and activities, objects and shapes transform into windows and stairways that lead beyond imagination. City dwellers collect objects that are balanced beyond belief, linemen delicately walk wires, daredevils leap tall buildings and flyers redefine the risks of flight.

-MORE-

Broadway Grand Rapids 2009-2010 Series

Everyday occurrences are transformed into astounding feats performed by an international cast of acrobatic urbanites, flexible fanatics, world-class athletes, musicians and more. This action packed *Cirque Dream* is enhanced with over 100 inventive costumes and set in a fantastical cityscape of dimension and special effects. *Cirque Dreams Illumination* will surpass its “jaw dropping, family friendly spectacle” proclamation by the *Los Angeles Times* and exhilarate audiences of all ages. For more information visit www.cirqueproductions.com.

Closing the subscription season is the Broadway hit **[Oprah Winfrey Presents The Color Purple, March 30-April 4, 2010, a soul-stirring musical based on the classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker as well as the Oscar-nominated film by Steven Spielberg. It is the unforgettable and inspiring story of a woman named Celie, who triumphs over tremendous odds to find joy in life, and her true inner beauty. Nominated for eleven Tony® Awards, The Color Purple is a landmark theatrical event. With a joyous GRAMMY®-nominated score featuring jazz, gospel and blues, The Color Purple is capturing the hearts of young and old, and uniting audiences in a celebration of love.](#)** Visit www.colorpurple.com for more information.

Broadway Grand Rapids is pleased to announce that in addition to the 2009-2010 subscription season, ***RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles will be returning for two encore presentations March 5 & 6, 2010.*** Subscribers to the 2009-2010 season will receive first priority to purchase tickets to this exclusive presentation at DeVos Performance Hall. “The next best thing to seeing The Beatles,” raves the *Denver Post*. All the music and vocals are performed totally live! *RAIN* covers the Fab Four from the earliest beginnings through the psychedelic late 60s and their long-haired hippie, hard-rocking rooftop days. *RAIN* is a multi-media, multi-dimensional experience...a fusion of historical footage and hilarious television commercials from the 1960s lights up video screens and live cameras zoom in for close-ups. “Uncanny! *RAIN* are a quartet of fine musicians in their own right...as The Beatles, they triumph!” cheers the *Boston Herald*. “An adoring Valentine to The Beatles,” declares the *Washington Post*. Sing along with your family and friends to such Beatlemaniac favorites as “*Let It Be*,” “*Hey Jude*,” “*My Guitar Gently Weeps*,” “*Come Together*” and “*Can’t Buy Me Love*.”

Broadway Grand Rapids offers a 4-Show VIP Series package that gives subscribers price discounts from single-show tickets, as well as personalized service, privileges, and the same reserved seats for each show. The 4-Show VIP Series package price ranges from \$117.50 to \$275.50, depending on the performance day and time, the seating section, and mode of payment. The final subscription renewal deadline is April 17, 2009.

A customized 3-Show Flex Series package is also available, giving patrons the option to choose three out of the four shows, with different days and seating sections. These customers will receive a 5% discount off of individual tickets and best available seats per performance after 4-Show VIP Series subscribers are assigned to their seats.

The 4-Show VIP Series and 3-Show Flex Series packages may be renewed or purchased from Broadway Grand Rapids by calling 616-235-6285, or at the office at 122 Lyon Street NW in downtown Grand Rapids. Office hours are 9 to 5 Monday through Thursday, and 9 to 4 on Fridays. Subscription renewal forms will also be available for download at www.BroadwayGrandRapids.org.

-MORE-

**Broadway Grand Rapids 2009-2010 Series
News Release— page 3**

Due to the complexity of national touring productions, Broadway Grand Rapids has no control if a national tour is delayed or cancels prior to arriving in Grand Rapids. While a tour or performance cancellation is rare, BGR retains the right to replace or reschedule the cancelled show or performance. No refunds will be given unless BGR is unable to offer an alternative. Subscribers with conflicts for the date or time on their tickets may exchange their tickets for another performance of the same show anytime before the show opens.

For over two decades, Broadway Grand Rapids has brought the finest Broadway performances from New York to West Michigan. Over 4,000 season-ticket holders and thousands more performance ticket purchasers support the four Broadway productions each year. In the 22-year history of the organization, tens of thousands of West Michigan theatergoers, hundreds of highly skilled actors and countless volunteers have all experienced the real Broadway opening-night excitement and standing ovation drama that only Broadway Grand Rapids can bring to West Michigan. Broadway Grand Rapids is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The 2009-2010 Broadway Grand Rapids season is sponsored by Fifth Third Bank.

###

2009-2010 Broadway Grand Rapids Season

High School Musical

August 18-23, 2009

Ethel Merman's Broadway

September 29-October 4, 2009

Cirque Dreams Illumination

January 26-31, 2010

The Color Purple

March 30-April 4, 2010

ENCORE PRESENTATION

RAIN: A Tribute to The Beatles

March 5 & 6, 2010

**All performances at DeVos Performance Hall.
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**

www.BroadwayGrandRapids.org

**For individual show photography and marketing materials contact Nicole Gram,
Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Broadway Grand Rapids, at
616-235-6285 or ngram@bwaygr.org**