

NEWS RELEASE

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STAGES St. Louis Postpones 2020 Mainstage Season to 2021

(ST. LOUIS) – In response to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, and after extensive discussions with staff leadership and the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, STAGES St. Louis will officially postpone the 2020 Mainstage Season to 2021.

In addition to the previously announced postponements of A CHORUS LINE and LA CAGE AUX FOLLES, STAGES will also postpone ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE, which was scheduled to run September 4 – October 4.

Subscribers will receive a mailing the week of July 13 confirming these changes and laying out all possible options for purchased tickets to ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE.

"Our hope was that by late summer or early fall restrictions would begin to lessen and guidelines would be provided from our local government on the reopening of theatres," said STAGES Associate Producer Andrew Kuhlman. "But, while our region has progressed in its response to COVID-19, unfortunately we feel that the postponement of the entire 2020 Season to 2021 is the safest decision for our audience, artists, staff, and community."

STAGES will produce its planned 2020 Mainstage Season in 2021 as the inaugural Season at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center, the new artistic home for the organization opening in Downtown Kirkwood this August. The lineup will be as follows:

- ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE (May 28 June 27, 2021)
- A CHORUS LINE (July 16 August 15, 2021)
- LA CAGE AUX FOLLES (September 3 October 3, 2021)

The 2021 Family Theatre Series Production title and schedule will be announced at a later date.

"While we will greatly miss our artists and audience this Season, we look forward to celebrating our 35th Anniversary in 2021," said Executive Producer Jack Lane. "This lineup of shows is a true celebration of musical theatre and STAGES' history. I can't

imagine a better season to welcome the community to our gorgeous new home in the Ross Family Theatre at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center."

Renewals for the 2021 Season will be sent out in early September and will include information regarding the move to the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center.

Additionally, STAGES' annual summer cabaret fundraiser, Cheers, will be postponed to Sunday, December 20 at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center. The annual Applause Gala will take place as scheduled on Friday, November 6 at the Clayton Ritz-Carlton. The STAGES Performing Arts Academy is currently in session for its summer schedule with new safety guidelines and social distancing policies. Any further changes to the 2020 calendar will be posted on the STAGES website and shared via email and social media.

For more information, please follow STAGES on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> or visit the organization's <u>website</u>.

STAGES St. Louis is the region's foremost not-for-profit company committed to preserving and advancing the art form of Musical Theatre through excellence in performance and education. In 2021, STAGES will celebrate its 35th year of producing Broadway-quality theatre, as well as the grand opening of the new Kirkwood Performing Arts Center.

STAGES Performing Arts Academy is regionally renowned for its innovative and multidisciplinary programs that transform lives through immersion in the Musical Theatre arts. Celebrating its 15th year, it is also the only such program in the St. Louis region to be connected to a professional theatre company. Whatever the age or experience level, whether a new or continuing student, aspiring performing artists throughout the St. Louis region have the opportunity to explore and cultivate their talent at STAGES, and set the stage for life changing experiences. For more information or to register today please call 636.449.5775 or visit us online at <u>www.StagesStLouis.org</u>.

Subscription renewals for the 2021 Season will be mailed out in early September. New subscriptions will go on sale in early December with single ticket sales beginning in early Spring 2021. For more information, please call 314.821.2407 or visit <u>www.StagesStLouis.org</u>.

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