

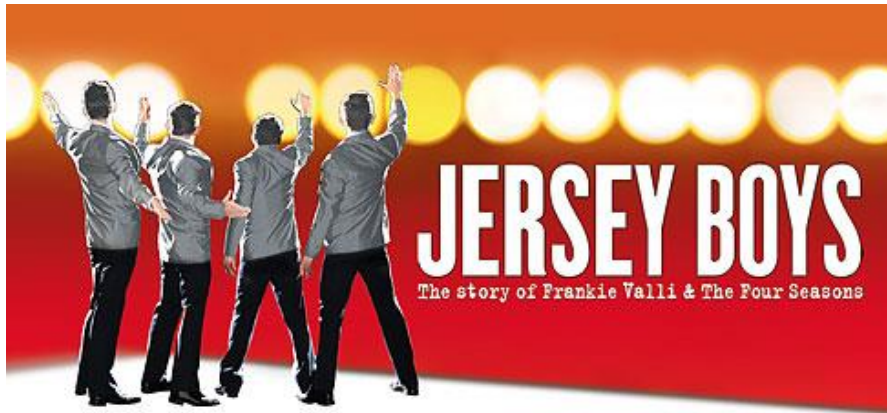


## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (9/21/2020)

## **STAGES ST. LOUIS ANNOUNCES BROADWAY STAR AND BROADWAY HIT TO HEADLINE 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SEASON**



Tony Award-Winning JERSEY BOYS and Broadway Star Diana DeGarmo headline STAGES 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.

(ST. LOUIS) – STAGES St. Louis is thrilled to announce its spectacular 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season! The 2021 Season includes the much requested return of the most popular show in STAGES history, ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE, the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-Winning masterpiece, A CHORUS LINE, the STAGES premiere of the Broadway sensation, JERSEY BOYS, and our Family Theatre Series production of the delightful A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD.

2021 not only marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season for STAGES, but also the move into the organization's new artistic home in The Ross Family Theatre at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center. The 40,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility features the 529-seat Ross Family Theatre, where all future productions of the Mainstage Season will play, and a flexible studio theatre, which will serve as home for the Family Theatre Series.

"We could not be more excited to bring you a year of true blockbusters for our Inaugural Season at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center!" said Executive Producer Jack Lane. "There is no better way to christen our new home at The Ross Family Theatre and welcome our audience back than with the return of ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE; the groundbreaking A CHORUS LINE; and the STAGES premiere of one of the most popular musicals in Broadway history, JERSEY BOYS."

STAGES is also overjoyed to welcome American Idol alum and Broadway star Diana DeGarmo as Patsy Cline, alongside STAGES-favorite Zoe Vonder Haar as Louise Seger in the encore of the bestselling production in STAGES' history, ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE.

"Our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season is set to be more fabulous than ever with the addition of JERSEY BOYS and the announcement of Diana DeGarmo starring in ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE." said Associate Producer Andrew Kuhlman. "This season is sure to touch your heart and have you cheering for some of the best music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century!"

Performances begin May 28, 2021, in the brand-new Ross Family Theatre at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center. Productions run through October 3, 2021.

### **ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE**

Written and Originally Directed by Ted Swindley

Based on a True Story

**May 28 – June 27, 2021**

**Press Opening – June 2, 2021**

The touching and true story of Country Music legend Patsy Cline and her friendship with Texas housewife Louise Seger comes to life in the musical ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE. Told through Louise's heartfelt and often hilarious memories, this endearing tale focuses on the fateful meeting between Patsy and Louise at Houston's Esquire Ballroom when the two women forged a friendship that even Patsy's untimely death at age 30 could not sever. Combining down-home country humor, unbridled heartache, and 27 of Patsy Cline's unforgettable hits such as "Crazy," "Walking After Midnight," and "Sweet Dreams," ALWAYS... PATSY CLINE endures as a piece of genuine Americana.

### **A CHORUS LINE**

Music by Marvin Hamlisch

Lyrics by Edward Kleban

Book by James Kirkwood & Nicholas Dante

**July 16 – August 15, 2021**

**Press Opening – July 21, 2021**

The one singular sensation that exhilarated Broadway for over fifteen years returns to STAGES! Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, A CHORUS LINE forever changed the face of Broadway. Telling the triumphant and heartbreaking story of a group of professional dancers auditioning for the chorus of a Broadway musical, A CHORUS LINE speaks eloquently to anyone who's ever stood on line to land a job. With an unforgettable score that includes "I Hope I Get It," "One," and "What I Did For Love," A CHORUS LINE is a celebration of the music, movement, and emotion of musical theatre. Don't miss the dance sensation that rocked Broadway and conquered the world: Michael Bennett's masterpiece, A CHORUS LINE.

## JERSEY BOYS

Book by Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice

Music by Bob Gaudio

Lyrics by Bob Crewe

**September 3 – October 3, 2021**

**Press Opening – September 8, 2021**

Take an exhilarating journey into the music of the cultural phenomenon's Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons, with JERSEY BOYS, the Tony Award-winning Best Musical! This international sensation took Broadway and the world by storm. Follow the incredible story of four blue-collar kids with a singular sound, who worked their way up from the streets of New Jersey to become one of the greatest global successes in pop music history. Featuring 30 show stopping performances of the 60s hits that took the group all the way to the top of the charts, including: "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Can't Take My Eyes Off of You," Dawn," and "My Eyes Adored You," JERSEY BOYS will have you dancing in the aisles and shouting for more!

## A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD

Music by Robert Reale

Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale

Based on the Books by Arnold Lobel

**June 15 – June 27, 2021**

Acclaimed author Arnold Lobel, winner of both the Newbery and Caldecott Awards, reached international status with his FROG AND TOAD book series. These two beloved characters hop from page to stage in the Tony Award nominated Best Musical, A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD! The eternally optimistic Frog and the rather grumpy Toad celebrate the joys of life and friendship as they travel through four fun-filled seasons with their forest friends. Frog and Toad use the magic of imagination to learn life lessons about friendship, kindness, and the differences that make them unique and special. Featuring catchy tunes, charming characters, and a forest full of fun, A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD is a whimsical and life-affirming adventure the entire family can enjoy!

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*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 celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> year of producing Broadway-quality theatre.*

*Subscription Renewals for the 2021 Season will be mailed in October 2020. New Subscriptions will*

*go on sale January 11, 2021 and begin at just \$150. Single tickets will go on sale March 15, 2021. Single ticket prices range from \$35-75. Beginning in 2021, STAGES' Mainstage productions will perform in the state-of-the-art Ross Family Theatre at the brand new Kirkwood Performing Arts Center (PAC) located at 210 East Monroe Avenue in Kirkwood, MO 63122. The annual Family Theatre Series production will take place in the Studio Theatre also located at the PAC. For more information or to purchase tickets call 314-821-2407 or visit [www.StagesStLouis.org](http://www.StagesStLouis.org).*

*STAGES Performing Arts Academy is regionally renowned for its innovative and multi-disciplinary programs that transform lives through immersion in the Musical Theatre arts. Celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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