



TAMPA BAY
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTER

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TAMPA BAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

presents

**The 2009-2010 Bank of America Best of Broadway Tampa Bay series
A HIGH-FLYING SEASON!**

Tampa, FL – It will be a high-flying theater season in 2009-2010 at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Filled with Tony® Award-winners, audience favorites, stunning revivals and amazing spectacle, the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center's 2009-2010 Bank of America Best of Broadway Tampa Bay season is sure to please everyone.

Shows scheduled on the Broadway series include *In the Heights*, the 2008 Tony Award-winner for Best Musical; *South Pacific*, the 2008 Tony Award-winner for Best Musical Revival; *Little House on the Prairie* starring television icon Melissa Gilbert; the spectacle of *Cirque Dreams Illumination* and the Tony Award-winning, family favorite *Mary Poppins*. The series will also include a production of *Godspell* produced by TBPAC, the world premiere of the new Frank Wildhorn musical *Wonderland: Alice's New Musical Adventure* and the eagerly anticipated return of *Wicked*.

“Our Broadway season will showcase the very best that musical theater has to offer,” said Judith Lisi, president and CEO of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. “This entertaining and rewarding series offers our devoted theater audiences here in the Tampa Bay area the opportunity to experience a vast array of top-notch theatrical productions. We are especially pleased that this season will include *Wonderland*, a new musical produced, presented and given its world premiere right here in Tampa.”

Most shows in the series are presented in TBPAC's acoustically perfect Carol Morsani Hall, the largest on the west coast of Florida, with more than 2,600 seats. *Wonderland* will play in the 1,100-seat Broadway-style Louise Lykes Ferguson Hall. *Godspell* will run in TBPAC's intimate 260-seat cabaret-style Jaeb Theater.

The 2009-2010 Bank of America Best of Broadway Tampa Bay season features:

IN THE HEIGHTS

Oct. 27 – Nov. 1, 2009

In the Heights, winner of four 2008 Tony Awards including Best Musical, is a sensational new show about chasing your dreams and finding your true home. With an amazing cast, incredible Tony Award-winning dancing and a thrilling Tony Award-winning score, *In the Heights* is an exhilarating journey into a vibrant Manhattan community — a place where the coffee is light and sweet, the windows are always open, and the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music. Experience the next chapter of the classic American story with the most joyous, exciting and award-winning new musical on Broadway. Find out what it takes to make a living, what it costs to have a dream, and what it means to be home ... *In the Heights*.

- more -

WORLD PREMIERE!

WONDERLAND

Nov. 24, 2009 – Jan. 3, 2010

Wonderland: Alice's New Musical Adventure is set in present-day Manhattan and a timeless Wonderland. The new musical tells the story of author Alice Cornwinkle (a descendent of Lewis Carroll's muse Alice Liddell), who is struggling with her career and her daughter, Chloe. With a chaotic Wonderland in danger of disappearing into nothingness, only Alice can restore balance and joy. Audiences will journey with her through the Looking-Glass from New York City to a strange-yet-familiar place where she must reclaim her daughter, defeat the Queen of Hearts and learn to follow her heart. From the creators of *The Civil War* and *Jekyll & Hyde*, music for *Wonderland* is by Frank Wildhorn with lyrics by Jack Murphy and a book by Phoebe Hwang. *Wonderland* is produced by the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center.

SOUTH PACIFIC

Jan. 12 – 17, 2010

"Simply Wonderful! Beguiling Theatrical Magic!" hails the *New York Post* for the breathtaking new production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. A stunning reinvention produced by Lincoln Center Theater, *South Pacific* swept the 2008 Tony Awards, winning seven honors including Best Musical Revival and Best Director for Bartlett Sher. Set on a tropical island during World War II, the musical tells the sweeping romantic story of two couples and how their happiness is threatened by the realities of war and by their own prejudices. The beloved score's songs include "Some Enchanted Evening," "I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair," "This Nearly Was Mine" and "There Is Nothin' Like a Dame." *USA Today* cheers, "★★★★! Gorgeous! *South Pacific* doesn't just float; it soars!" Based on James Michener's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Tales of the South Pacific*, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific* has music by Richard Rodgers, lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II, a book by Oscar Hammerstein II and Joshua Logan and is directed by 2008 Tony Award-winner Bartlett Sher.

WICKED

Feb. 3 – 28, 2010

Back by "Popular" demand. *The New York Times* calls *Wicked* "Broadway's biggest blockbuster," and when it first played Tampa in 2006, it broke ticket office records and sold out in record time. Winner of 20 major awards, including a Grammy® and three Tony Awards, *The Tampa Tribune* says *Wicked* is "Spellbinding. Magical. Bewitching, even. This Broadway phenomenon lives up to its hype." Long before that girl from Kansas arrives in Munchkinland, two girls meet in the land of Oz. One – born with emerald green skin – is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. How these two grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch makes for "the most complete and completely satisfying new musical in a long time" (*USA Today*).

GODSPELL

Feb. 12 – May 6, 2010

Presented in the Jaeb Theater, this classic musical from Stephen Schwartz, the composer of *Wicked*, is based primarily on the Gospel According to St. Matthew. Featuring a sparkling, seminal score by Schwartz, *Godspell* boasts a string of recognizable songs, led by the international hit, "Day By Day." *Godspell* has spawned a feature film, a Broadway revival and thousands of other professional, educational and community productions.

LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRARIE

March 2 – 7, 2010

Little House on the Prairie has remained one of the most popular and beloved celebrations of early Americana since the appearance of Laura Ingalls Wilder’s popular classic book series 70 years ago. Now the inspirational stories take on a brand new frontier in an uplifting new musical. Melissa Gilbert, who played Laura for 10 years in the much loved television series, continues her legacy by starring as Ma. Families will continue to fall in love with these life-affirming stories about the Ingalls’ struggles and triumphs through the celebration of the pioneering spirit and the core values on which this country was founded – a spirit that resonates within each of us today.

CIRQUE DREAMS ILLUMINATION

March 23 – 28, 2010

“Dazzling! Great family entertainment and a reason to stand up and cheer.” – *New York Daily News*

In the spirit of the enormously successful *Cirque Dreams Jungle Fantasy*, the only show of its kind to perform on Broadway 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. 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 Dreams* is enhanced with more than 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.

MARY POPPINS

May 21 – June 6, 2010

In May 2009, the world’s most famous nanny will arrive at TBPAC. Combining the best of the original stories by P. L. Travers and the beloved Walt Disney film, the Tony Award-winning *Mary Poppins* is everything you’d hope for in a Broadway musical — and more. Produced by Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, the show includes such wonderful songs as “Chim Chim Cher-ee,” “A Spoonful of Sugar,” “Let’s Go Fly a Kite” and, of course, “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.” The *NY Daily News* hails *Mary Poppins* as “a roof-raising, toe-tapping, high-flying extravaganza!” Don’t miss all the magic of Broadway’s super hit musical, and let your imagination take flight.

The 2009–2010 Bank of America Best of Broadway Tampa Bay series is presented by the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center. Season ticket packages will be available beginning March 22. Those interested in purchasing season tickets should call the TBPAC Ticket Office at 813.229.STAR or outside the Tampa Bay area at 800.955.1045 or visit www.tbpac.org for more information on ticket packages and on-sale information. Prices begin at just \$190.50 for the full eight-show Platinum season package. A five-show Silver season package is also available, starting at just \$85. TBPAC members are given first priority for new season tickets. Group tickets and individual show tickets will go on sale at later dates to be announced.

Events, days, dates, times, performers and prices are subject to change without notice.