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ANYTHING GOES AT STARLIGHT THEATRE

Starlight's production of the Cole Porter musical comedy sets sail July 13–19

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Starlight Theatre's production of the Cole Porter musical comedy, *Anything Goes*, can be seen under the stars July 13-19. This toe-tapping production is one that theatre-loving audiences won't want to miss. Several of Broadway's finest performers join forces with some of Kansas City's most talented professionals, ensuring a memorable evening of live (and lively) entertainment for the hometown crowd.

Critically acclaimed Broadway actress, singer, dancer and comedienne Rachel York leads the cast as nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney. York's best known Broadway performances include *City*

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of *Angels*, *Les Misérables*, *Victor/Victoria* (Drama Desk Award) with Dame Julie Andrews, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Sly Fox* with Richard Dreyfuss, and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* co-starring Jonathan Pryce. Most recently, she starred in the world premiere of the new Broadway-bound musical, *Turn of the Century* with Jeff Daniels, at the Goodman Theatre in Chicago.

“I’m extremely proud to introduce to Kansas City the talents of one of Broadway’s brightest, Miss Rachel York,” said Denton Yockey, Starlight president and executive producer. “Rachel excels in the role played previously by such legends as Ethel Merman and Patti Lupone. I’m also happy to place the show under the steady hands of my old friends, veteran director Elliot Wasserman and choreographer Paula Sloan.”

Other Broadway veterans in principal roles include Nili Bassman (*Hope Harcourt*), Megan Sikora (*Erma*) and John Bolton (*Lord Evelyn Oakleigh*), all of whom recently performed together in Kander and Ebb’s *Curtains* at New York’s Al Hirschfeld Theatre; and Jim Weitzer (*Billy Crocker*), who recently completed a run as Raoul in *The Phantom of the Opera*. Regional actors highlighted in the cast include Whit Reichert (*Moonface Martin*) and Austin Ku (*John*), a recent graduate of The Boston Conservatory, both of St. Louis.

The local professionals appearing on Starlight’s Cohen Community Stage include principals Jerry Jay Cranford (*Purser*), Karen Errington (*Mrs. Harcourt*), Brad Jackson (*Captain*), Kip Niven (*Elisha Whitney*), Vi Tran (*John*) and ensemble members Chris Allen, Craig Allen, Charles Fugate, Seth Golay, James King, Sarah LaBarr and Licia Watson. Other local performers to be featured in the show include seven teen dancers in the Blue Star All-Star Chorus.

York is quick to credit her local co-stars. “The casting for ***Anything Goes*** has undoubtedly struck a great balance of Broadway talent and experience with outstanding Kansas City talent,” she said. “The dedication, creativity and talent of the local Kansas City performers are most impressive and sure to delight Starlight audiences.”

In addition, musical director Anthony Edwards and several members of the creative and production teams also call Kansas City home. And, the newest Kansas Citian to be cast is Maud, a Shitzu mix pup recently rescued from Animal Haven in Merriam, Kan. She’ll star in the role of Cheeky, Mrs. Harcourt’s inseparable lap dog.

Anything Goes made its debut on Broadway in 1934, with the Merman in the role of Reno Sweeney. A 1988 revival on Broadway, starring the acclaimed LuPone, garnered 10 Tony Award® nominations and three Tony Awards® for Best Revival, Best Choreographer and Best Featured Actor (Bill McCutcheon as gangster Moonface Martin).

The musical's plot follows the twists and turns of some eccentric passengers sailing aboard the S.S. American from New York to England. The antics of a love triangle at sea, a myriad of mistaken identities and Porter's lively musical scores, including "You're the Top," "I Get a Kick Out of You" and "It's De-Lovely," make for an memorable combination of intrigue and entertainment.

Tickets for **Anything Goes** are on sale now at Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Road. Ticket prices range from \$9 to \$79 and are available at the Starlight Theatre box office, at www.kcstarlight.com or by calling 816.363.STAR (7827).

Discount prices for groups of 15 or more are available by contacting Starlight group sales manager Bob Potemski at 816.997.1137 or bob.potemski@kcstarlight.com.

All performances of **Anything Goes** begin at 8:30 p.m.

Starlight Theatre

Presenting Broadway entertainment since 1951, the non-profit Starlight Theatre Association is Kansas City's oldest and largest performing arts organization. The Association operates, programs and maintains the largest stage in the United States, as well as the 16-acre Starlight Theatre complex. While assuming all annual operating costs for the complex, the Association also raises funds for capital improvements and a variety of programs, including national Broadway musical performances, concerts, community outreach and education. Since 2000, the Association has contributed more than \$25 million of privately funded improvements to the Kansas City, Mo.-owned Starlight Theatre. Each Broadway season, Starlight donates more than 11,000 tickets to its performances to regional non-profit organizations serving the disadvantaged.

In 2008, Starlight Theatre was selected as the "Favorite Performing Arts Venue or Organization" in the Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association's Visitors' Choice Awards program. Starlight also received a Gold Award for "Best Performing Arts Venue" and Bronze Award for "Best Theater" in *Ingram's* 2008 Best of Business Kansas City Awards. The theatre seats approximately 8,000 and is located in Swope Park.

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