

NEWS



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NO DOUBT, JASON MRAZ LEAD STARLIGHT'S EARLY CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENTS

First artists, dates set for Starlight Theatre's 2009 concert season

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – In a continuing partnership with Live Nation, the world's largest live music promoter, Starlight Theatre is again poised to heat up its outdoor stage with as many as 20 live concert performances during spring and summer 2009.

Last year Starlight and Live Nation stepped up their relationship and brought new ticketing options and a star-studded lineup of concert artists to the 8,000-seat theatre in Swope Park. Both organizations and thousands of area music fans deemed the 2008 season a rousing success.

“Starlight Theatre has long been one of Kansas City's premier concert destinations, but we really raised the bar last year in terms of talent, amenities and premium ticket options,” said Bill Waugh, Starlight's concerts director. “Building on that momentum and the fact that we've already confirmed several fantastic acts to kick off this season, we expect 2009 to be our best year yet!”

Singer songwriter **Jason Mraz** is the first performer announced for Starlight's 2009 season; he takes the stage May 6 with opening act Plain White T's. The arena-rock kings of the early 1980s, **REO Speedwagon**, will fill Starlight's seats June 4 when they're joined by other '80s icons STYX

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and 38 Special in the Can't Stop Rockin' 2009 Tour. And, perhaps the biggest act confirmed so far is the much-anticipated tour of **No Doubt**, with lead vocals by Gwen Stefani. The 45-city No Doubt tour makes a stop at Starlight on July 6, accompanied by special guests Paramore and Bedouin Sounclash.

Mark Campana, president of Live Nation Midwest-Music, shares Waugh's enthusiasm for the upcoming Starlight season. "The Starlight venue is not only a favorite of music fans, it is the perfect setting for many of today's top touring acts. The theatre offers ample seating, yet provides an intimate feeling for artists and audience members alike. Starlight's facilities and amenities are state-of-the-art for this industry, and the outdoor concert experience is truly memorable."

Based upon a very positive reception last season, Starlight and Live Nation will again offer VIP season ticket packages to interested companies and individuals.

"If the strong renewal rate for 2009 is any evidence, we were definitely successful in giving our VIP season ticket clients a very unique and quality concert experience last summer," said Paul Shearer, Starlight's account executive for premium seats. "Their seats are in very close proximity to the bands, our Helzberg Diamonds VIP Club offers a festive yet relaxed atmosphere, and we provide personalized service for our VIP clients, their guests and associates."

The Starlight concert VIP experience in 2009 will again offer the best seats in the house; free reserved parking; private entrance to the venue; access to the VIP Club, which includes private bar, catered buffet, flat screen TVs with limited simulcast, indoor and outdoor seating, and private restrooms; and free ticket concierge service for other Starlight and Live Nation events.

In addition, a new element is included in the VIP package in 2009. The VIP Club will now provide pre-show live entertainment in the form of promising local bands and artists. Shearer said the entertainment addition will round out the Starlight VIP experience and give clients a chance to hear some of this area's up-and-coming talent.

Concert patrons interested in premium seat packages should contact Starlight account executive

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Paul Shearer at 816.997.1128 or paul.shearer@kcstarlight.com. Organizations interested in concert sponsorship opportunities should contact Jeff Miller, sponsor relations manager, at (816) 997-1124 or jeff.miller@kcstarlight.com.

Jason Mraz tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on Feb. 28. No Doubt tickets are on sale at 10 a.m. on March 7, while REO Speedwagon/STYX ticket sales begin at 11 a.m. on March 7.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.kcstarlight.com, www.livenation.com, by phone at 816.363.7827, toll-free at 800.776.1730, or at the Starlight Theatre box office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City, MO 64132. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays.

Additional artist schedules and more details on the 2009 Starlight concert series will be posted as they develop at www.kcstarlight.com.

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.

Live Nation

Live Nation is the future of the music business. With the most live concerts, music venues and festivals in the world and the most comprehensive concert search engine on the Web, Live Nation is revolutionizing the music industry: onstage and online. Headquartered in Los Angeles, Calif., Live Nation is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, trading under the symbol "LYV."

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