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**TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE FOR ALL PERFORMANCES**

*Kansas City's Limited Premiere Engagement of Disney's High School Musical  
Opens July 15 at Starlight Theatre*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – The theatrical stage version of the Disney Channel's smash hit *High School Musical* lights up the Starlight Theatre stage for six nights in mid-July. Ranked as the top choice of Starlight's 2007 audience survey, *High School Musical* is set to delight tots, tweens, teens and adults when the national touring production makes its Kansas debut July 15-20. Good seats are still available for all show nights.

Presented by Disney Theatrical Productions, the Disney division responsible for such Broadway sensations as *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *Mary Poppins*, the touring

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version of *High School Musical* is based on the 2006 Emmy Award-winning Disney Channel Original Movie. The touring company, playing in 42 cities over 60 weeks in the United States and Canada, includes a live orchestra and a cast of 34 talented theatrical performers.

“We’re extremely proud to be working with Disney to bring *High School Musical* to Kansas City,” said Bob Rohlf, Starlight president and executive producer. “This energetic show fits perfectly with Starlight’s commitment to provide top-quality, family entertainment each summer.”

Disney’s *High School Musical* is a contemporary musical comedy about a popular high school basketball star and a shy, academically gifted new girl who discover they share a secret passion for singing. When they sign up together to audition for the lead roles in the school musical, it threatens East High’s rigid social order and sends their peers into an uproar. In a desperate effort to maintain the status quo, the “jocks,” the “brainiacs” and even the drama club regulars are soon hatching convoluted plots to separate the pair and keep them offstage. By defying expectations and taking a chance on their dreams, however, the couple inspires other students to go public with some surprising hidden talents of their own.

Starring in the lead roles of the touring stage adaptation are John Jeffrey Martin as basketball team captain “Troy Bolton” and Arielle Jacobs as “Gabriella Montez,” the shy academic whiz. Martin’s Broadway credits include *Rocky Horror Show*, *Hairspray* and *Good Vibrations*. He is a graduate of Syracuse University with a bachelor of fine arts degree in musical theater. Jacobs’ theatre credits include *Crazy for You*, *A Chorus Line* and *Cinderella*, along with film credits *The Stepford Wives* and *Water Lilies*. (See additional information on cast members in the Cast Bios document.)

The touring production of *High School Musical* is directed by Jeff Calhoun (*Big River*). A book by David Simpatico is adapted from the original movie script by Peter Barsocchini. The score includes all of the songs from the original movie soundtrack, plus two new ones written especially for the stage.

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“Our stage version of this great property has been mounted as a direct response to overwhelming demand,” said Thomas Schumacher, president and producer of Disney Theatrical Productions. “As someone who has been passionate about theatre since I was a kid, I am thrilled that we are touring this remarkably popular title as a fully realized stage production and, most certainly, introducing countless young people to the world of theatre for the very first time. It is a great joy and privilege for us to be able to produce and present the Disney Channel’s enormously popular property on stage.”

In addition to director Calhoun, the creative team for *High School Musical's* tour includes choreographer Lisa Stevens, scenic designer Kenneth Foy, costume designer Wade Laboissonniere, lighting designer Kenneth Billington, sound designer Duncan Robert Edwards and music supervisor Bryan Louiselle.

Kansas City’s Starlight Theatre is the second to last stop on High School Musical’s tour circuit, which is scheduled to end in Salt Lake City on Aug. 3. All six performances at Starlight begin at 8:30 p.m.

Tickets for Disney’s *High School Musical* 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](http://www.kcstarlight.com) or by calling 816.363.STAR (7827). Discount prices for groups of 15 or more are available by contacting Jill Tilton at 816.997.1119 or [jill.tilton@kcstarlight.com](mailto:jill.tilton@kcstarlight.com).

For more information about this production, visit [www.highschoolmusicalontour.com](http://www.highschoolmusicalontour.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 2007, Starlight Theatre was selected as the "Favorite Performing Arts Venue or Organization" in the Kansas City Convention & Visitors Association's first-ever Visitors' Choice Awards program. Starlight also received Gold Awards for "Best Theater" and "Best Performing Arts Venue" in *Ingram's* 2007 Best of Business Kansas City Awards. The theatre seats approximately 8,000 and is located in Swope Park.

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