

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Starlight Celebrates 75 Years on June 3



The historic theatre in Swope Park opened in 1950 to celebrate Kansas City's centennial.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Starlight Theatre, Kansas City's oldest and largest performing arts organization, proudly marks its 75th anniversary in 2025. Established in 1950 as part of Kansas City's centennial celebration, Starlight has since become a cornerstone of the community, capturing millions with unforgettable performances from its historic stage in Swope Park. On June 3, in conjunction with the opening night of Starlight's production of *School of Rock - The Musical*, the historic theatre will raise its curtain exactly 75 years after its first performance in 1950.

Throughout the week, patrons can enjoy photo opportunities, interactive pre-show events, and take a walking history tour through the venue before settling in to enjoy *School of Rock* - featuring an all-local student rock band.

"For 75 years, Starlight has served as a beacon of community-building through live arts experiences that are not just unique to Kansas City, but nationally-renowned as well," Lindsey Rood-Clifford, President + C.E.O. of Starlight, said. "This milestone emphasizes the enduring power of live arts and entertainment to connect and strengthen our community. Generations of friends and families have created lasting memories here, and we look forward to continuing and expanding the tradition of Starlight experiences that unite and enrich us all."

A Historic Legacy

Starlight Theatre's legacy began on June 3, 1950, with the premiere of *Thrills of a Century*, a

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vibrant historical pageant celebrating Kansas City's 100th birthday. Thousands of attendees came together nightly for the production, which featured hundreds of local citizens in its cast. The overwhelming success of the event highlighted the city's appetite for a dedicated performing arts venue, leading to the establishment of the not-for-profit Starlight Theatre Association of Kansas City, Inc., which has upheld this legacy for seven and a half decades.

In 2023, Starlight launched Uniquely KC, the organization's first capital campaign and programmatic expansion in more than 20 years. Through venue improvements and new programs, the campaign aims to attract and develop new live arts audiences, enhance arts access and youth education opportunities, generate a positive economic impact in the region, and foster support for Kansas City's arts and culture sector for one of the largest civic cultural assets in the city.

How to Purchase Tickets

All tickets are available now at kcstarlight.com and (816) 363-7827, or in person at the Starlight Theatre ticket office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City Mo., 64132. All Broadway performances begin at 8 p.m. For show content advisories and additional information visit kcstarlight.com.

Groups of 10 or more can enjoy discounted ticket prices to Broadway performances by contacting Starlight's group sales department at 816-997-1137 or groups@kcstarlight.com. Please note that kcstarlight.com is the only official online ticket source for all shows. Tickets purchased through other outlets may not be valid.

About Starlight

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community engagement programming, including arts access initiatives, scholarships, school partnerships, and one of the most well-regarded high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats.

Follow Starlight on social media @[kcstarlight](https://twitter.com/kcstarlight) and visit kcstarlight.com for more information about the 75th anniversary and upcoming events.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

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