

Phoenix Theatre is thrilled to announce its *incredible* 98th season!



MAMMA MIA! september 6 - october 15

A mother, a daughter, three possible dads, and a trip down the aisle you'll never forget! Cleverly told through the songs of ABBA, *Mamma Mia* follows Sophie and her journey to find the identity of her father, while her mother, Donna, comes face to face with three men from her romantic past. Loaded with non-stop laughs and familiar melodies, this international sensation is the ultimate feel-good tale of love and friendship!

HEDWIG AND THE ANGRY INCH september 20 - october 15

A Co-Production with A/C Theatre Company

Groundbreaking, viciously funny, and devastatingly heartbreaking, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is a modern masterpiece! With an electrifying glam-rock score and high-voltage performances, this show follows one of the most enigmatic characters to hit the stage. Written by John Cameron Mitchell and Stephen Trask and the winner of four Tony Awards®, including Best Musical Revival, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* is thrillingly progressive and thoroughly entertaining!

NEWSIES november 15 - december 31

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Disney Theatrical's beloved musical, *Newsies*, is a terrific show for the whole family! Inspired by the real-life Newsboys Strike of 1899 and based on the 1992 film, *Newsies* follows Jack Kelly and a rag-tag group of newsies as they take on the biggest names in publishing in a remarkable fight for justice and fair pay. Packed with show-stopping choreography and a Tony® Award winning score by Alan Menken, *Newsies* is an extravagant, high-energy celebration of song and dance!

IT'S ONLY A PLAY january 24 - february 11

Written by Tony® Award winner Terrence McNally, *It's Only a Play* is a celebration of theatre at its best and theatre people at their not-so-best. The show takes place on opening night of Peter Austin's new play. At the home of his wealthy producer, Peter is joined by his best friend, the show's aging starlet, the director, and a drama critic, as the unlikely group anxiously awaits the late-night newspaper reviews. *It's Only a Play* promises kooky characters and big laughs in a rare comedy that's as smart as it is funny!

HAND TO GOD february 2 - february 25

A Co-Production with Stray Cat Theatre

The angst-ridden youth of Cypress, Texas spend their afternoons practicing Christian Puppet Ministry at the local church. When one of the puppets turns out to have a life of its own, all hell breaks loose. He may look like an innocent sock puppet, but Tyrone shocks the congregation with outrageous insinuations and exposes deep, dark secrets. Described by the New York Times as "darkly delightful," *Hand to God* is a fast-paced irreverent comedy about love, grief, and what it means to be human.

THE BOOB SHOW february 14 - march 4

A huge hit during our Festival of New Plays and Musicals, Artistic Director Michael Barnard is thrilled to introduce the World Premiere of *The Boob Show* in our 17/18 season! Written by local artists Sally Jo Bannow and Craig Bohmler, the uplifting, comedic musical celebrates women—and their breasts—through song. Balancing levity with tough truths and heart with humor, *The Boob Show* commands in an engaging pre-Off Broadway experience guaranteed to delight!

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET march 7 - april 8

Four rock n' roll icons. An impromptu jam session. One unforgettable night! *Million Dollar Quartet* imagines the now-legendary 1956 recording session of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Jerry Lee Lewis. Featuring a score of your favorite rock hits including "Blue Suede Shoes," "Great Balls of Fire," "Walk the Line," and "Hound Dog," played by the actors onstage, *Million Dollar Quartet* is a scorching show packed with red-hot talent. Don't miss your chance to be a fly on the wall of fame!

GODSPELL april 18 - may 13

Godspell, the first major musical by Wicked composer Stephen Schwartz, has entertained audiences around the world! At the command of John the Baptist, a small group of ordinary people help Jesus Christ tell his life's story. Set in modern-day New York City, these disciples spread messages of love and tolerance through a series of musical parables. Throughout the years, *Godspell* has become one of the most well-known and beloved musicals of all time!

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS may 16 - june 10

Seymour, a nerdy floral clerk, discovers a new peculiar plant he names "Audrey II" after his co-worker crush. This foul-mouthed, R+B-singing plant might just be Seymour's ticket to fame, fortune and the girl of his dreams! Soon, however, Seymour discovers Audrey II's intent towards global domination. Can Seymour save the world and get the girl? Find out in the delightfully devious, cult classic, sci-fi musical smash *Little Shop of Horrors*!

ABOUT PHOENIX THEATRE

The largest producing regional theatre company in Arizona, Phoenix Theatre offers more programs and experiences than any other. With over 400 performances on multiple stages and thriving outreach programs, we inspire more than 100,000 citizens every year. Inextricably woven into the fabric of *Your City*, Phoenix Theatre is *Your Theatre*.

As a founding member of the Central Arts District, Phoenix Theatre is committed to advancing the performing arts in the Valley, and is recognized nationally as a professional regional theatre of exceptional quality. In this, our 97th season, we are producing eight remarkable productions on the Walton Stage of the Mainstage Theatre and in the intimate setting of the Hormel Theatre. In May, we will host our 19th Annual Festival of New Plays and Musicals presented by Caleb Reese; two weeks that foster the development of new and original work and contribute to the American theatre canon.

Offstage, we strive to give back to our community. The nationally recognized Pope Professional Apprenticeship program provides valuable on-the-job training to future arts leaders in areas of production. Our Partners That Heal program provides comfort and entertainment to children and families in healthcare and crisis facilities. Our experiential summer programming nurtures the performing artist inside each of us, promoting confidence and providing interactive theatrical and dance experiences for children, teens and adults.

Every show or service we provide is always measured against our mission – to create exceptional theatrical experiences by using the arts to articulate messages that inspire hope and understanding. **Welcome to Phoenix Theatre.**