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### **Award-Winning Musical “Dreamgirls” Takes Center Stage at The Phoenix Theatre Company**

*(July 11, 2023 – PHOENIX)* The final show in the historic 103<sup>rd</sup> season at The Phoenix Theatre Company is the popular and heralded Broadway musical, “Dreamgirls.” Proving there is a story behind every dream, the rags-to-riches tale of the young Black female singing trio from Chicago explores the countless effects the competitive world of show business has on art, relationships and friendships. The show runs from Aug. 2 to Sept. 3, 2023.

Inspired by acts like Diana Ross and The Supremes, The Shirelles and James Brown, “Dreamgirls” follows the journey of three friends, Effie, Deena and Lorrell, as they rise to stardom in the 1960s and 1970s.

““Dreamgirls” is the story of triumph, overcoming obstacles and most importantly, the idea that everyone can change,” said Daryl Brooks, director, who last directed “The Color Purple” at The Phoenix Theatre Company. “There are so many emotions in this show – anger, sadness, perseverance, love – it really runs the gamut.”

Dreamgirls premiered on Broadway at the Imperial Theatre Dec. 20, 1981, and closed Aug. 11, 1985, after 1,521 performances. The original production won six Tony Awards, five Drama Desk Awards and two Grammy Awards.

“I’ve dreamed about being part of this production my whole life because of the opportunity to tell the real, gritty and touching story of these impassioned Black women,” Brooks added. “I know audiences will leave feeling touched beyond measure after seeing this soulful show.”

The high-energy show is told through a variety of musical styles including gospel, R&B, smooth pop and disco, and features hits like, “And I Am Telling You I’m Not Going,” “Listen” and “One Night Only.”

Theresa Kellar, a first-time ensemble swing cast member at The Phoenix Theatre Company, is proud to be part of the production.

“This is not a story of Black trauma. It is a story about Black joy and celebration of talent; it also displays representation on stage for young Black boys and girls,” she said. “Seeing a show like this is important for audiences because it exemplifies that we are all people with the opportunity to gain experience and evolve as humans.”

The cast for “Dreamgirls” at The Phoenix Theatre Company includes many recognizable faces as well as new talent, including Will James, Jr.\* as Curtis, Candace Haynes as Deena, Miciah Lathan\* as Effie, Aja Downing\* as Lorrell, Brett Michael Lockley\* as C.C., Antonio King\* as Jimmy, Kendrick Stallings as Marty, and ensemble members Matravius Avent\*, Wesley Bradstreet, Jacqueline Castillo, Michelle Chin, Navaris Darson, Chris Elliott, Michael Ray Fisher\*, Andrea Fleming\*, Aaron Ford, Jari Haile, Savannah Inez, Alexandria Joy, Jazmin Noel Moehring, Justin Phillips, and Karley Purnell. Ensemble swing cast includes Henry Dyson, Chafik Jay, Theresa Kellar, Prescott Smidt and Sheilah Utley.

Tickets for “Dreamgirls” are on sale now and start at \$50. To purchase, call (602) 254-2151 or visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).

### **Select Mask Required Performances**

To provide a production to those who would feel more comfortable in a fully masked environment, we have designated a select upcoming performance of “Dreamgirls” as “Mask Required,” on Aug. 26, 2023, at 2 p.m. During these performances, masks will be required for all patrons and staff in our lobbies and theatres unless actively eating/drinking. Food and drinks will be allowed in the theatre. We ask that the mask be placed back on between bites or sips. Proof of vaccination and temperature checks will not be required.

### **ASL/Audio Describe Night**

Audio Description and American Sign Language Interpretation are available for each production. ASL/Audio Describe Night for “Dreamgirls” is Aug. 24, 2023, at 7 p.m.

*\*Denotes members of Actors’ Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.*

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### **ABOUT THE PHOENIX THEATRE COMPANY**

The Phoenix Theatre Company is not only the largest professional regional theatre company in the state, with nearly 500 performances each year on multiple stages, but it’s also the first arts organization in Arizona and a founding member of the Central Arts District. Committed to advancing the performing arts in the Valley, The Phoenix Theatre Company’s mission is to create exceptional theatrical experiences that inspire hope and understanding. For more information about our upcoming shows, campus venue, located at 1825 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix, outreach programs, and more, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com).