



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2014

CATS the Musical Features Four Performances at Paramount Arts Center

Ashland, KY - The Paramount Players will be producing the musical CATS July 31, August 1 and 2 at the Paramount Arts Center. Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical based on T.S. Elliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" is a timeless show that appeals to people of all ages. The musical tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make what is known as "the Jellicle choice" and decide which cat will ascend to the "heavyside layer" and come back to a new life. CATS introduced the song "Memory" and is the second longest running musical in Broadway history.

The show is completely told through music and dance with dialogue used to connect the songs. Lloyd Webber's eclecticism is very strong here; musical genres range from classical to pop, music hall, jazz, rock and electro-acoustic music as well as hymn-like songs such as "The Addressing of Cats". CATS is directed and choreographed by Melanie Cornelison with music directed by Joshua Jannotta. A huge production crew is necessary for all of the intricate elements of CATS. Cathy Cremeans serves as assistant director, Denise Barber as production manager, Joshua Jannotta and Ritch Collins as set designers and technical director, and a fabulous crew of costumers, props, stage crew, and assistant stage managers including Cody Vinson, Allison Hammond, Brandon Peters, Austin Leach, Taylor Shaffer, Christina Dillow, Dustin Jones, Michael Seagraves, Teresa Oakley and Rick Payne.

Before making the choice of who will be chosen to go to the Heavyside Layer the audience gets to hear from the cats. Rum Tum Tugger (the cool cat) is played by newcomer to the Paramount Players Mark Radford. The narrator of the show and second in command is Munkostrap, played by Shawn Cosby. Gus the Theatre Cat (Kirk Saltsman – another Paramount Player newcomer) tells of his memories on the stage with Jellyorum (Kim Cooper) told through a flashback sequence with Growltiger (newcomer Tag Sadler), Griddlebone (Kaitlyn Osborne), the Siamese Cats (Claire Wilson and Zorada Porter) and the Pirate Crew (Matthew Conway, Patrick Murphy and Andrew Hall. The cat to fear is Macavity (Sam Perkins) who is always at the scene of the crime). Two of his mischievous sidekicks are Mungojerrie and Rumpleteazer (Susan Barber and

Kathryn Barber. The Magical Mr. Mistofelees is played by Wyatt Wheeler, Skimbleshanks the Railway Cat is played by Thaddeus Stambaugh and Bustopher Jones (the 25 pound cat!) is played by Matt Hammond. The much loved and revered leader of the group of cats is Old Deuteronomy (Rick Payne). Watch out for the ladies of the group Demeter (Hannah Noel), Bombalurina (Kate Jackson) and Jenny Any Dots/Gumbie Cat (Sarah Brehm). Grizzabella the Glamor Cat (Nancy Jackson) is an outcast who now longs to return home as she shows with her singing of Memory. Jemima the kitten who wants to accept Grizzabella is played by Morgan Casto. The lead dancing cat Victoria is played by Makanna Mason, Alonzo is played by Marshall Gibbs, Coricopat by Alyssa Miller, Tantomile by Ashby Foutch, Cassandra by Hannah Tussey, George by Aaron Lewis, and Admentus by Kelsey Gregg. The dance captain is Caiti Anderson and the chorus of cats and kittens are played by Hannah Layne, Carli Robinette, Emily Craft, Alexandra Wilson, Katie Clark, Josiah Fairchild, Molly Baldock, Abby Coffman, Gracie Newman, Brianna Sexton, Melanie McDowell, Brandi Porter-Whitley, Claire Gussler, Camryn Uding, Aden Watts, Courtlyn Lewis, Carly Cooper, Meredyth Wilson, Logan Darby, Anna Sophia Hester, Ainsley Frederick, Trystan Keaton, Nathan Davis, Kimmi York, Hailey Browning, Paige Fraley and Kevin Johnson.

Show times are at 7:30 pm on July 31, August 1 and 2 and there is a 3 pm matinee on Aug. 2. Get your tickets early because they are \$14/adults and \$10/students in advance but go up to \$16/adults and \$12/students on the day of the show. To buy tickets visit www.paramountartscenter.com or call the box office at 606.324.0007.

CATS is sponsored by Kentucky Power/AEP, Dr. Michael Canty, Kindred Communications and Greater Ashland Beacon.

###