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MARY POPPINS to Take Flight & Kick off Pittsburgh CLO's 2015 Summer Season June 9!

Audiences will be treated to a Spoonful of Magic & More at the Benedum Center

Pittsburgh, PA · June 2, 2015 – Get ready for a high-flying adventure! Pittsburgh CLO's production of [MARY POPPINS](#) soars into the 2015 Summer Season June 9-21 at the Benedum Center. The classic story of the Banks family and their charming nanny will be brought to life by a "practically perfect" cast of Broadway's best performers and Pittsburgh CLO veterans.

Based on the books by P.L. Travers and the classic Walt Disney film, *MARY POPPINS* delighted Broadway audiences for more than 2,500 performances and received seven Tony Award® nominations, including Best Musical. *MARY POPPINS* is an enchanting mix of irresistible story, breathtaking dance numbers, astonishing special effects and unforgettable songs including "Let's Go Fly a Kite," "Step in Time" and "A Spoonful of Sugar." This award-winning score and spectacular choreography will sweep audiences off their feet!

ABOUT THE CAST

[Lindsey Bliven](#) (**Mary Poppins**) joins Pittsburgh CLO for the first time in the title role of Mary Poppins. Her credits include the National Tours of *Mary Poppins*, *A Chorus Line*, *Oklahoma!* and *The Wizard of Oz*. In addition, she appeared as Mary Poppins at The Walnut Street Theatre and Music Theatre Wichita. She holds a BFA in Musical Theater Performance from The University of Oklahoma, Weitzenhoffer School of Musical Theatre.

[David Elder](#) (**Bert**) returns to Pittsburgh CLO as Bert after starring as Don Lockwood in Pittsburgh CLO's 2014 critically-acclaimed production of *Singin' in the Rain*. Mr. Elder previously appeared in the Broadway productions of *Curtains*, *42nd Street*, *Kiss Me, Kate*, *Titanic*, *Once Upon a Mattress*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Damn Yankees* and *Guys and Dolls*. He recently starred as Bert at The Walnut Street Theatre and Music Theatre Wichita's productions of *Mary Poppins* where he showcased "a big, broad smile that draws us into the wonder of this show!" – *Kansas.com*

[Benjamin Bogen](#) (**Robertson Ay**) will make his Pittsburgh CLO debut. His credits include: *The Music Man* (Tommy Djilas), *Cabaret* (Bobby). In addition, he has appeared in *Xanadu* (Terpsicore), *Spring Awakening* (Georg) and *A Chorus Line* (Mark). He is a rising senior studying Musical Theater at The University of Michigan.

[Susan Cella](#) (**Mrs. Brill, Bird Woman**) returns to Pittsburgh CLO for her seventh season, most recently as Golde in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Her Broadway credits include: *The Graduate*, *Crazy He Calls Me*, *Me and my Girl*, *Evita*, *On the Twentieth Century*, *Allegro* and *Lady in the Dark* for ENCORES!. National tours: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hairspray*, *42nd Street*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Me and My Girl* and *Can-Can*. TV: "Person of Interest," "Law and Order," "The Sopranos," "All My Children," "Hi Honey I'm Home," "The Tavern," "The Astronaut's Wife" and "Follies."

[Clare Chiusano](#) (**Jane Banks**) has been a CLO Academy student since the summer of 2012. She has appeared in *Singin' in the Rain*, *Seussical*, *Hairspray*, and *Peter Pan Jr.* She attends Haine Middle School in Cranberry Township where she will enter into the seventh grade in the fall.

J. Anthony Crane (Mr. Banks) is making his Pittsburgh CLO debut. His recent credits include: Broadway: *The Country House* (MTC), *The Winslow Boy* (Roundabout), *Sight Unseen* (MTC), *Butley* (Booth). Off-Broadway/Regional: Scar in *The Lion King* (Nat'l Tour) and Harold in *The Music Man* (TUTS), *Spamalot* (Wynn Las Vegas), *The Odd Couple* (Dallas Theater Center), and many others, including The Humana Festival, CATF, Papermill Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, The Old Globe, PRT and Capital Repertory.

Erin Dilly (Mrs. Banks) counts the following among her extensive Broadway credits: *A Christmas Story*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Tony and Outer Critics Circle Award Nominations), *Into the Woods*, *The Boys from Syracuse*, *Follies*. Regional/National Tours: *Mary Poppins*, *In the Mood*, *Leading Ladies*, *South Pacific*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Martin Guerre* (Helen Hayes Award Nomination). TV: "Person of Interest" "Boardwalk Empire," "The Good Wife," "Gossip Girl," "Nurse Jackie," "Canterbury's Law" and "12 Men of Christmas."

Tim Hartman (Admiral Boom/Bank Chairman) is a veteran of countless Pittsburgh CLO productions. His Broadway credits include: *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Finian's Rainbow*. His Regional Theater credits include: C.S. Lewis in *Shadowlands*, Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* and Daddy Warbucks in *Annie*. Film: "Silence of the Lambs," "The Mothman Prophecies," "The Piano Lesson" and "The Fault in our Stars." Mr. Hartman is also an award-winning storyteller and cartoonist.

Mason Alexander Park (Miss Andrew, Miss Smythe, Queen Victoria) first burst onto the small screen in Nickelodeon's "iCarly" and has amassed a multitude of impressive credits in his young career spanning television, film and stage. He was introduced to Pittsburgh CLO through the National High School Musical Theater Awards, during which time he was featured on PBS's reality series "Broadway or Bust." He recently performed at the Kennedy Center in D.C. as the 2013 Presidential Scholar in the Arts for Musical Theatre, which featured him in the PBS documentary, "Becoming an Artist."

Mario Williams (Michael Banks) returns to Pittsburgh CLO for the fourth time. He has appeared in Pittsburgh CLO's *A Musical Christmas Carol* the past three years. Mario is a fourth grader at St. Louise de Marillac in Upper St. Clair, and is in his third year at the CLO Academy.

MARY POPPINS is complete with a talented ensemble, including **Daniel Bevins, Keely Bierne, Lindsey Bracco, Ryan Cavanaugh, Ixchel Cuellar, Lucas Fedele, Michael Graceffa, Kate Johnson, L'ogan J'ones, Brooke Lacy, Isabelle McCalla, Connor McRory, Mallory Michaelann, Alle-Faye Monka, Joseph Sammour, Cammeron Slusser, Blake Stadnik and Emily Trumble**. They will be joined by 14 CLO Academy students, including **Hank Cherrix, Gianni DeMastro, Kendall Driscoll, Benjamin Godley-Fisher, Ashlyn King, Alexandra Milchovich, John Neurohr, Micah Primack, Madeline Schlichter, Will Sendera, Julia Slagle, Trent Soyster, Ellie Bryn Tongel and Nicholas Vanhorenbeck**.

ABOUT THE CREATIVE TEAM

Linda Goodrich (Director & Choreographer) returns to Pittsburgh CLO after serving as Director and Choreographer for *Singin' in the Rain* for Pittsburgh CLO's 2014 production. Her Directorial/Choreographic credits include *Bat Boy* and *Smokey Joe's Café* at Theatreworks; *Seussical!* at Music Theatre of Wichita; *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Side Show*, *Oklahoma!* and *Cabaret* at The University of Michigan. Choreography credits include world premieres of Henry Krieger's and Bill Russell's *Everything's Ducky* and the revised *Good News!* Tours: *Cabaret* - Europe, *Singin' in the Rain* - U.S. and Japan, *Blue's Clues Live* and *Dora The Explorer* - U.S., including Radio City Music Hall. Regional Theatre: *Company* with Carol Burnett - Long Beach CLO, *Strike Up The Band* – Goodspeed Opera House, *Singin' in the Rain* and *Annie* – Paper Mill Playhouse. Other Theatres: Cincinnati Playhouse, St. Louis Rep, North Shore Music Theatre and TUTS.

Tom Helm (Music Director) returns for his 20th season with Pittsburgh CLO. His theater credits include the Broadway productions of *Souvenir*, *Les Miserables*, *Me and My Girl*, *CATS* and *Brigadoon*. He has also contributed his talents to television programs such as "Crazy For You" and the "Today Show." Mr. Helm has conducted at Radio City Music Hall, Paper Mill Playhouse and many other regional and national theaters.

Andrew David Ostrowski (Lighting Designer) counts the following among his national credits: The National High School Musical Theater Awards in NYC, The Asolo, NSMT, George Street Playhouse, TheatreWorks, Philadelphia Theatre Company, New York Theater Institute, The Blumenthal Center, Spoleto Festival USA, Madison Opera, DSM, TOTS. Local credits include productions for PPT, City Theatre, Pittsburgh CLO, CLO Cabaret, Pittsburgh Opera, PSO, PBT, PICT, THE REP, Barebones Productions, as well as others.

HISTORY OF THE SHOW

After universal acclaim as a 1964 film, the beloved story of the flying nanny garnered success as a hit Broadway musical. The show premiered originally as a West End production, debuting at the Bristol Hippodrome in 2004. Following its success, *MARY POPPINS* moved to Broadway and opened in November 2006. It received seven Tony Award® nominations, including Best Musical, winning for Best Scenic Design.

MARY POPPINS has also embarked on numerous national tours and has become an international phenomenon, delighting Broadway audiences for more than 2,500 performances. The first foreign-language production opened on October 18, 2008, in Goteborg, Sweden at the Goteborg Opera. It has since moved to other countries including: Japan, Spain and Denmark, among others.

With foot-tapping tunes and breathtaking dance numbers, *MARY POPPINS* continues to steal hearts of audiences around the world.

ABOUT THE ORIGINAL CREATIVE TEAM

Julian Fellowes (Book) is the creative genius behind the stage adaptation of the film. Along with writing for theater, he is also known for acting and writing for both television and film. Fellowes wrote the script for *Gosford Park*, which won an Academy Award® for Best Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen in 2002. Other writing credits include: "The Tourist," "Downton Abbey" and the remake of "Romeo and Juliet."

Richard & Robert Sherman (Music & Lyrics) teamed up to create the show-stopping score for the 1964 film that earned them two Academy Awards® and two Grammy Awards®. In addition, the Sherman brothers created magical film scores including: "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "The Jungle Book," "Charlotte's Web" and "The Aristocats."

George Stiles & Anthony Drewe (New Songs & Additional Lyrics) were commissioned by Cameron Mackintosh and Disney to write the music and lyrics for new songs to feature in the stage version of Disney's classic 1964 film. Together the two have written nine shows including: "*Honk!*," "*Three Little Pigs*" and "*Goldilocks and the Three Bears*."

Sir Cameron Mackintosh (Producer) met Pamela Travers and acquired the rights to develop a stage play adaptation of her *Mary Poppins* books. In 2001, Mackintosh and the head of Disney, Thomas Schumacher, opened talks on a possible collaboration, which led to him producing the 2004 West End and the 2006 Broadway productions. Mackintosh has produced several other successful musicals, including *Five Guys Named Moe*, a revised London production of Stephen Sondheim's *Follies*, *Oklahoma!* (1999), *My Fair Lady* (2001) and *Carousel* (1993).

Performance Schedule for *Mary Poppins*

Tuesday	June 9	8 p.m.
Wednesday	June 10	8 p.m.
Thursday	June 11	8 p.m.
Friday	June 12	8 p.m.
Saturday	June 13	2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday	June 14	2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Tuesday	June 16	8 p.m.
Wednesday	June 17	8 p.m.

Thursday	June 18	8 p.m.
Friday	June 19	8 p.m.
Saturday	June 20	2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday	June 21	2 p.m.

TICKETS

Tickets are available online at pittsburghCLO.org, by calling **412-456-6666** or at the Box Office at Theater Square. Tickets start at \$35. Groups of 10 or more enjoy exclusive discounts and specialty packages. Call our **Group Sales** Hotline at **412-325-1582** for more information. Visit pittsburghCLO.org for further information.

Pittsburgh CLO gratefully acknowledges the generosity of PNC for its sponsorship of the PNC Spotlight Series and our Season Sponsors: the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and WTAE-TV.

Media members may access photos and other show materials by visiting the **Press Room** at pittsburghCLO.org. When prompted, simply enter "pressroom" as the username and "pittstadium" as the password.

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Since 1946, the Pittsburgh CLO has been the driving force behind live musical theater in Pittsburgh and the entire Southwestern Pennsylvania region. Under the direction of Van Kaplan since 1997, this not-for-profit arts organization appreciates the support of nearly 200,000 patrons each year and produces a subscription series, educational programs, national tours and develops and invests in new works, including 20 Broadway shows (25 Tony Awards®) featuring the current productions of Cinderella, Kinky Boots and Matilda. Its dedication to the musical theater art form extends to include such programs as the CLO Academy, the CLO Mini Stars, the Gene Kelly Awards, the Richard Rodgers Award the National High School Musical Theater Awards, the Construction Center for the Arts and the CLO Cabaret.

PITTSBURGH CLO

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