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## CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR



## CHARLOTTE'S LIMITED PREMIERE ENGAGEMENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25 AT THE BELK THEATER

Charlotte, NC- Producers **Cameron Mackintosh** and **Thomas Schumacher** of Disney Theatrical Productions are pleased to announce full casting for the Charlotte engagement of **MARY POPPINS**. Charlotte's most eagerly anticipated stage production will begin performances at the Belk Theater on Wednesday, Aug. 25 for a limited engagement of four weeks through Sunday, Sept. 19. The opening night is Friday, Aug. 27 at 8:00 p.m.

The entire original creative team has reunited to bring this magical story of the world's most famous nanny to audiences around North America. Since the tour's launch in Chicago in March 2009, **MARY POPPINS** has earned continuous critical praise and box-office success. The show is currently playing at the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, D.C. through Aug. 22.

Original UK Tour star **Caroline Sheen** will reprise her role as "Mary Poppins" while original Broadway company member **Dominic Roberts** will assume the role of "Bert."

**Caroline Sheen** makes her U.S. stage debut in the North American Tour after earning rave reviews from the UK press including *The Herald* (Plymouth, UK) who called her, "the perfect embodiment of the outwardly prim nanny with the free-thinking mind." Sheen, who was born in Wales, has appeared on stage in a wide variety of other leading roles in the West End and UK including *The Light in the Piazza*, *Once in a Lifetime*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Grease*, *Les Miserables*, *The Witches of Eastwick* and *Mamma Mia!* Sheen is appearing with the support of Actors' Equity Association. The Producers gratefully acknowledge Actors' Equity Association for its assistance of this production.

**Dominic Roberts** made his Broadway debut with **MARY POPPINS** and has appeared in stage productions at the Prospect Theatre Company, Repertory

Theatre of St. Louis, St. Louis Muny, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park and the Weston Playhouse.

Joining Sheen and Roberts will be **Laird Mackintosh** as “George Banks.” Mr. Mackintosh has performed several leading roles in Canada including *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *White Christmas*, *Arcadia* and *Phantom of the Opera*. “Winifred Banks” will be played by **Blythe Wilson** who joins the production after appearing on stage in *The Sound of Music*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Oklahoma*, and *Three Penny Opera*.

**Rachel Izen** will portray “Mrs. Brill.” Ms. Izen is making her North American Tour debut having appeared in numerous London West End productions including *A Chorus Line*, *Chicago*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Annie* and *Thoroughly Modern Mille*. **Dennis Moench**, who will play “Robertson Ay,” was recently seen in the Broadway production of **MARY POPPINS** and has also appeared in the *All Shook Up* National Tour and Off-Broadway in *Altar Boyz* and *Fame*.

**Ellen Harvey** will play “Miss Andrew.” Ms. Harvey’s Broadway credits include *The Music Man* and *Thou Shalt Not* and she has appeared in the National Tours of *Disney’s High School Musical*, *Mamma Mia*, *Doctor Dolittle*, and *Sunset Boulevard*. “The Bird Woman” will be played by **Mary VanArsdel**, who has appeared in productions of *Cole Porter’s Paris, Mass*, *Camelot* (with Jeremy Irons), *110 In the Shade*, and *Gypsy*. “Admiral Boom” will be portrayed by **Mike O’Carroll**, a stage veteran whose past credits include *White Christmas*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Showboat*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *Henry IV*, *Inherit the Wind*, and *Ragtime*.

Performances in the role of “Jane Banks” will be alternated between **Camille Mancuso** and **Paige Simunovich**. Ms. Mancuso’s previous theatre credits include the national tours of “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”, “White Christmas”, and “Little House on the Prairie.” Ms. Simunovich was last seen on Broadway in “Finian’s Rainbow” and in the national tours of “101 Dalmatians”, “Wizard of Oz” and “Annie.” Performances in the role of “Michael Banks” will be alternated between **Talon Ackerman** and **Cade Canon Ball**. Mr. Ackerman has previously appeared in the stage productions of “Disney’s Tarzan”, “Cats”, “The Secret Garden”, “Sleepy Hollow” and “Our Town.” Mr. Ball has recently appeared on stage in productions of “Seussical”, “A Christmas Carol” and “Sound of Music”.

Rounding out the cast are **Carol Angeli**, **Jacob ben Widmar**, **Kiara Bennett**, **Troy Edward Bowles**, **Elizabeth Broadhurst**, **Jonathan Brody**, **Debra Cardona**, **Case Dillard**, **Elizabeth Earley**, **Steffi Garrard**, **Michael Gerhart**, **Geoffrey Goldberg**, **Eric Hatch**, **Garett Hawe**, **Tiffany Howard**, **Kelly Jacobs**, **Sam Kiernan**, **Stephanie Martignetti**, **Koh Mochizuki**, **Shua Potter**, **Nick Sanchez**, **Q. Smith**, **Jesse Swimm**, **Tom Souhrada** and **Jen Taylor**.

**MARY POPPINS**, a co-production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh, opened on Broadway on November 16, 2006. Based on P.L. Travers' cherished stories and the classic 1964 Walt Disney film, **MARY POPPINS** the stage play features the Academy Award®-winning music and lyrics of Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman. The stage production has been created, in collaboration with Cameron Mackintosh, by Academy Award®-winning screenwriter Julian Fellowes, who has written the book, and the Olivier Award-winning team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe, who have composed new songs and additional music and lyrics.

Olivier Award-winning director Richard Eyre leads the award-winning creative team, with co-direction and choreography by Tony® and Olivier Award winner Matthew Bourne. **MARY POPPINS** features set and costume design by Tony® Award winner Bob Crowley, co-choreography by Olivier Award winner Stephen Mear, lighting design by Howard Harrison, orchestrations by William David Brohn, and music supervision by David Caddick. The tour's creative team includes Tour Director Anthony Lyn, Associate Choreographer Geoffrey Garrett, and Music Director James Dodgson.

#### **ABOUT MARY POPPINS WORLDWIDE**

**MARY POPPINS** is one of the biggest stage musical successes to emerge from London or New York in recent years. Worldwide to date, **MARY POPPINS** has grossed nearly \$400 million and has welcomed over five million guests.

Consistently among Broadway's top-grossing shows, **MARY POPPINS** has played over 1400 performances since its official opening at the New Amsterdam Theatre on November 16, 2006. According to figures just released by The Broadway League, **MARY POPPINS** placed on the Top Ten lists for both highest-grossing and best-attended shows of the 2009-10 season, an indicator of its remarkable success. Now in its fourth smash year, the Broadway production has been seen by over two million theatergoers and grossed over \$180 million to date, recouping its initial investment within 52 weeks of its premiere.

Not only do the Broadway show and the North American tour draw huge audiences, but the show's popularity also reaches around the globe. **MARY POPPINS** will premiere two major international productions in 2010: an open-ended run began April 11 at the Circus Theatre in **Scheveningen, Holland**, outside of Amsterdam (presented by Stage Entertainment in association with Disney and Cameron Mackintosh) and an **Australian production** opens July 29 at Her Majesty's Theatre in **Melbourne**, bringing to four, the total number of productions currently running worldwide. Additionally, during 2010 **MARY POPPINS** opens in Sweden, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Hungary, with plans already underway for future productions in Israel, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Korea, Canada and Japan. Following a successful three-year run in 2008 at the

Prince Edward Theatre in London's West End, a U.K. tour of **MARY POPPINS** commenced in summer 2008 and concluded its acclaimed run in Cardiff, Wales in April 2009.

The **MARY POPPINS NORTH AMERICAN TOUR** celebrated its first anniversary on March 25, 2010 and announced that it had achieved the milestone of being the most successful touring theatrical event in 2009.

**NORTH AMERICAN TOUR SCHEDULE THROUGH JULY 2011**

<b>CITY/VENUE</b>	<b>Performance Dates</b>
Washington, D.C. - Kennedy Center Opera House	July 1 - Aug 22, 2010
Charlotte - Blumenthal Performing Arts Center	Aug 25 - Sept 12, 2010
Indianapolis - Murat Theatre	Sept 23 - Oct 10, 2010
Buffalo - Shea's Performing Arts Center	October 14 - 31, 2010
East Lansing - Wharton Center for Performing Arts	November 3 - 21, 2010
Des Moines - Civic Center of Greater Des Moines	Nov 26 - Dec 12, 2010
Detroit - Opera House	Dec 16, 2010 - Jan 2, 2011
Pittsburgh - Benedum Center	Jan 5 - 23, 2011
Omaha - Orpheum Theatre	Jan 27 - Feb 13, 2011
Boston - Opera House	Feb 17 - March 20, 2011
Philadelphia - Academy of Music	March 23 - April 17, 2011
Columbus - Ohio Theatre	April 20 - May 8, 2011
Seattle - Paramount Theatre	May 12 - 29, 2011
Sacramento - Community Center Theatre	June 2 - 19, 2011
Portland - Keller Auditorium	June 22 - July 10, 2011
Costa Mesa - Orange County Performing Arts Center	July 14 - 31, 2011

In Charlotte, **MARY POPPINS** will play Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m., Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m., Saturday matinees at 2:00 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1:00 p.m. Ticket prices start as low as \$32.50. Special Premium Ticket Packages are available at select performances, and include premium seating and a complimentary souvenir program. Tickets are available at the Belk Theater Box Office located in the Tryon Street lobby of the Belk Theater, online at [BlumenthalCenter.org](http://BlumenthalCenter.org) or by phone at 704.372.1000. Orders for groups of twenty (20) or more may be placed by calling 704.379.1380

The Charlotte engagement of **MARY POPPINS** is presented by arrangement with the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center.

For more information, please visit [MaryPoppins.com](http://MaryPoppins.com)

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**National Press Representative:**

Scott A. Hemerling  
New Amsterdam Theatre  
214 West 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10036  
Telephone: 212.703.1080  
Facsimile: 954.212.2483

**Local Press Representative:**

Danny Knaub  
Blumenthal Performing Arts Center  
345 N. College Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
Telephone: 704.348.5814