

For Immediate Release:

Disney PRESENTS
THE LION KING
THE WORLD'S #1 MUSICAL

Disney's *THE LION KING* North American Tour
Celebrates Sold-Out Engagement in Atlanta

**Breaks Tour Record
At The Fox Theater**

Atlanta, GA – Disney's *The Lion King* continues to reign across North America with a sold-out record breaking run in Atlanta. The three-week return engagement at The Fox Theatre grossed over \$8.2 million at the box office and entertained more than 100,000 theatergoers during 24 performances. *The Lion King* tour also celebrated its highest-grossing week ever during its final playing week when it grossed over \$3.2 million at the box office. This engagement was the second time for the show at The Fox Theatre, and the fourth time overall in Atlanta.

It is estimated that the Atlanta engagement of *The Lion King* generated an economic benefit of more than \$28 million to the city from travel, hotels, restaurants, parking and other businesses patronized by both theatergoers and production staff. This figure is based upon a Touring Broadway League report which found that, on average, Broadway tours contribute an economic impact 3.52 times the gross ticket sales to the local metropolitan area's economy.

"It's a tremendous honor for Fifth Third Bank Broadway In Atlanta to be the local presenter of *The Lion King* at the iconic Fox Theatre," said Russ Belin, Vice President of Broadway In Atlanta. "We are delighted to be a part of the positive impact on the local economy. The countless memories created at the Fox Theatre through *The Lion King* for both old and new Broadway theatergoers are essential to our mission."

"We were thrilled to play Atlanta for a fourth time, where *The Lion King* has always been so warmly embraced," said Jack Eldon, Vice President, Domestic Touring and Regional Engagements, Disney Theatrical Productions. "We are overwhelmed by the enduring response to the show and thank the Atlanta community and our partners at Broadway in Atlanta for another sensational engagement."

The North American touring productions of *The Lion King* have been seen by more than 19 million theatergoers in over 70 cities throughout North America.

ABOUT THE LION KING

After 20 landmark years on Broadway, *The Lion King* continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals in the world. Since its premiere on November 13, 1997, 24 global productions have been seen by more than 90 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions (under the direction of Thomas Schumacher), *The Lion King* is the

only show in history to generate six productions worldwide running 15 or more years. Performed in eight different languages (Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), productions of *The Lion King* can currently be seen on Broadway, London's West End; Hamburg; Tokyo and Sapporo; Madrid; Scheveningen, Holland; and on tour across North America, for a total of eight productions running concurrently across the globe. Having played over 100 cities in 19 countries on every continent except Antarctica, *The Lion King*'s worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in box office history.

The Lion King won six 1998 Tony Awards®: Best Musical, Best Scenic Design (Richard Hudson), Best Costume Design (Julie Taymor), Best Lighting Design (Donald Holder), Best Choreography (Garth Fagan) and Best Direction of a Musical. *The Lion King* has also earned more than 70 major arts awards including the 1998 NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album, the 1999 Evening Standard Award for Theatrical Event of the Year and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design.

The show's director, costume designer and mask co-designer Julie Taymor continues to play an integral part in the show's ongoing success. The first woman to win a Tony Award for Direction of a Musical, Taymor has in recent years supervised new productions of the show around the world.

The Broadway score features Elton John and Tim Rice's music from *The Lion King* animated film along with three new songs by John and Rice; additional musical material by South African Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor and Hans Zimmer; and music from "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," an album inspired by the original music in the film, written by Lebo M, Mark Mancina and Hans Zimmer. The resulting sound of *The Lion King* is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa, ranging from the Academy Award®-winning song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" to the haunting ballad "Shadowland."

The book has been adapted by Roger Allers, who co-directed *The Lion King* animated feature, and Irene Mecchi, who co-wrote the film's screenplay. Other members of the creative team include: Michael Curry, who designed the masks and puppets with Taymor, Steve Canyon Kennedy (sound design), Michael Ward (hair and makeup design), John Stefaniuk (associate director), Marey Griffith (associate choreographer), Clement Ishmael (music supervisor) and Doc Zorthian (production supervisor). Anne Quart serves as co-producer.

For more information worldwide, visit LionKing.com.

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