



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL

# HELL'S KITCHEN

THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL FROM ALICIA KEYS

**INITIAL PRINCIPAL CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR  
NORTH AMERICAN TOUR LAUNCHING THIS FALL  
AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE IN CLEVELAND**

*Announcement highlighted by first look performance at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in Cleveland this morning*



Music & Lyrics by Grammy winner **ALICIA KEYS**  
Book by Pulitzer Prize finalist **KRISTOFFER DIAZ**  
Music Supervision by Emmy & Grammy winner **ADAM BLACKSTONE**  
Choreography by Tony Award nominee **CAMILLE A. BROWN**  
Directed by Tony Award nominee **MICHAEL GREIF**

**\*CRITIC'S PICK\*** "THRILLING FROM BEGINNING TO END, *HELL'S KITCHEN* STANDS OUT AS A RARE MUST-SEE!"-NEW YORK TIMES

**"A SPARKLING STORY WITH ICONIC MUSIC AND ABSOLUTE POWERHOUSE VOCALS. BEAUTIFUL AND HEARTBREAKING."** -VARIETY

**"ONE OF THE MOST EUPHORIC EXPERIENCES I'VE HAD IN A THEATER."** - LOS ANGELES TIMES

**"★★★★★! HELL'S KITCHEN IS A MARVEL! A LIVE-WIRE THEATRICAL ADAPTATION OF ALICIA KEYS' HIT LIST THAT BRINGS THE HOUSE DOWN."** - THE GUARDIAN

**★★★★ WITH IT'S VIVID DANCERS AND MAGNIFICENT SINGERS, THEY'VE COOKED UP A HECK OF A BLOCK PARTY!"** -TIME OUT NEW YORK

**"BELOVED, INSPIRING SONGS, POWERHOUSE VOICES, AND CHOREOGRAPHY THAT KNOCKS YOUR SOCKS OFF. HELL'S KITCHEN GRABS YOUR ATTENTION AND KEEPS YOU AMAZED, IT'S GORGEOUS TO BEHOLD!"** -AMSTERDAM NEWS

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AKW Productions, DML Productions, Mandy Hackett, The Sunshine Group, The Jacobs Family, Clara Wu Tsai, Score 3 Partners, No Guarantees Productions, Front Row Productions, Sharpton Swindal Productions, Grove Entertainment, John Gore Organization, Terria Joseph, James L. Nederlander, Candy Spelling, Universal Music Publishing, Independent Presenters Network, Della Pietra Spark Theatricals, TodayTix ARGU, Julie Yorn, Andy Nahas, Aaron Lustbader, and The Public Theater are thrilled to announce the first three principal cast members who will electrify stages across the country in *HELL'S KITCHEN*, the hit Broadway musical from 17-time Grammy Award winner **Alicia Keys**. The highly anticipated, multi-year North American tour will star **Maya Drake**, making her Broadway tour debut, as Ali, **Kennedy Caughell** as Jersey and **Roz White** as Miss Liza Jane. Additional principals and full ensemble casting will be announced at a later date.

The *HELL'S KITCHEN* tour will premiere with a three-week engagement at Playhouse Square **October 10 - November 1, 2025**, as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series. Tickets are on sale now and available at [playhousesquare.org](https://playhousesquare.org). The tour will visit more than 30 cities in its first year. For additional tour cities and ticket information, visit [hellskitchen.com](https://hellskitchen.com).

Today's casting announcement was highlighted with performances by the three actresses on the main stage at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame & Museum in Cleveland. An energetic crowd of media and museumgoers enjoyed being the first to hear Drake, Caughell and White perform the songs "Kaleidoscope," "Perfect Way to Die," and "No One," all of which are featured in *HELL'S KITCHEN*. Video of the performances and photos from the morning's event can be found [here](#).

**HELL'S KITCHEN** won the 2025 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theater Album. The musical, now in its second full year on Broadway, continues to play to rapturous audiences nightly at the Shubert Theatre in New York City.

Fans are encouraged to visit [hellskitchen.com](https://hellskitchen.com) to sign up for the email newsletter and be among the first to receive tour news and exclusive content.

Your journey begins with Ali, a 17-year-old girl full of fire, searching for freedom, passion, and her place in the world. Along the way, you'll meet the musical mentor who changes her life, her dynamic family, and the neighborhood that helps her grow. Relatable, raw, and refreshingly fun, **HELL'S KITCHEN** is a celebration of finding yourself, your purpose, and the people who lift you up.

More than watching a performance, this experience pulls you out of your seat and has you buzzing when you leave, wondering who to tell about it first. The music—a mix of Keys' greatest hits and new songs written exclusively for the show—is brought to life through exhilarating choreography. It's a soundtrack of rebellion, life, and love that speaks to you no matter where you're from, where you've been, or where you're going.

Feel the energy of this multi-award-winning musical and experience where dreams begin: **HELL'S KITCHEN!**

Hailed as a New York Times Critic's Pick that is, "thrilling from beginning to end – a rare must-see!" **HELL'S KITCHEN** is directed by four-time Tony Award nominee **Michael Greif** (*Rent*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *The Notebook*), with choreography by five-time Tony Award nominee **Camille A. Brown**, a book by Pulitzer Prize finalist **Kristoffer Diaz**, and the music of **Alicia Keys**.

The creative team for **HELL'S KITCHEN** includes Tony Award® nominee **Robert Brill** (Scenic Design), Tony Award® winner **Dede Ayite** (Costume Design), Tony Award® winner **Natasha Katz** (Lighting Design), Tony Award® winner **Gareth Owen** (Sound Design), Tony Award® nominee **Peter Nigrini** (Projection Design), **Mia Neal** (Hair and Wig Design), **Michael Clifton** (Makeup Design), **Monet** (Associate Director), **Ricky Tripp** (Associate Choreographer), and **Foresight Theatrical** (General Management). Casting by **Heidi Griffiths, CSA & Kate Murray, CSA**. The Production Stage Manager is **Veronica Aglow** and the Company Manager is **Deborah Barrigan**.

The music team of **HELL'S KITCHEN** includes orchestrations by Tony Award® winner **Tom Kitt** and Tony Award® nominee **Adam Blackstone**, arrangements by **Alicia Keys** and **Adam Blackstone**, music consulting by **Tom Kitt**. **Lily Ling** is the Associate Music Supervisor and **Emily Orr** is the Music Director for the tour.

**HELL'S KITCHEN** will launch its tour at Playhouse Square, playing the KeyBank State Theatre for 26 performances, October 10 – November 1, 2025, as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series. Show times are Tuesdays – Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 1:00 and 6:30 p.m. Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased online at [playhousesquare.org](https://playhousesquare.org) or by calling 216-241-6000. Groups of 10 or more are encouraged to call 216-640-8600.

## **HELL'S KITCHEN CAST**

**MAYA DRAKE** (*Ali*) is thrilled to make her professional debut in **HELL'S KITCHEN!** As a recent high school graduate, this is a dream come true! A Native of San Jose, California, Maya trained at the Children's Musical Theater San Jose, one of the nation's top youth theater programs. Some of her favorite roles include Leading Player (*Pippin*), as well as Esmeralda (*Hunchback of Notre Dame*). She received the Frank Frye Award for Singing from CMTSJ in 2024, as well as the Brian Alfred King Award for Acting in 2023. On screen, Drake guest starred on NBC's "Law & Order: SVU". Huge thanks to CMTSJ, Paradigm, and love to my family. @mayaadrake

**KENNEDY CAUGHELL** (*Jersey*) is thrilled to join **HELL'S KITCHEN!** A Broadway and voiceover artist with Oklahoma roots, Kennedy has captivated audiences nationwide with her powerhouse vocals and magnetic stage presence. She was most recently seen as Jenna in *Waitress*, and has starred in iconic roles such as Carole King in the national tour of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, Elphaba in *Wicked*, and Elsa in *Frozen*. Broadway credits include *Paradise Square*, *Beautiful*, and *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*. Kennedy made her Carnegie Hall debut in the leading role of *Super You*, returning just a month later to star in *Mozart: Her Story – The New Musical*. Other favorite regional credits: MTWichita, NLB, *9 to 5* at the Fulton (Judy), *Tick, Tick... Boom!* at the Kennedy Center (dir. Neil Patrick Harris), and *Great Comet* at PCLO (Sonya). On screen, she's appeared in "Law & Order: SVU", "Parked for Love", and "The Outlier". Beyond the stage, Kennedy is preparing to release her debut album *Just the Beginning*, and is a passionate educator, offering masterclasses and private coaching across the country. BFA in Music Theatre from Elon University. This performance is lovingly dedicated to her mother, who is the reason she's onstage today. Reps: DGRW / Schachter Entertainment | @KennedyCaughell | To God be the glory!

**ROZ WHITE** (*Miss Liza Jane*) is ecstatic to be a part of musical theatre history in the Broadway National Tour of **HELL'S KITCHEN**. Roz is celebrating 40 years as an arts professional and educator, with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Howard University and an M Ed. in Curriculum from Northcentral University. Recently, Roz made a box-office record setting turn as Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill* at Mosaic Theater Company in Washington, D.C. She won a Helen Hayes award for her role in *Bessie's Blues* at Studio Theatre. She received a Helen Hayes award nomination for her role in *Gee's Bend* at Metrostage. Roz is a graduate of the acclaimed Duke Ellington School of the Arts. Roz has performed as a featured vocalist with Yolanda Adams, Stevie Wonder, and more. She spent two years as Zelma Bullock in the Broadway National tour of *TINA – The Tina Turner Musical*. Other theatre credits include The National tour of *Dreamgirls*, and regional productions of *Once On This Island*, *Ain't Misbehavin'*, *Seven Guitars*, *Violet*, *Anne and Emmett*, *The Amen Corner*, and her self-penned cabarets *Pearl Bailey by Request* and *Roberta's First Take*. Roz starred as The Lady from the Road in Arizona Theatre Company's *Blues In The Night*. She made her feature film debut as a lead playing the role of Sybrina Fulton in the award-winning film "Veils – Requiem for Trayvon". Roz is a Mom to two brilliant sons- Anthony Jai and King Elijah. Roz is a member of the Alliance for New Music Theatre, D.I.V.A. Incorporated, and a 25-year member of Actor's Equity Association.

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Media assets available [HERE](#)

*Playhouse Square, the nation's premier home for touring Broadway, is a globally recognized arts district. A not-for-profit presenter and producer of performing arts experiences, Playhouse Square is a champion of arts education and the vitality of downtown Cleveland. It proudly serves as home to eight resident companies: The City Club of Cleveland, Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland International Film Festival, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance, DANCE Cleveland, Great Lakes Theater, and Tri-C JazzFest.*