



News Release

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Disney
THE LION KING
THE WORLD'S #1 MUSICAL

The Wait is Over!

**Disney's *The Lion King*
Triumphantly Returns to Cleveland in 2026!**

**Broadway's Award-Winning Best Musical to Play
4-Week Engagement at Playhouse Square
July 8 – August 2, 2026**

(Cleveland, Ohio) (Wednesday, October 21, 2025) By popular demand, Disney's *The Lion King* will return to Cleveland for the first time since October 2021. This four-week return engagement at Playhouse Square begins Wednesday, July 8, 2026 and plays through Sunday August 2, 2026. Opening night is set for Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. Individual tickets for *The Lion King* will go on sale to the general public on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.

Subscribers to the KeyBank Broadway Series will have the first opportunity to purchase tickets to the production. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Wednesday, February 11th, 2026. Reservations for groups of ten or more are now being accepted by calling 216-640-8600. For more information, visit playhousesquare.org. Additionally, Extra Magic Packages, which include an excellent seat in the theater and show merchandise, are also available.

The Lion King has been touring North America for more than 23 years, and during that time has welcomed over 25 million theatergoers, making it North America's longest-running and most-attended Broadway tour. Having

already played more than 10,000 performances in over 90 cities across North America, *The Lion King* now proudly returns to Cleveland at Playhouse Square.

ABOUT THE LION KING

Approaching 30 landmark years on Broadway, *The Lion King* continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals of all time. Since its premiere on November 13, 1997, 30 global productions have been seen by over 124 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Group, under the direction of **Andrew Flatt**, **Anne Quart**, and **Thomas Schumacher**, *The Lion King* has made theatrical history with two productions worldwide running 20 or more years and three others running 25 or more years.

Performed over its lifetime in nine different languages (English, Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), there are currently nine productions of *The Lion King* around the world: Broadway, London, Paris, Hamburg, Madrid, Tokyo, Toronto, Mexico City, and on tour across North America. *The Lion King* has played over 100 cities in 24 countries on every continent except Antarctica; its 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.

Director, costume designer and mask co-designer **Julie Taymor**, the first woman to win a Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical, remains actively involved in the show, launching new productions and maintaining the flagship Broadway production.

The Broadway score features **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**'s songs 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 Lebo M's rich choral numbers.

Elton John, Lebo M, and Hans Zimmer all collaborated on the 2019 version of the film, executive produced by Julie Taymor and Thomas Schumacher, which has gone onto extraordinary worldwide success.

The book has been adapted by **Roger Allers**, who co-directed the animated *The Lion King* 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), **Anthony Lyn** (associate director), **Marey Griffith** (associate choreographer), **Clement Ishmael** (music supervisor), **Lisa Dawn Cave** (production supervisor), **Thomas Schlenk** (general manager) and **ARC/Mark Brandon, CSA** (casting). **Anne Quart** serves as executive producer.

For more information worldwide, visit LionKing.com, www.facebook.com/thelionkingusa and www.instagram.com/thelionking.

The Cleveland engagement of **Disney's** *The Lion King* is presented by arrangement with Playhouse Square.

Disney's *The Lion King* is playing the KeyBank State Theatre at Playhouse Square for 32 performances, July 8 – August 2, 2026. Performances will occur Tuesdays through Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. There will also be 1:30 p.m. matinees on Thursday, July 9 and Thursday, July 30. For the full performance schedule, visit playhousesquare.org. Tickets will be available online at playhousesquare.org or by calling 216-241-6000. Group orders of 10 or more may be placed by calling 216-640-8600.

Follow @PlayhouseSquare on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#) and [X](#)

Media assets, including b-roll and production photos, available [here](#).

Tickets are available for purchase online at playhousesquare.org or by phone at 216-241-6000.

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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.