



News Release

1501 Euclid Avenue
Suite 200
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

216-771-4444
playhousesquare.org

Media Contact: Leigh Ann Andreani

Phone: 216-640-8651

E-mail: leigh.andreani@playhousesquare.org

Media assets available [here](#).

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Disney Theatrical Group and Playhouse Square Present A Sensory-Friendly Performance of



at Playhouse Square

August 1, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.

(Cleveland, Ohio) – Disney Theatrical Group and Playhouse Square are proud to offer a sensory-friendly performance of **Disney's *The Lion King*** on Saturday, August 1, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in the KeyBank State Theatre at Playhouse Square. Performed in a supportive and judgment-free environment, this performance will provide the opportunity for autistic individuals, as well as people with sensory processing disorders and other disabilities, to enjoy the shared experience of live theatre.

"Playhouse Square is thrilled to host a sensory-friendly performance of Disney's *The Lion King*. Creating an inclusive theater experience is at the heart of our mission, and we believe everyone deserves to experience the magic of live performance," said David Greene, Senior Vice President of Programming at Playhouse Square. "This initiative reflects our commitment to accessibility and the joy of sharing world-class theater with all members of our community."

This production is open to the public, but customary theater rules will be relaxed. Audience members can stand, move, talk, and make noise as needed, and the lobby will offer quiet spaces and activity areas for families. Guests are encouraged to bring their own sensory items, seat cushions, comfort objects, and extra support items to the theater to use during the performance.

Tickets for this sensory-friendly performance will be available beginning February 11, 2026, at 10 a.m. Individual tickets will be available at playhouse-square.org and by calling 216 -241- 6000. Orders for groups of 10 or more may be placed by calling 216-640-8600.

Ticket buyers are reminded that Playhouse Square is the only official retail ticket outlet for all performances at Playhouse Square. Ticket buyers who purchase tickets from a ticket broker or any third party should be aware that Playhouse Square is unable to reprint or replace lost or stolen tickets and is unable to contact patrons with information regarding time changes or other pertinent updates regarding the performance.

The Tony® award-winning Best Musical will play a 4-week return engagement at the Playhouse Square July 8, 2026, with performances playing through August 2, 2026.

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 eight productions of *The Lion King* around the world: Broadway, London, Paris, Hamburg, Madrid, Tokyo, 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), **David Kreppel** and **Sean Mayes** (music supervisors), **Lisa Dawn Cave** (production supervisor), **Thomas Schlenk** (general manager) and **ARC/Mark Brandon, CSA** (casting).

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

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.