



News Release

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November 12, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“STUNNING AND EMOTIONAL.” – *The New York Times, Critic’s Pick*

“SPELLBINDING ENTERTAINMENT.” – *Variety*

“★★★★ DAZZLING AND THRILLING.” – *Time Out New York*

“THE BEST NEW MUSICAL ON BROADWAY!” – *Theatermania*



**COMPLETE CASTING ANNOUNCED FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN TOUR OF
*WATER FOR ELEPHANTS***

TICKETS ON SALE NOVEMBER 12 FOR DATES AT PLAYHOUSE SQUARE

BOOK BY FOUR-TIME TONY AWARD® NOMINEE RICK ELICE

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY PIGPEN THEATRE CO.

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY SARA GRUEN

ORIGINAL DIRECTION BY TONY AWARD NOMINEE JESSICA STONE

(*New York, New York*) — NETworks Presentations is thrilled to announce casting for the North American Tour of the hit Broadway musical, **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**, with performances at Playhouse Square March 10 – 29, 2026, as part of the KeyBank Broadway Series. Tickets for these performances will go on sale to the public November 12, 2025, at 216-241-6000 and playhousesquare.org

The tour will be led by Zachary Keller (Jacob), Helen Krushinski (Marlena), Robert Tully (Mr. Jankowski), Connor Sullivan (August), Javier Garcia (Camel), Ruby Gibbs (Barbara), Grant Huneycutt (Wade), and Tyler West (Walter).

Additional ensemble includes Fran Alvarez Jara, Yves Artieres, Chris Carsten, Adam Fullick, Nancy Gutierrez, Ella Huestis, Sam Kellar-Long, ZaKeyia Lacey, Andrew Meier, Marina Mendoza, John Neurohr, Bradley Parrish, Carl Robinett, Summer Severin, Serafina Walker, and Yemie Woo.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS is based on the critically acclaimed and New York Times Bestselling novel by Sara Gruen. The Broadway musical has a book by four-time Tony Award® nominee Rick Elice (*Jersey Boys*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*), a soaring score by the acclaimed PigPen Theatre Co. (*The Tale of Despereaux*), with tour direction by Ryan Emmons, recreating the original direction by Tony Award nominee Jessica Stone (*Kimberly Akimbo*).

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS features circus design by Tony Award nominee Shana Carroll (*The 7 Fingers*), choreography by Tony Award nominees Jesse Robb (*Miss Saigon*) and Shana Carroll, scenic design by Drama Desk Award winner Takeshi Kata (*Clyde's*), costume design by David I. Reynoso (*Sleep No More*), lighting design by two-time Tony Award winner Bradley King (*Hadestown*), sound design by Tony Award nominee Walter Trarbach (*Spongebob Squarepants*), projections by two-time Tony Award nominee David Bengali (*Good Night, and Good Luck*), hair & makeup design by Luc Verschueren/Campbell Young Associates (*A Beautiful Noise*), puppet design by Ray Wetmore & JR Goodman, Camille Labarre (*Into the Woods*), puppet direction by Joshua Holden, music supervision and arrangements by Drama Desk Award winner Mary-Mitchell Campbell (*Some Like It Hot*) and Benedict Braxton-Smith (*Kristin Chenoweth: For the Girls*), orchestrations by Tony Award winner Daryl Waters (*New York, New York*), Benedict Braxton-Smith and August Eriksmoen, fight direction by Cha Ramos (*Jagged Little Pill*), associate circus designer by Antoine Boissereau, associate choreography by Paige Parkhill, and casting by The TRC Company, Claire Burke, CSA & Frankie Ramirez, CSA.

The **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** tour stage management team is led by production stage manager Kathleen Carragee and is supported by Stage Manager Maris Keller and Circus Stage Manager Stan Barile. The company management team is led by company manager Heather Moss with associate company manager Taylor Parris. The tour music director/conductor is Sarah Wilhelm Pool. Mimi Intagliata serves as the Executive Producer for the production.

After losing what matters most, a young man jumps a moving train unsure of where the road will take him and finds a new home with the remarkable crew of a traveling circus, and a life—and

love—beyond his wildest dreams. Seen through the eyes of his older self, his adventure becomes a poignant reminder that if you choose the ride, life can begin again at any age.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS had its world premiere in Atlanta on The Coca-Cola Stage at Alliance Theatre, running from June 7, 2023, through July 9, 2023. The critically acclaimed production had *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* raving, “**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** is a triumph! Truly dazzles.” **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** premiered on Broadway at the Imperial Theatre, running from March 20, 2024, through December 8, 2024. The production was a *New York Times* Critic’s Pick, with chief *NYT* theater critic Jesse Green describing the show as “Huge”, “Heart-filling”, and “Emotionally vivid.”

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS is part of the 2025-26 KeyBank Broadway Series at Playhouse Square and will play the Connor Palace for 24 performances, March 10 - 29, 2026. 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 on sale beginning November 12, 2025, and can be purchased online at playhousesquare.org or by calling 216-241-6000. Groups of 10 or more are encouraged to call 216-640-8600.

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For more information please visit: www.waterforelephantsthemusical.com

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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.