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It's Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!
\$1M ASF production of Disney's *Mary Poppins* EXTENDED to July 30th

Producing Artistic Director Geoffrey Sherman's Final Production.

MONTGOMERY, AL (June 10, 2017)

This summer is going to be supercalifragilisticexpialidocious at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival with **Disney and Cameron McIntosh's** smash Broadway hit ***Mary Poppins***, which due to demand has just been extended to July 30th. The production begins July 5, several weekend and matinee performances have already sold out. Tickets to ***Mary Poppins*** start at \$40 and may be obtained by calling **800.841.4273**, online at www.asf.net or by visiting the ASF box office located at 1 Festival Drive in the heart of Montgomery's beautiful Blount Cultural Park.

The Tony award-winning Broadway production of ***Mary Poppins*** ran for over six years and played for 2,619 performances. The acclaimed 1964 film was nominated for 13 Academy Awards and won five, including "Best Actress" for **Julie Andrews**, who performed in the title role.

Mary Poppins features original music by **Richard M. and Robert B. Sherman**, book by **Julian Fellowes** and new songs and additional music by **George Stiles** and **Anthony Drewe**. In the story, rambunctious siblings Jane and Michael have sent many a nanny packing before ***Mary Poppins*** arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family how to value each other again.

In the tradition of other ASF musicals such as *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, *Peter Pan* and *Disney's The Little Mermaid*, ***Mary Poppins*** features a large cast, a beautiful set and costumes that are created on-site, and a live pit orchestra. Characters will also fly throughout the theatre.

Mary Poppins features some of the most memorable songs sung on the stage or film including *Chim Chim Cher-ee*, *Jolly Holiday*, *A Spoonful of Sugar* and *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!*

ASF's producing artistic director **Geoffrey Sherman** will direct the elaborate \$1 million production, which will be his final production at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival as Producing Artistic Director. **Karen Azenberg**, who has directed or choreographed several ASF hit shows in

the past including *West Side Story*, *Cowgirls* and *Peter Pan* and the 2014 production of **Disney's *Mary Poppins***, will serve as choreographer. Azenberg is the artistic director of the Pioneer Theatre Company in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Alice Sherman returns to ASF in the title role of ***Mary Poppins***. Sherman has performed in several ASF productions this season including *Sherlock Holmes* and *The Mousetrap*, and debuted in the role of Poppins in the 2014 ASF production. **Bret Shuford**, who recently starred in the Cirque du Soleil's *Paramour* on Broadway, returns as the loveable chimney sweep, Bert (made famous in the 1964 film by Dick Van Dyke.)

Anna Colson (Saint James School, Montgomery, AL) and **Olivia Laine Scott** (Mowat Middle School, Panama City, FL) alternate the role of Jane Banks. **Steven H. Gorden** (Pike Road School, Pike Road, AL), **Noah Henninger** (Montgomery Christian School, Montgomery, AL) and **Charlie Hill** (Montgomery Academy, Montgomery, AL) alternate the role of Michael Banks.

Performing as the Banks parents are **David Schmittou** (George) and **Jean McCormick** (Winifred). Other principals in the cast include **Barbara Broughton** (Katy Nana/Bird Woman), **Paul Hebron** (Admiral Boom/Bank Chairman), **Toni Dibouno** (Mrs. Brill), and **Billy Sharpe** (Robertson Ay/Northbrook). **Janelle A. Robinson**, who is making her ASF debut, plays Miss Andrew/Mrs. Correy, roles she played in the Broadway production of *Disney's Mary Poppins*.

The ensemble will include **Jordan Betscher**, **Kyle Brand**, **Erin Chupinsky**, **Joey Dippel**, **Cameron Edris**, **Mark Andrew Garner**, **Leah Hassett**, **Hannah Jennens**, **Jeff Kuhr**, **Chris LeBeau**, **Mandy McDonell**, **John Peterson**, **Natalie J. Schaffer**, and **Fallon Schwurack**.

The orchestra includes Patrick Darby and Jocelyn Stovall on keyboards, Carol Franks and Rachel Nozny on flute/piccolo, Curtis Hollinger on clarinet/bass clarinet, Doug Bristol on trombone/euphonium, Carly Johnson and Bryan Reeves on trumpet/cornet/flugelhorn, Andy Martin on percussion and Kathryn Vittetoe on cello

Others on the artistic team include **James Bowen** (Assistant Director), **Joel Jones** (Musical Director), **Peter Hicks** (Set Design), Phil Monat (lighting design), **Brenda Van Der Wiel** (Costume Design) and **William Burns** (Sound Design). **Jen Nelson Lane** will serve as stage manager.

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as the State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton Blount's gift of a performing arts complex in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park. This program has been made possible from the National Endowment for the Arts.