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July 13, 2017

Disney's Mary Poppins EXTENDED to August 6th – FINAL EXTENSION

ASF Introduces a Sensory-Friendly Performance of Mary Poppins

August 2nd at 2 p.m.

Montgomery, AL – Sold out performances have resulted in an extension of *Disney's Mary Poppins* at the **Alabama Shakespeare Festival**. Originally scheduled for July 5th through July 23rd, the Broadway blockbuster musical has been extended through August 6th. This will be the final extension.

In addition to extending the run of the show, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival has announced a special "sensory-friendly" performance of *Disney's Mary Poppins* which will occur Wednesday, August 2nd at 2 p.m. The sensory-friendly performance features a friendly, supportive environment for families with a loved one with special needs, particularly those on the autism spectrum. Adaptations to the performance are slight, including: lower sound levels, elimination of potentially startling special effects and lighting, and house lights on at about 50%.

At this performance patrons can anticipate: relaxed house rules—patrons will be free to get up, move around, and leave whenever as needed; electronics (tablets, etc.) permitted for therapeutic uses, (no photography or videography, please!); volunteers scattered throughout the theater to assist and direct audience members as needed; quiet areas and activity areas in the lobby for taking a break; ear plugs available; along with staff and ushers on hand for any additional requested assistance. The sensory-friendly performance is made possible with the assistance of Theatre Development Fund's Autism Theatre Initiative who has served as an advisor, www.tdf.org/autism

Tickets to regular performance of *Mary Poppins* as well as the sensory-friendly performance 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.

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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.