

**"DIRTY DANCING – THE CLASSIC STORY ON STAGE"  
COMES TO THE KRAVIS CENTER JANUARY 3 - 8**



**2017 MARKS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TIMELESS CLASSIC**

**WEST PALM BEACH, FL (December 19, 2016)** Tickets are available now for the **Raymond F. Kravis Center of the Performing Arts** premiere of **Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On**. The staged production of the worldwide smash-hit film with live music will play at the Kravis Center **January 3 – 8**. 2017 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hit movie's premiere, with a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD release of the film scheduled for February 7, 2017.

"As I learned how many people watched the movie over and over and over," said Eleanor Bergstein, screenwriter of the film *Dirty Dancing* and book writer for the production, "I began to think that what they really wanted was to share more physically in the event, to step through the screen and be there while the story was happening. And if that was true, then its natural form was theatre – live audiences watching live bodies dancing and singing here and now in the present – on the log, on the bridge, on the dance floor and in the staff quarters at Kellerman's. Writing it for the stage, I was also able to add more Baby and Johnny scenes, more about the family, more songs I couldn't afford last time, and, best of all – more dancing. I have added 20 new original scenes, 36 numbers of live music and an eight piece band onstage, to invite the audience to come into Kellerman's and experience the story as a live event as it happens."

"*Dirty Dancing* is one of our most beloved and timeless properties," said Lionsgate Television COO Sandra Stern. "Its magic has enchanted audiences on film, television, DVD and digital platforms alike, and it remains a perennial best-seller in our film and television library. We're delighted to participate in the latest stage incarnation that will introduce *Dirty Dancing* to a whole new generation of fans, and we expect the stage play to prove yet again that nobody puts Baby in a corner."

The production's book is written by **Eleanor Bergstein** and the North American tour will be directed by **James Powell** with choreography by **Michele Lynch** based on the original choreography by **Kate Champion**.

**Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage** is an unprecedented live experience, exploding with heart-pounding music played live by an eight piece onstage band, passionate romance and sensational dancing. Seen by millions across the globe, this timeless love story features the hit songs "Hungry Eyes," "Hey Baby," "Do You Love Me?" and the heart-stopping "(I've Had) The Time Of My Life." London's Sunday Express says "This crowd-pleasing stage adaptation hits the jackpot!"

It's the summer of 1963, and 17-year-old Frances 'Baby' Houseman is on vacation in New York's Catskill Mountains with her older sister and parents. Mesmerized by the racy dance moves and pounding rhythms she discovers in the resort's staff quarters, Baby can't wait to be part of the scene, especially when she catches sight of Johnny Castle, the resort's sexy dance instructor. Passions ignite and Baby's life changes forever when she is thrown in to the deep end as Johnny's leading lady, both on-stage and off.

**Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage** began as an eight-week staged workshop in Manhattan in the fall of 2001. It was first performed at the Theatre Royal in Sydney, Australia in November 2004 before embarking upon a hugely successful tour of Australia and New Zealand. A new production opened at the Theater Neue Flora in Hamburg, Germany in March 2006 where it broke records for achieving the highest advance in European history.

The production began performances on London's West End in October 2006 with an £11 million advance and went on to become the longest running show in the history of the Aldwych Theatre. It closed in July 2011 in advance of a two-year UK national tour and then returned to London for a strictly limited season at the Piccadilly Theatre.

The show has gone on to perform across the world in markets as diverse as Utrecht, Holland, Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa. Most recently, it has been represented by a new UK tour (which launched March 2014 in Bristol), a German tour (which launched April 2014 in Berlin) and an Italian production (which launched October 2014 in Milan). The show returned to Australia with a new tour that premiered in late 2014 in honor of the stage production's 10th anniversary.

The North American tour of **Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story On Stage** is produced by Amber Jacobsen, NETworks Presentations LLC, Grove Entertainment and Col Joye in association with Lionsgate (NYSE: LGF), the premier next generation global content leader, and Magic Hour Productions. For more information, please visit <http://us.dirtydancingontour.com/>.

*Kravis On Broadway* is sponsored by Helene and Al Kaplan. **Dirty Dancing – The Classic Story on Stage** comes to the Kravis Center Tuesday, January 3 at 8 pm, Wednesday, January 4 at 2 pm and 8 pm, Thursday, January 5 at 8 pm, Friday, January 6 at 8 pm, Saturday, January 7 at 2 pm and 8 pm and Sunday, January 8 at 2 pm. Tickets start at \$27 and may be purchased at the Kravis Center Box Office located at

701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach, on-line at the Official Kravis Center website [www.kravis.org](http://www.kravis.org), or by calling the Box Office at 561-832-7469. For Group Sales, please call 561-651-4438 or 561-651-4304.

***Beyond the Stage:*** Come January 3 at 6:45 pm for a pre-performance talk by Steven Caras in the Cohen Pavilion.

**About the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts:  
*Celebrating 25 Seasons of Success, Thanks To The Community:***

This season, the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts celebrates a Quarter-Century on Stage. And while we celebrate our silver anniversary, we renew our commitment to the community to present the gold standard of excellence in the performing arts. Today, the Kravis Center is a thriving cultural complex, serving as the gateway to downtown West Palm Beach. Thanks to so many who have and continue to support the Center, it has become one of the premier performing arts centers with a renowned national and international reputation. The Kravis Center for is a not-for-profit performing arts center whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County by presenting a diverse schedule of national and international artists and companies of the highest quality; by offering comprehensive arts education programs; by providing a Palm Beach County home in which local and regional arts organizations can showcase their work; and by providing an economic catalyst and community leadership in West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to increase travel and tourism to Palm Beach County. The Kravis Center is located at 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach, FL. For more information, please call 561-832-7469 or visit the official website at <http://www.kravis.org/>.

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**For Photos:**

To download accompanying images or video from shows and performers during the 25th Anniversary Season, go to the Kravis Center's online pressroom at <http://pressroom.kravis.org>.

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**CREATIVE TEAM BIOS**

**Eleanor Bergstein** (Book) is a novelist, screenwriter, producer and director. Her stories have been published in national magazines, ranging from *Transatlantic Review* to *Redbook* and *Cosmopolitan*. Her first novel, *Advancing Paul Newman*, about women and politics in the 1960s, was published by the Viking Press, and her first movie script was *It's My Turn*, starring Jill Clayburgh and Michael Douglas. Her second novel, *Ex-Lover*, about sexual obsession, was published by Random House. She has worked on a variety of film projects, including the final script revision of *Sister Act*. She then wrote and directed *Let It Be Me*, which starred Campbell Scott, Jennifer Beals, Leslie Caron and Patrick Stewart. Her most famous project was one of the most successful independent films of all time, *Dirty Dancing*. It was the unique continuing response to the story over the years that made her decide to reimagine *Dirty Dancing* as a stage event.

The multiple viewings by audiences all over the world made her suspect that what the audiences really wanted was to be more physically involved in the story. This would mean that its ultimate form should be one that combined dance and story and music onstage in a new way. It was also her chance to add new scenes not in the movie, as well as songs she had wanted for the movie and been unable to obtain. Ms. Bergstein, through her company Magic Hour Productions, is at work on a new stage musical set in London in the late 1960s, a new work of fiction, and preparing a film to be shot in Rome as well as film to be shot in Slovenia.

**James Powell** (Director) was an actor for 12 years and was appearing in *Les Misérables* at London's Palace Theatre, when he was asked to take over the position of resident director in 1996. Since that time he has worked on a variety of productions and during that time he was staff director at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, assisting Jude Kelly on a number of projects including the Olivier Award-winning *Singin' in the Rain*, which transferred from Leeds to the Royal National Theatre in London. On returning to London he joined Cameron Mackintosh's production of *The Witches of Eastwick* at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane as resident director. He then went to Melbourne, Australia, to direct its first foreign production for Jacobsen Entertainments. James returned from Australia to take on the position of associate director on *Les Misérables* and oversaw the show's move from its home of many years, the Palace Theatre, to the Queen's Theatre on Shaftesbury Ave. He was also invited to direct a concert version of the show in Scandinavia and a full-scale production in Berlin. 2009 saw James working on Cameron's brand new production of *Les Misérables* which opened in Cardiff and toured the UK and which celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a show he was involved in originally as an actor and is now part of a new creative team. Whilst maintaining his position as associate director on *Les Misérables*, James also worked on Cameron's new presentation *Mary Poppins*, originally in Bristol and then in London's West End and on Broadway. In June 2008 he directed the UK tour of *Mary Poppins* and has since directed the production in Holland and been the associate of the Broadway production. James was delighted to renew his association with the Jacobsen Entertainment Group when they asked him to direct their production of *Dirty Dancing* in London's West End, a partnership that has seen him direct the show in Toronto, Utrecht, Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston and Berlin. In 2010, James directed the Australian production of *Mary Poppins* where it opened to great success in Melbourne. He has also co-directed *Les Misérables* in London, at the Barbican, a tour in the UK, a production in Madrid and on tour in the United States, culminating in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert of *Les Misérables* at the O2 Arena. In 2011, James worked on moving *Mary Poppins* to Sydney and later in the year he co-directed the international arena tour of *Batman* which opened in Manchester and moved to London and onward internationally. Over the last two years, James has worked on *Les Misérables* in Spain, the US, Australia and Japan. He recently returned from Toronto and this production of *Les Misérables* before he directed a production of *Half a Sixpence* at his old alma mater at Mountview Drama School in London.

**Michele Lynch** (Choreography) is thrilled to be a part of *Dirty Dancing*. She recently choreographed *Little Miss Sunshine* at Second Stage Theatre as well as *The Last Five Years* film. Choreography Broadway credits include *Everyday Rapture*, *The Coast of Utopia*, *Hairspray* (asst. choreo), *The Full Monty* (asst. choreo), and *Urinetown* (asst. choreo). She choreographed the national tours of *Little House on the Prairie* (also at Papermill Playhouse) and *Happy Days the Musical* (also at Goodspeed, receiving a Connecticut Critics Circle Award for her work). Off-Broadway she choreographed *Everyday Rapture* and *We the People* (Joe A. Calloway Award nomination). Other film credits include *Joyful Noise* (starring Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah) and *Camp*. For opera, her production of *Showboat* was seen at Chicago Lyric Opera, Washington National Opera, and Houston Grand Opera. Regional Theaters include Mark Taper Forum, Yale Repertory Theater, Riverside Theater, St. Louis MUNY, Capital Repertory Theater, Asolo Theater, Ford's Theater, Stamford Center for the Arts, North Carolina Theater, and Starlight Theater. She also choreographed Dolly Parton's *Better Day* World Tour.

**Kate Champion** (Original Choreography) is the Artistic Director and founder of the Sydney based dance-theatre company Force Majeure. She has also worked variously as a director/choreographer/performer for Sydney Theatre Company, DV8 Physical Theatre, Australian Dance Theatre, Opera Australia, Belvoir, Legs on the Wall, NIDA and The English National Opera. In 1996, Kate was awarded the Robert Helpmann Scholarship for Choreographic Excellence enabling her to create her first solo work *Face Value* which was awarded a Green Room and a MO Award. In 1997 she directed *Under the Influence* for Legs on the Wall, which premiered in Sydney and toured to the Edinburgh Fringe and Riverside Studios, London. In 2001 she created a new solo show *About Face* and in 2002 directed *Same, Same But*

*Different* for Force Majeure. Both these productions won Helpmann Awards. Kate choreographed the world premiere of the stage version of *Dirty Dancing*, which opened in Sydney November 2004 and has subsequently toured to Europe, UK and USA. Since 2005 Kate has directed *Already Elsewhere*, *Tenebrae 1 and 11*, *The Age I'm In, Not In A Million Years*, *Never Did Me Any Harm* (a co-production with Sydney Theatre Company) and *Food* (a co-production with Belvoir) for Force Majeure. In 2010 Kate choreographed the premier production of Opera Australia's *Bliss* which subsequently toured to the Edinburgh Festival and *Spring Awakening* for Sydney Theatre Company. Kate was Associate Director of Opera Australia's 2013 production of Wagner's *Ring Cycle*.

## **PRODUCER BIOS**

**Amber Jacobsen** worked for Jacobsen Entertainment as the head of touring and executive producer from 1997 to 2009 in Australia. She was responsible for the research, procurement and presentation of many concerts for artists including Elton John, Barbra Streisand, Bruce Springsteen, the Bee Gees, Shania Twain, Pearl Jam and Usher as well as being executive producer for theatre and arena productions such as *Fame – The Musical*, *SHOUT!*, *The Man From Snowy River* and *Long Way to the Top*. Amber was the executive producer for the first production of *Dirty Dancing* in Australia and has executive produced and subsequently produced all productions thereafter.

**NETworks Presentations LLC**, founded in 1995, has continued to grow and expand to become one of the largest producing organizations of touring Broadway musicals in North America and remains committed to delivering quality entertainment to audiences around the world. Its extensive and diverse list of touring productions include: Cameron Mackintosh's The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Production of *Les Misérables* and the spectacular new production of *The Phantom of the Opera*; The National Theatre of Great Britain's production of *War Horse*; Queen and Ben Elton's *We Will Rock You*; Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; *Blue Man Group* national tour; The Lincoln Center Theater productions of *The Light in the Piazza* and *Rodgers & Hammerstein's South Pacific*, as well as *Cinderella* starring Eartha Kitt and Deborah Gibson, *Seussical*, *Annie*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Rent*, *The Producers*, *Hairspray*, *Spring Awakening*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Billy Elliot the Musical*, *Elf the Musical*, *Dirty Dancing* and many others.

**GROVE ENTERTAINMENT** (*Producer*) is a production company dedicated to developing, producing and presenting new work. Helmed by producer Beth Williams, the Grove partners include producers Mindy and Bob Rich, Jeremiah J. Harris, Darren P. DeVerna and Allan Williams. Current and upcoming productions include *Tuck Everlasting*, *On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio and Gloria Estefan*, *The Blonde Streak*, *Bull Durham*, the tours of *The Sound of Music*, *Dirty Dancing* and *An Act of God* starring Sean Hayes. Grove has also presented *Harry Connick, Jr. in Concert* at Avery Fisher Hall. Projects in development include a new play based on the life of Oscar Levant starring Sean Hayes, a new musical by Ryan Scott Oliver and the recently announced new musical featuring the songs of Jimmy Buffett. Prior to founding Grove, Ms. Williams helped launch Key Brand Entertainment in the United States and was the CEO – Theater Division for Broadway Across America.

**Col Joye** has had No. 1 hits, recorded 15 Top 10 albums and was the first inductee into the Australian Hall of Fame (ARIA). He has numerous platinum and gold albums and hundreds of awards and toured extensively throughout Australia. Col was awarded an Order of Australia (AM) for his contribution to music and charity on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II. Col was chosen to run with the Olympic Torch for the Sydney Olympics' and recently received his own postage stamp. Col has been a producer of every production of *Dirty Dancing* worldwide.

**Magic Hour Productions** was founded by Eleanor Bergstein in 1994 to develop and produce works by herself and others for print, film, and stage. Magic Hour Productions has been involved in the development and production of the stage musical of *Dirty Dancing* since its inception, including the first staged workshop in New York in 2001. Currently, Magic Hour Productions is working to bring *Dirty Dancing* to new territories around the world, including Greece and Japan. In addition to *Dirty Dancing*, Magic Hour Productions is developing a new musical by Ms. Bergstein set in late 1960s London, a film to be shot in Rome, and a romantic comedy film to be shot in Slovenia. Magic Hour's team includes Tomoko Minami, who has worked with Ms. Bergstein since 2001, and Robin Nahas. The company is based in New York City.

**Lionsgate** is a leading global entertainment company with a strong and diversified presence in motion picture production and distribution, television programming and syndication, home entertainment, family entertainment, digital distribution, new channel platforms and international distribution and sales. Lionsgate currently has 34 television shows on 22 networks spanning its primetime production, distribution and syndication businesses, including such critically-acclaimed hits as the multiple Emmy Award-winning *Mad Men* and *Nurse Jackie*, the comedy *Anger Management*, the network series *Nashville*, the syndication success *The Wendy Williams Show* and the critically-acclaimed series *Orange is the New Black*. Its feature film business has been fueled by such recent successes as the blockbuster first two installments of *The Hunger Games* franchise, *The Hunger Games* and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, the first installment of the *Divergent* franchise, *Now You See Me*, *Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain*, *Warm Bodies*, *The Expendables 2*, *The Possession*, *Sinister*, Roadside Attractions' *Mud* and Pantelion Films' breakout hit *Instructions Not Included*, the highest-grossing Spanish-language film ever released in the U.S. Lionsgate's home entertainment business is an industry leader in box office-to-DVD and box office-to-VOD revenue conversion rate. Lionsgate handles a prestigious and prolific library of approximately 15,000 motion picture and television titles that is an important source of recurring revenue and serves as the foundation for the growth of the Company's core businesses. The Lionsgate and Summit brands remain synonymous with original, daring, quality entertainment in markets around the world. [www.lionsgate.com](http://www.lionsgate.com)

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