



BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS

2022 SEASON
PERFORMANCE
GUIDE

Kinky Boots

WELCOME TO THE BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS 2022 SEASON

It has been two long years since we have been able to gather like today to watch musical magic unfold on the stage of the UC Davis Health Pavilion. Thank you for being here to share in this moment in our 70+ year history in Sacramento.

For those of you that are new to this place and/or this art form, here are the ingredients that go into what you're about to experience:

It begins with Broadway's most popular stories, told in spoken word, song, and dance. Each and every one of them – from the silliest to the most serious – was written to help us better understand ourselves and one another, and celebrate our common humanity.

Our storytellers are our actors and musicians, all of whom have trained for years to become the best that Broadway has to offer. Some are our neighbors, but many have traveled from far and wide to perform for you today.

Those on stage will be visually transformed thanks to the efforts of our costume, hair & makeup, and wardrobe teams. Every piece of clothing and wig worn has been skillfully sewn and styled to both compliment the player and articulate the essence of their character.

This theatre will also be transformed with scenery, properties, lights, projections, automation, and sound, all expertly designed to transport you from a hot summer's day in Midtown Sacramento to another (and hopefully cooler!) place and time.

Most importantly: All of the above elements have been carefully crafted and combined to be shared IN PERSON and TOGETHER. You – your laughter, tears, and applause - are the final ingredient that will make today's performance one I hope you remember and cherish for years to come.

SCOTT KLIER

PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/COO

BROADWAY AT MUSIC CIRCUS THROUGH THE YEARS

- 1949** Actor St. John Terrell sets up a summer stock theatre under a giant round tent in Lambertville, New Jersey. Drawing inspiration from the layout of Greek amphitheaters and the summer fun of the circus, Terrell's idea is a success and more than 40 others pop up across the country in the next decade.
- 1951** With the support of arts patron and newspaper owner Eleanor McClatchy, producers Russell Lewis and Howard Young establish the Sacramento Music Circus by setting up a tent in the parking lot of the Sacramento Civic Repertory Theatre. It is the first professional theatre-in-the-round to the west of the Mississippi River, and the fourth in the country.
- 1953** Lewis and Young found the Sacramento Light Opera Association to continue producing shows in the area. Sacramento Music Circus continues to be a successful summer tradition, gaining a notable reputation in the theatre community.
- 1989** The Broadway Series is introduced as a winter companion to the summer shows, bringing national tours of Broadway musicals and plays to Sacramento every year.
- 2003** The Wells Fargo Pavilion opens on the site of the original Sacramento Music Circus tent, providing a state-of-the-art, permanent, fully air-conditioned facility for all future shows.
- 2018** The company name changes to Broadway Sacramento, with the respective touring and summer seasons being named Broadway On Tour and Broadway At Music Circus.
- 2020** As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Broadway At Music Circus stage is dark all summer long for the first time.
- 2022** Broadway At Music Circus returns to Sacramento for its 70th season in the newly named UC Davis Health Pavilion!

BEFORE THE SHOW BEGINS, A FEW QUICK REMINDERS:

- Make sure you find your seat before the show starts! Actors will enter using the aisles, so it is important to be seated when the lights go down to keep everyone safe. If you need to leave for any reason, the ushers in the hallway will let you know when it's okay to enter again.
- Please keep your cell phone silenced and put away during the show. You are welcome to use it before or after, but the bright screens and noises can be distracting for everyone else at the theatre. Using your phone to take pictures or video is also not allowed.
- Please refrain from talking during the show, as it can be a distraction to the actors and the people around you.
- Feel free to laugh, cheer and applaud! The actors love hearing that you're enjoying the show.



JUNE 14-19

MUSIC by
Harvey Fierstein
BOOK & LYRICS by
Cyndi Lauper

◆ THE STORY ◆

When his father unexpectedly passes away, young businessman Charlie Price reluctantly takes over his family's struggling shoe factory. A chance meeting with a fabulous drag queen named Lola leaves him with the idea that might save the business: create a line of designer boots for drag queens that combine fashion and sex appeal with a firm heel that can support a man's weight. Charlie and Lola decide to team up and debut their new line of "kinky boots" at an upcoming fashion show in Milan. Still, their friends and coworkers must quickly learn to accept others as they are and embrace their own unique identities if they want their new venture to succeed.

◆ THE CHARACTERS ◆

CHARLIE: A young man trying to save his family's shoe business

LOLA/SIMON: A fabulous drag queen with unshakeable confidence

LAUREN: A young shoe factory worker who teams up with Charlie

NICOLA: Charlie's goal-oriented fiancée who works in real estate

DON: A gruff, masculine factory worker who clashes with Lola

GEORGE : The straight-laced factory manager

PAT: The shoe factory's office manager

THE ANGELS: Lola's ensemble of drag performers

MAKING THE SHOW

THE JOURNEY FROM REAL LIFE STORY TO BROADWAY

In 1993, Steve Pateman was in trouble. The English businessman had become the managing director of WJ Brookes, his family's shoe factory in Northampton, but business had taken a turn for the worse. It seemed as though the only option was to close the factory until he received a call asking if they could produce women's boots in men's sizes.

Pateman seized the opportunity to tap into this niche market, and the factory began producing a line of specialty boots with reinforced heels under the name "Divine Footwear." The new product proved to be a success and breathed new life into the struggling company. The business saw such a turnaround that, in 1999, the BBC documentary show *Trouble at the Top* aired an episode about WJ Brookes' risky business venture and how it had paid off. In the episode, they dubbed the company "the Kinky Boots Factory."



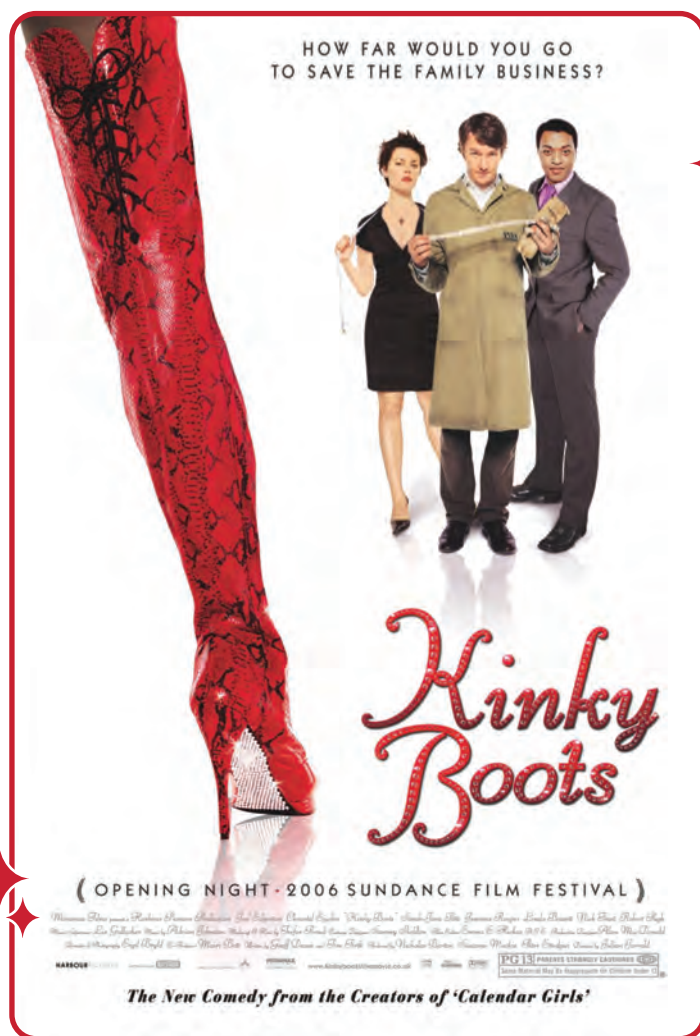
Stark Sands and Billy Porter in **KINKY BOOTS**

WJ Brookes finally closed its doors in 2000 due to increased competition from rival businesses, but that was hardly the end of the Kinky Boots Factory. Film producers Suzanne Mackie and Nick Barton had seen the documentary and thought it could be the basis for an exciting feature film. This idea led to the 2005 film *Kinky Boots*, starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Joel Edgerton, which presented a fictional version of Pateman's story.

Theatre producer Daryl Roth saw the film at the Sundance Film Festival in early 2006 and quickly recruited producer Hal Luftig and director/choreographer Jerry Mitchell to adapt the story into an uplifting musical. Actor/playwright Harvey Fierstein was brought on board to write the show's book because of his experience in the world of drag queens, and pop singer Cyndi

Laufer's catchy melodies and passion for writing songs about underdogs made her an ideal composer.

After a workshop in October 2011 and an out-of-town tryout in Chicago in the fall of 2012, **KINKY BOOTS** opened on Broadway at the Al Hirschfeld Theatre on April 3, 2013. It went on to win six Tony Awards®, including Best Musical, and played for over 2,500 performances before closing in April of 2019.



Poster for the original 2005 film *Kinky Boots*.

The musical's inspirational story and catchy songs struck a chord with the rest of the world, too—a US national tour ran for nearly three years, the London production won three Olivier Awards, and there have been productions in South Korea, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Poland, and Germany. This Broadway At Music Circus production marks the in-the-round debut of **KINKY BOOTS!**

CELEBRATED & ELEVATED

TONY-NOMINATED FEMALE COMPOSERS

The Tony Awards are widely considered the highest honor awarded in American theatre. When Cyndi Lauper won the Tony Award for Best Original Score in 2013 for her work in **KINKY BOOTS**, she became the first woman to win the award solo. To date, she is only one of seven to win and one of four to do so without a male writing partner. Check out these other notable women who have been recognized with Tony Award nominations for their songs:



Cyndi Lauper accepting her 2013 Tony Award for Best Original Score.



LYNN AHRENS

(ONCE ON THIS ISLAND*, RAGTIME**)



KRISTEN ANDERSON-LOPEZ

(FROZEN*)



SARA BAREILLES

(WAITRESS*, SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS*)



NELL BENJAMIN

(LEGALLY BLONDE*, MEAN GIRLS*)



BETTY COMDEN

(HALLELUJAH, BABY!**,
ON THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**,
A DOLL'S LIFE*, WILL ROGERS FOLLIES**)



ANN DUQUESNAY

(BRING IN DA NOISE, BRING IN DA FUNK*)



DOROTHY FIELDS

(SWEET CHARITY*, SEESAW*)



LISA KRON

(FUN HOME**)



LISA LAMBERT

(THE DROWSY CHAPERONE**)



ANAIS MITCHELL

(HADESTOWN**)



DOLLY PARTON

(9 TO 5*)



JEANINE TESORI

(TWELFTH NIGHT*, CAROLINE, OR CHANGE*,
THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE*,
SHREK THE MUSICAL*,
FUN HOME**)

*Tony Award Nominee

**Tony Award Winner

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING IN THE WORLD

DESIGN YOUR STYLISH PAIR OF BOOTS!



◆ THINK ABOUT IT ◆

- Read more about Steve Pateman's story with the WJ Brookes shoe factory and watch the movie *Kinky Boots*. How has this story changed with each adaptation? How has it stayed the same? Why do you think the creators chose to make the changes they did?
- Charlie and Lola both struggle to overcome the expectations that their families place on them. Have you ever had a dream or goal that conflicted with what someone else wanted you to do? How did you respond?
- Step Six of Lola's plan says, "You change the world when you change your mind." Think of a time that you changed the way you thought about something. How did that impact you?
- Working with Lola and the Angels encourages Charlie and the Price & Son factory workers to celebrate their individuality with pride. What parts of yourself are you proud of?



UC DAVIS HEALTH PAVILION

SPECIAL THANKS TO



This guide was developed by Mason Diab, Caleb Larrosa-Colombo, and Jackie Vanderbeck. Special thanks to Griff Field, Matt Hessburg, Scott Klier, Gina Smith, Dejan Zivkovic, and YOU, audience members, for joining us at Broadway At Music Circus this summer!