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MEDIA RELEASE

Skylight Music Theatre Announces Stars and Design Team for Tony Award-winning *La Cage Aux Folles (The Birdcage)*

Musical to Feature Milwaukee Favorites Ray Jivoff and Norman Moses

Project Runway's Chris March Returns as Costume Designer

***Performances November 18 – December 23, 2016 in the beautiful Cabot Theatre
One Day Sale for 25% Off Tickets Monday, July 18***

Milwaukee, Wis. (June 28, 2016) — Skylight Music Theatre today announced the lead performers and creative team for the Tony Award-winning musical *La Cage Aux Folles (The Birdcage)*. Skylight's production runs November 18 through December 23 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

On Monday, July 18 there will be a special one-day sale offering 25% off single tickets to *La Cage Aux Folles*. Tickets can be purchased online at www.skylightmusictheatre.org, over the phone at (414) 291-7800 or in person at the Broadway Theatre Center using the promo code BIRDCAGE25.

La Cage Aux Folles is based on the play of the same name by Jean Poiret with a book by Tony Award-winner Harvey Fierstein (*Newsies*, *Kinky Boots*) and music and lyrics by Tony Award-winner Jerry Herman, composer of Broadway hits *Hello, Dolly!* and *Mame*.

Skylight announced two of Milwaukee's favorite actors, Ray Jivoff and Norman Moses, will star in the show, and Chris March, the *Project Runway* designer who wowed audiences with his costumes for Skylight's 2015 production of *My Fair Lady*, will design costumes.

John de los Santos, who has worked for such companies as the Kennedy Center, Dallas Opera, Fort Worth Opera and Arizona Opera, will make his Skylight debut as director and choreographer. Returning to

Skylight will be Shari Rhoads as music director, Liliana Duque Piñeiro as scenic designer, and Noele Stollmack as lighting designer.

La Cage Aux Folles is the comedic and heartfelt story of Georges, the owner of a drag nightclub, and Albin, his partner and the star attraction. After 20 years of unwedded bliss, the couple prepares to meet the straight-laced parents of the fiancée of Georges' son. It is a hilarious night of complications, chaos and a tender triumph of love.

"*La Cage* is really a piece about loving each other and embracing who you are," said de los Santos. "Most of all, it is a story of family — in every sense of the word. In many ways, it is a classic, glitzy, old-style Broadway musical."

Skylight Favorites Jivoff and Moses

Jivoff will mark his 25th show at Skylight playing Albin in *La Cage Aux Folles*. He first performed at Skylight in 1990 and since then has appeared in such productions as *The Producers*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Into the Woods*. Jivoff was Skylight's first education director and started its education program in 1999. He is currently Skylight's interim artistic director.

Moses, who will play Georges, was most recently seen at Skylight as Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady* (2015), and previously in *The Music Man*, *White Christmas* and *I Do, I Do*, among many others. He first started working at Skylight during high school and has gone on to perform extensively at Skylight and other local companies such as the Milwaukee Repertory Theater and Milwaukee Chamber Theatre.

The two actors have appeared together before, including a string of Marx Brothers' shows with Jivoff as Harpo and Moses as Groucho in *Animal Crackers*, *Cocoanuts* and *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*.

Project Runway Designer Returns to Skylight

March, an acclaimed fashion and costume designer, was a breakout star on Bravo TV's *Project Runway* (Season 4) and *Project Runway All-Star Challenge* and lists among his clients Meryl Streep, Madonna, Cirque du Soleil, Prince, and Beyoncé. His show-stopping costumes and hats for Skylight's *My Fair Lady* (2015) were called "exquisitely lavish" and "whimsically outrageous." March received Drama Desk Award nominations for his costuming work in 2002 and 2012.

This is the first time Skylight Music Theatre will present *La Cage Aux Folles*. The original Broadway production opened in 1983 and won six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and went on to win Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Musical for its 2004 and 2010 Broadway productions. The 1996 film, *The Birdcage*, starring Robin Williams and Nathan Lane, is also based on Poiret's play, *La Cage Aux Folles*.

Skylight Music Theatre announced the following members of the *La Cage Aux Folles'* design team:

Creative Team

Stage Director/ChoreographerJohn de los Santos
Music Director Shari Rhoads
Assistant Music Director Paul Helm
Scenic Designer Liliana Duque Piñeiro
Costume Designer Chris March
Lighting Designer Noele Stollmack
Assistant Costume Designer Kara Waala

Skylight Music Theatre announced the following cast members for *La Cage Aux Folles*:

Cast

Albin Ray Jivoff*
Georges Norman Moses*

*Member of Actors Equity Association

Performance Information

Performances of *La Cage Aux Folles* are Friday, November 18 through Friday, December 23 in the Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway in the Historic Third Ward of Milwaukee.

Tickets & Box Office

Tickets are \$25 - \$75 (plus tax and fees) and can be purchased in person at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office or by calling (414) 291-7800, Monday – Saturday, noon - 5 p.m., (6 p.m. beginning Monday, August 8) and two hours prior to each performance. Tickets may be purchased online at www.skylightmusictheatre.org. Group discounts are available for parties of 10 or more. Call the Box Office (414) 291-7800 or email info@skylightmusictheatre.org

One Day Sale

Monday, July 18 is a one-day sale for 25% off single tickets to *La Cage Aux Folles*. Offer good on A & B level tickets. Call (414) 291-7800 or visit 158 N. Broadway from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or visit www.skylightmusictheatre.org from 10 a.m. – 11:59 p.m. Promo code: BIRDCAGE25. Offer only valid July 18. Not valid on previously purchased tickets.

About Skylight Music Theatre

Skylight Music Theatre's mission since 1959: To bring the full spectrum of music theatre works to a wide and diverse audience in celebration of the musical and theatrical arts and their reflection of the human condition. Skylight presents productions "Skylight Style" – bringing fresh approaches or interesting twists to music theatre works, creating meaningful connections, not only between the characters on stage but with the audience as well. The beautiful, intimate Cabot Theatre allows audiences to feel close to the powerful emotions on stage.