



Sholten Singer/The Herald-Dispatch A packed house watches on as the Marshall Artist Series presents Disney's "Beauty & The Beast" on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at the the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center in downtown Huntington.

The Herald-Dispatch

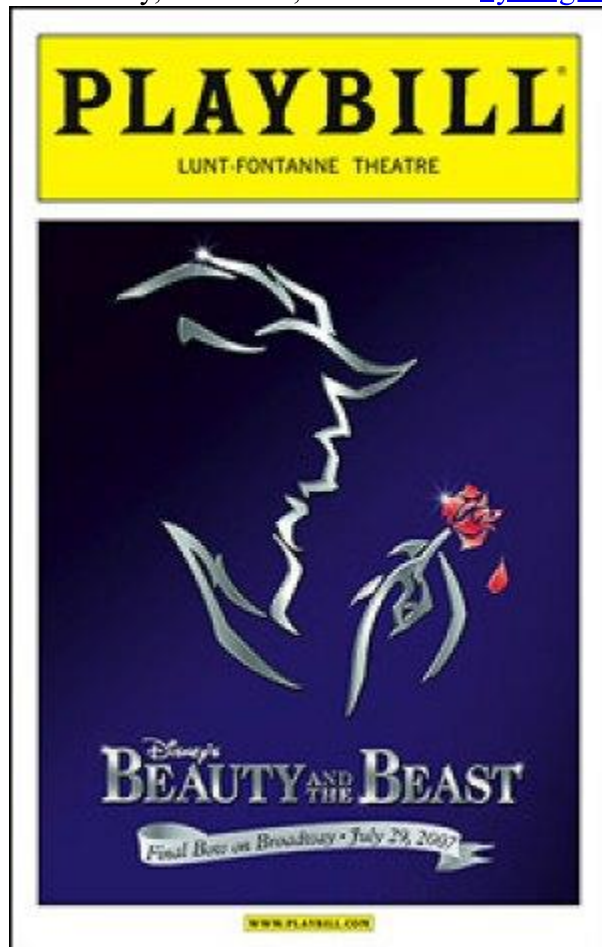


Sholten Singer/The Herald-Dispatch Jillian Butterfield plays "Belle" as the Marshall Artist Series presents Disney's "Beauty & The Beast" on Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at the the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center in downtown Huntington.

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HUNTINGTON, WV- The beloved animated feature film, *Beauty and the Beast*, takes to the Broadway stage once again in what will prove to be a true Disney classic. The musical will make its debut at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 @ 7:30 pm. Bringing to life the unforgettable characters and lavish scenery of the film, *Beauty and the Beast* is sure to take patrons on a trip down memory lane.

The romantic tale detailed in this musical is well known –the classic story of Belle, a young woman, and the Beast who is really a young prince trapped in a spell. The key to the Beast's freedom lie in his ability to love and be loved. Time doesn't seem to be on his side, however, as he desperately tries to make a change.

Origins of this classic story date to French novelist Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont's traditional fairy tale *Belle et la Bête*, which was created in 1756. This particular rendition, however, is based on the Academy Award-winning animated feature film. And to date this eye-popping spectacle has won millions of hearts worldwide. The musical is filled with timeless characters, extravagant sets and costumes, and dazzling production numbers including "Be Our Guest," and of course, the beloved title song, "Beauty and the Beast." Honest emotions and captivating drama provide the backdrop for these iconic songs and the cartoonish roots of the original film are utilized throughout.

Celebrating 20 years since its Broadway premiere, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* is a global sensation that has been seen by more than 35 million fans worldwide in 22 countries and in nine different languages. The production opened February 2010 in Providence, Rhode Island and has been seen by 2.5 million people while playing over 1,000 shows in all 50 United States and eight Canadian provinces. Today, there are four other productions playing internationally including one in Paris, tours in Japan and Germany, and a new tour that will stop in more than 12 countries in two years.

For this new touring production, the original creators of the 1994 Broadway production have reunited. The musical is choreographed by Matt West and directed by Rob Roth, with costume design by Ann Hould-Ward, Tony Award-winner for her work on Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Scenic design is by Stanley A. Meyer, lighting design is by four-time Tony Award-winner Natasha Katz, and sound design by John Petrafesa Jr. Music for the production is supervised by Michael Kosarin and lyrics are provided by Howard Ashman.

From song to dance and everything in between, *Beauty and the Beast's* Broadway musical is a can't miss. The State Press exclaims, "'Be Our Guest' encapsulated the Disney magic of the show. The high-spirited performance ended with 350 feet of streamers releasing into the audience, which girls dressed up as Belle, every millennial's favorite Disney princess, happily ran up to retrieve. It was easily the most unforgettable moment of the night."

Tickets for *Beauty and the Beast* are \$93.95/77.90/67.20/60.78. To see this classic animated feature film come to life on the Keith Albee Stage contact the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at 304-696-6656. Or order tickets online at Ticketmaster.com You may also visit our box office located in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on the Marshall University campus. Box office hours are Monday through Friday 12 p.m.-5 p.m.

Beauty and the Beast is sponsored by J.H. Fletcher, Jeff & Amber Biederman, Kendall York Dentistry, W. Va. Electric, African-American Students Programs @ MU, Dutch Miller Kia, Rick & Susan Stoler, KEE 100, Oldies 97.1, WSAZ, The Herald Dispatch, Marshall University, and The Marshall Artists Series.
