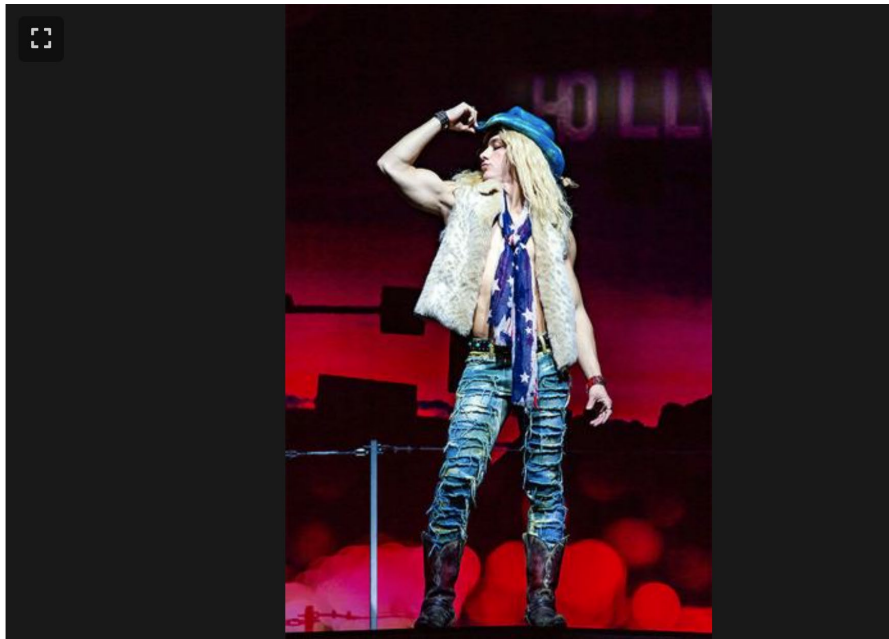


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## Broadway musical 'Rock of Ages' comes to Keith-Albee

By DEREK HALSEY For The Herald-Dispatch Apr 6, 2019



Courtesy of Jeremy Daniel Rock of Ages – The Tenth Anniversary Tour is coming to the Huntington Tuesday, April 9.  
Jeremy Daniel ([www.jeremydanielphoto.com](http://www.jeremydanielphoto.com))

The music and big hair of the 1980s is being celebrated these days by a generation now in their 30s, 40s and 50s. It was a time of oncoming technology and a post-classic rock, post-disco musical world that consisted of New Wave and big beat power rock.

The latter 1980s glam metal sounds are now celebrated in the acclaimed Broadway musical "Rock of Ages." The show debuted in New York City in 2009, garnering five Tony Award nominations and running for an amazing 2,300 performances.

Now, a decade later, "Rock of Ages - The Tenth Anniversary Tour" is coming to Huntington next Tuesday evening as the final event for the Marshall Artist Series 2018-19 season.

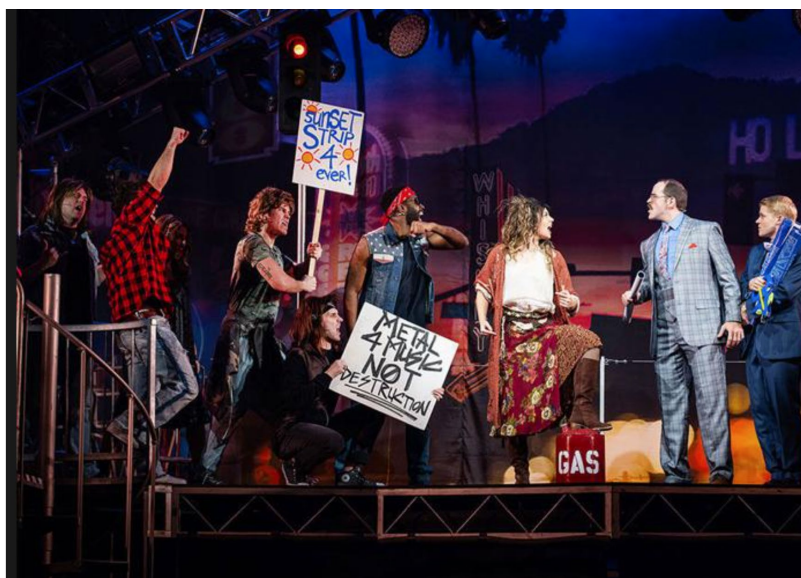
"Rock of Ages - The Tenth Anniversary Tour" will take place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. Tickets range from \$54 to \$80. More information can be found at [marshall.edu/muartistseries](http://marshall.edu/muartistseries) or by calling 304-696-3326.

The official synopsis of the "Rock of Ages" musical is the following; "In 1987 on the Sunset Strip, a small town girl met a big city rocker and in LA's most famous rock club, they fell in love to the greatest songs of the 80s." It is known as a jukebox musical, and it brings the above story to life with the music of popular 1980s arena rock and hair bands such as Poison, Whitesnake, Styx, Twisted Sister, Bon Jovi, Pat Benatar, Journey, Starship, Foreigner, Quiet Riot, REO Speedwagon and more."

Not only was the show a hit on Broadway, the 2011 movie version of Rock of Ages featured stars such as Tom Cruise, Russell Brand, Mary J. Blige, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Paul Giamatti.

As for the "Rock of Ages The Tenth Anniversary Tour," a brand new group of talented actors, dancers and singers has been cast, bringing a fresh take on this classic production. As always, a live band propels the well-known 1980s rock music onstage. It is also a fun night for the audience as that there are times in the show when the actors and singers break through the '4th wall' of the stage and acknowledge the crowd and interact with them and bring them into the musical fun.

Kristina Walz plays the part of Regina in "Rock of Ages The Tenth Anniversary Tour." She is a 2017 graduate Magna Cum Laude of Montclair State College, located in her native New Jersey. There, she achieved a Bachelors in Fine Arts degree in Musical Theatre.



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Since graduation, Walz has been performing nearly non-stop. She did impressive stints in summer theatre at the Forestburgh Playhouse in upstate New York and the Millbrook Playhouse in central Pennsylvania. Then, she lived in Germany for three months while performing on a German cruise ship that sailed the Indian Ocean.

Walz big break came, however, came when she won the part of Regina in this nationally-touring production of "Rock of Ages The Tenth Anniversary Tour," which began last September. She is known in the business as a triple threat, as in she can act, dance and sing.

"I auditioned for Rock Of Ages in New York City and it was a huge cattle call with hundreds of actors," said Kristina Walz. "I didn't hear anything back until about two months later. I kind of just forgot about it, thinking that, 'It didn't work out, so I have to move on.' So, I kept going to auditions almost every day during audition season, which is from January to April. But, the creative team called me back and two days later the show's producer called me and said, 'Hey Kristina, we want you to be one of the lead characters.' I said, 'Really? You don't want me to be in the ensemble or like Tree Number 1?' It was a great day. It was fantastic."

As a city girl, Walz has been able to see much of the rest of the continent while on this tour, from Canada to Wisconsin to Florida and all parts in-between.

"I had a great audition, but sometimes you can have a really good audition and not hear anything back, for whatever reason, so I just chucked it to the wind," said Walz. "But when they called me back, it was like, 'This is for real. This is serious. Let's do it.' As the character Regina, I get to sing a solo in the song 'We Built This City On Rock and Roll,' then I sing, 'We're Not Gonna Take It,' and the last song that I sing on, with others, is 'Hit Me With Your Best Shot.' I am definitely familiar with this music as I am an old soul and my parents are from that era. Plus, being from New Jersey, Bon Jovi is one of my favorite artists and I went to a concert on his Have A Nice Day Tour with my parents when I was younger."

Walz and the rest of the "Rock of Ages The Tenth Anniversary Tour" crew is coming to Huntington while having some the best times of their lives.

"I couldn't ask for anything better than to be a part of putting this show onstage every day, because the crowd loves it, and how could they not?" said Walz. "For me, the most exciting part onstage is either the opening or the finale'. The opening song is 'Come On, Feel The Noise,' and that is obviously a powerhouse song that gets them going. But, when the finale' starts and I hear the opening piano notes from the song 'Don't Stop Believin',' that is the most exciting part. I don't get nervous anymore with this group. Anything can happen with this show and I am totally comfortable. We've had people call in sick and we've had to re-block the show, yet we all know the show so well right now and we all know each other so well right now, that we can handle anything that happens."



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