Setting the stage for 40 seasons



Celebrating its 40th season, **Stages St. Louis** continues to bring Broadway-caliber productions to local audiences with an experience that's both intimate and unforgettable. This summer, the company's production of Guys and Dolls takes the stage July 24 through Aug. 23 at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center, followed this fall by Come From Away.

Company member John Flack knows the experience well. Since making his debut with the theater in 1991, he has appeared in more than 70 productions and considers Stages his artistic home.

"What makes it really exciting is the size of the venue," Flack said. "It's about the same size as a small Broadway house."

Unlike larger touring venues that seat several thousand people, the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center offers an experience much closer to what audiences would find on Broadway.

"You can really read the facial expressions of the actors," Flack said. "It offers a more authentic Broadway-type experience."

That experience includes a blend of outstanding local performers and artists from New York, Chicago and other cities, along with professional designers who create the productions' costumes, scenery and lighting.

This summer's classic musical Guys and Dolls promises memorable songs, dancing and a timeless story. Flack plays Arvide Abernathy, whose heartfelt second-act ballad encourages his granddaughter Sarah Brown to open her heart.

"The story is timeless," Flack said. "It always speaks to every generation."

Flack promises a tremendous amount of talent in the cast.

"The dancing and the singing is absolutely magnificent," Flack said. "It's a very sweet story and a lot of fun for audiences of all ages."

Stages

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