



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BROADWAY STARS HELP LOCAL TALENT SHOWCASE THEIR
BROADWAY DREAMS IN SPECIAL CONCERT**

Acclaimed Summer Performing Arts Intensive Will Culminate with July 24 Performance

OMAHA, NEBRASKA – July 16, 2010 – Some of the area's finest young talent will join Broadway's best entertainers in *Don't Stop Believing*, a one night only Broadway concert at the Holland Performing Arts Center, Saturday, July 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, starting at \$15, are on sale through Ticket Omaha, online at TicketOmaha.com, by phone at 402-345-0606 or in person at the Ticket Omaha Box Office inside the Holland Center, 13th and Douglas streets.

Omaha Performing Arts has partnered with The Broadway Dreams Foundation (BDF), a national non-profit performing arts training program that teaches America's youth how to kick start their careers. BDF provides aspiring actors the opportunity to work with and learn from Broadway professionals and to better understand the musical theatre industry from the audition, through rehearsal and to the opening night performance.

The concert will showcase the results of a weeklong intensive series of workshops July 19-25 presented by the Broadway Dreams Foundation. Ninety students, including a dozen or so from out of state successfully auditioned for a place in the workshops. They will receive training in acting, dance and vocal performance by savvy Broadway veterans who will share their invaluable insider knowledge on the skills needed to make it in show business. They'll also have the opportunity to audition for national talent scouts. All will be cast in *Don't Stop Believing* where about two dozen will have featured roles with the Broadway professionals.

Norfolk, Nebraska native Tanner Pflueger, who has appeared as the lead in *Billy Elliot* in London and on Broadway will be a featured performer in *Don't Stop Believing* and will dance a solo from *Billy Elliot*.

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Among the Broadway performers and BDF workshop faculty featured in *Don't Stop Believing* are:

- Shoshana Bean, who portrayed Elphaba in *Wicked* on Broadway and on tour. She will perform "Defying Gravity" from *Wicked*, "My Funny Valentine" from *Babes In Arms*, and will be joined by students for "Aquarius"/"Let the Sun Shine In" from *Hair*. Bean also will be featured with Paul Cannan, BDF artistic director, and twenty students for "Steal Your Rock n' Roll" from *Memphis*.
- Jarrod Emick, Tony® Award winner from *Damn Yankees* and roles in *The Rocky Horror Show* and *The Boy from Oz*, will be featured in "I've Been Everywhere" from *The Ring of Fire*. Emick, a native of Oral, South Dakota also will perform a medley from *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, with Sarah Darling, singer/recording artist and native of Des Moines, Iowa and thirty-four BDF students. Darling has toured with *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, was in the first national tour of *Jersey Boys*, and portrayed Maria in the 50th anniversary production of *West Side Story*. Emick and Darling also will be featured in "She Loves to Hear the Music" from *The Boy from Oz*.
- James Kinney, BDF choreographer, who appeared in the original Broadway production of *Fosse* and the 2005 revival of *Sweet Charity*, will be featured in "Puttin' On the Ritz" by Irving Berlin; "New York State of Mind" by Billy Joel and "A New World" from *Songs for a New World*.
- Jeremy Schonfeld, singer/composer/lyricist and BDF Board Member and Musical Director for Broadway Dreams will perform "Anything," a song he composed. A current project includes development of a new musical inspired by Schonfeld's song "Greta" from his album "37 Notebooks."
- Carlos Encinias, who appeared on Broadway in *Les Miserables* and *Mamma Mia!* will be featured in "Tonight"/"Somewhere" from *West Side Story*.
- Paul Caanan, BDF Artistic Director, who appeared in *Legally Blonde*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *La Cage Aux Folles* will join Carlos for "Up the Ladder to the Roof" from *Everyday Rapture*."

The students performing July 24 will experience the full impact of a Broadway show as they appear in costume, under stage lights and before a live audience. They will have attended an intensive week of classes that will include perfecting auditioning skills, vocal coaching, pop styling, song selections and several will have successfully auditioned for a featured role in the show. They'll also see firsthand the dedication and talent required to pull off a show of this magnitude in just four short days.

With the success of wildly popular television shows like "Glee" and blockbuster films like *Hairspray* and *Fame*, the world of musical theater is more popular than ever, according to BDF Executive Director Annette Tanner.

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“Our students undergo amazing transformations during this workshop,” Tanner explains. “Many of our students have gone on to perform in regional, national and Broadway productions including *Disney’s The Lion King* and *Spring Awakening* as a direct result of the connections they have made with BDF.”

In late April BDF held “Triple Threat Extreme,” a full day of workshops in acting, vocal performance and theatre dance in Omaha Performing Arts’ Cassling Education Center. These workshops were attended by more than 100 people.

In addition to Omaha, BDF has brought its unique program to Philadelphia, Atlanta, Chicago, Las Vegas, and San Diego. In 2010, BDF will travel to more than one dozen cities. Over one thousand students have participated in the BDF program and some have gone on to star on Broadway, pursue careers in the arts or attend prestigious theatre programs in universities throughout the United States. For more information on The Broadway Dreams Foundation, please visit www.mybroadwaydreams.com

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NEWS CONTACTS PLEASE NOTE:

Broadway Dreams Foundation faculty for the workshops is available for interviews next week - during the week of the intensive workshops. A limited number of press tickets also are available for this special one-time only concert production. Please call Rosalee Roberts (402-203-6851 to arrange an interview, to request photos of the faculty or to arrange for tickets for the concert.

ABOUT OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS

Omaha Performing Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing world-class performances to the Omaha metropolitan area. The organization manages two landmark venues, the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater – the former, which includes the acoustically acclaimed Kiewit Concert Hall and Scott Recital Hall and the latter, which includes Slosburg Hall, a proscenium theater. Omaha Performing Arts also manages Ticket Omaha, provider of comprehensive ticketing services for arts within the region.

Omaha Performing Arts’ commitment to the arts extends into its own series, Omaha Performing Arts *Presents*, as well as education and community involvement programs that help ensure the arts have a far-reaching impact. In partnership with Broadway Across America, Omaha Performing Arts also brings the finest in touring Broadway productions to Omaha. Omaha Performing Arts performances are supported in part by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Omaha and the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund.

ABOUT BROADWAY DREAMS FOUNDATION

The Broadway Dreams Foundation (BDF) is a non-profit organization founded to bring talented individuals closer to realizing their Broadway dream. It is the premiere performing arts training program in the country with a faculty made up of today’s biggest Broadway stars, casting directors, choreographers and agents dedicated to giving back to the theatrical community. Broadway Dreams Foundation provides valuable training to anyone who aspires to a career in musical theater. The programs are varied and exciting and the faculty passionate and knowledgeable. Former students are currently performing in Broadway shows and are attending the very best musical theater programs throughout the country.

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