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## THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING MAGICAL

*The landmark musical event **THE LION KING** begins rehearsals  
January 10<sup>th</sup> 2011 at Marina Bay Sands*

**Singapore January 10, 2011** – Disney Theatrical Group and Marina Bay Sands, together with BASE Entertainment, are proud to announce that rehearsals start for **THE LION KING** production today. The key creators, producers and cast from Broadway and London's West End are in town to bring **THE LION KING** to glorious life in Singapore.

The rehearsals are just the beginning of a process for building this 'new' production from the ground up for Singapore. This production of **THE LION KING** marks an unprecedented commitment to Singapore by partners Disney Theatrical Group and Marina Bay Sands, together with BASE Entertainment: a lavish Broadway musical budgeted and designed for a long run and developed specifically for Singapore and the Sands Theater at Marina Bay Sands.

Key creators and producers present at this first day of rehearsal to welcome the cast and crew to Singapore include John Stefanuik, the Associate Director who will work with the cast to realize Julie Taymor's vision while Marey Griffith, the Associate Director who will bring Garth Fagan's Tony Award-winning dances to life and Clement Ishmael will work with the singers and musicians to join the diverse styles of composers and lyricists Elton John, Tim Rice, Lebo M, to name a few, on stage in the orchestra pit.

The cast for the Singapore production has been selected and is comprised of the cream of **THE LION KING** performers from around the world, including veterans of the acclaimed

London and Paris productions. The cast of 49 hails from 8 countries and 5 continents and, as in virtually every company of **THE LION KING**, this cast includes South African members, in keeping with the show's spirit of authenticity.

On stage, Director **Julie Taymor's** creative vision blends elements of African art and Broadway artisanship to depict anthropomorphic animal characters. The sardonic and deviously cunning "Scar" is played by **Patrick Brown**. **Jean Luc Guizonne** is "Mufasa", the great warrior and ruler of the Pridelands. **Gugwana Dlamini** is the wise baboon shaman "Rafiki". **Lyall Ramsden** plays the prim and proper horn billed bird "Zazu". **Pierre van Heerden** is the carefree warthog "Pumbaa" and **Jamie McGregor** is the wisecracking meerkat "Timon". Mufasa's son, Simba, the lion prince born to be king is played by **Jonathan Andrew Hume** and **Puleng March** is the loyal lioness "Nala". The three evil hyenas are played by **Lavina Williams**, **Simon Gwala** and **Michael Bagg**. The role of "Young Simba" is alternated between **Lance Reblando**, **Leon Matawaran** and **Warren David Saga** and the role of "Young Nala" is alternated between **Christina De Leon**, **Mica Torre** and **Nikki Samonte**.

This production of **THE LION KING**, brought into Singapore by BASE Entertainment, has been developed specifically for the region and the Sands Theater at Marina Bay Sands while maintaining the original Broadway quality standards, spectacular music, beautiful sets, dance and intricate costumes that have made it a worldwide phenomenon.

Marina Bay Sands President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Thomas Arasi said, "We have all been looking forward to the arrival of the cast and the production team of this world class show and extend a warm welcome to the entire crew. We have built a wonderful theater with the best technology to provide the best entertainment experience for our guests. We are certain when the Sands Theater curtain is raised in March, **THE LION KING** will surpass our guests' expectations and raise the bar for the entertainment scene in Singapore and the region."

Milan Rokic, Vice President and Managing Director of BASE ENTERTAINMENT Asia, said, "Enthusiasm for the arrival of **THE LION KING** to Singapore has been tremendous. The show has an outstanding reputation throughout the entertainment industry and we anticipate a strong demand for show in Singapore from locals and visitors alike."

Now in its 14th year, **THE LION KING** has wowed audiences around the world, including New York, London, Hamburg, a North American tour, Tokyo, Las Vegas. Singapore now joins these leading cities when the show premieres in March this year.

**THE LION KING** took the world by storm as a ground-breaking animated film in 1994 and was then transformed into a spectacular theatrical experience by acclaimed director Julie Taymor, in November 1997, winning over 70 major international theater awards including the Tony Award® for 'Best Musical'. At its heart is the powerful and moving story of Simba - the epic adventure of his journey from wide-eyed cub to his destined role as King of the Pridelands.



**THE LION KING**'s presenting sponsor is OCBC Bank, while MediaCorp TV 5 is the Official TV Station, and Showbiz Asia is the official packaging partner; Singapore airlines is official airline, and it's proudly supported by the Singapore Tourism Board.

### TICKETING INFORMATION

Day/Times	PLATINUM	A Reserve	B Reserve	C Reserve	D Reserve	E Reserve
Tues - Frid: 8pm	\$240	\$185	\$165	\$125	\$85	\$65
Sat - Sun: 2pm & 8pm						

*Booking Fee of SGD\$3 applies per ticket*

#### Group Rates

Groups of 20+           8% discount  
Groups of 100+        10% discount  
Groups of 500+        15% discount

#### BOOKINGS

Website: [www.thelionking.com.sg](http://www.thelionking.com.sg)  
SISTIC Hotline +65 6348 5555  
All SISTIC authorized agent

#### MEDIA CONTACT

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## **ABOUT THE LION KING**

**THE LION KING** continues to reign as one of the most popular shows on Broadway and around the world. The global phenomenon can also be seen on stage across North America and in Las Vegas, London, Hamburg and Tokyo. Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, **THE LION KING** is the eighth longest-running musical in Broadway history and one of only five musical productions in theatre history to play for ten years or more on both Broadway and the West End.

**THE LION KING** has been seen by more than 50 million people in 13 different countries and translated into five different languages (Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch).

**THE LION KING** has won more than 70 major awards worldwide, including the 1998 Tony Award® and NY Drama Critics Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album, and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design. **Julie Taymor** was the first woman in theatrical history to win the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical. She is also the winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Best Costume Design.

Taymor, along with designer **Michael Curry**, has created hundreds of masks and puppets for **THE LION KING**. Scenic design is by **Richard Hudson**; costume design is by **Julie Taymor**; lighting design is by **Donald Holder**. Choreography is by **Garth Fagan**. The book has been adapted by **Roger Allers**, who co-directed the animated feature and **Irene Mecchi**, who co-wrote the film's screenplay.

The Broadway score features **Elton John** and **Tim Rice's** music from *The Lion King* animated film along with three new songs by **John** and **Rice**; additional musical material by South African **Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor** and **Hans Zimmer**; and music from "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," an album inspired by the original music in the film, written by **Lebo M, Mark Mancina** and **Hans Zimmer**. The resulting sound of **THE LION KING** is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa, ranging from the Academy® Award-winning song "Can You Feel The Love Tonight" to the haunting ballad "Shadowlands."

## **ABOUT BASE ENTERTAINMENT**

BASE Entertainment specializes in the development, production, programming and management of live entertainment properties and theatre operations. BASE develops, produces and manages intellectual properties which reach audiences through various platforms, including live, digital, broadcast and licensing. BASE Entertainment founders include Brian Becker and Scott Zeiger, who have 45 years combined experience in the live entertainment industry. The company has offices in Singapore, New York, Las Vegas, and Houston.

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## **ABOUT MARINA BAY SANDS**

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants, a casino, Paiza Club for premium players and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theaters showcase a range of leading entertainment acts and will include our resident performance, "The Lion King". Completing the line-up of attractions is the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which will play host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com).

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