



KANSAS CITY REPERTORY THEATRE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR TICKETS: Box Office at
816.235.2700 or www.KCRep.org.

**Celebrated Latin American Actor Mauricio Martínez
to star as *Che* in Kansas City Repertory Theatre's
EVITA**

*September 9 through October 2
at Spencer Theatre*

Kansas City, MO (September 2, 2016) – Kansas City Repertory Theatre is happy to announce that celebrated Latin American film, television, and music star Mauricio will play the iconic role of Che in the musical *Evita*, directed by KC Rep Artistic Director Eric Rosen.

Not only does this mark his debut with the Kansas City Repertory Theatre, the role also marks Martinez's theatrical debut in the United States. Martinez is a well-known across Latin America as a leading performer on stage, film, and television. In Mexico City, his resume includes lead roles in productions of *Beauty & The Beast*, *Saturday Night Fever*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Sweet Charity*; premiere Spanish versions of Off Broadway's *The Last 5 Years*, *Songs from an Unmade Bed*, *A View from the Bridge*, and *Toyer*.

In film and television, Martinez stars in the upcoming *The Curse of the Mayans*, Lanzcyner Films

Kansas City Repertory Theatre Opens 2016-17 Season with *EVITA*

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(premieres worldwide winter 2016; Martinez also wrote and performs the theme song); "El Vato" (series, NBC Universo), "Señora Acero 2" (Telemundo in USA), "Bailando Por Un Sueño" (Mexico's 'Dancing with the Stars'); numerous telenovelas aired across the Americas and in the United States on Univision; "CLAP", "La Mujer del Vendaval", and "Atrévete A Soñar".

Martinez is also a musical artist, recording Latin Pop albums that are available in iTunes worldwide. He has his debut solo concert in New York City's Metropolitan Room later this fall, and is launching his third solo album.

"We could not be more excited to collaborate with Mauricio," says the production's director and the company's Artistic Director Eric Rosen. "Our production of EVITA is unique in many ways, reflecting on the charged current political environment in our own country by examining Argentina's past. To have an internationally celebrated Mexican actor of Mauricio's stature lead our production brings a unique perspective to the role, to the production, and to our audience."

MARIAND TORRES TO MAKE BROADWAY DEBUT; JENNY ASHMAN TO JOIN COMPANY SEPTEMBER 20

In addition to Mauricio joining the EVITA cast, the Rep announced today that Mariand Torres, playing the role of Eva Peron, has just announced her Broadway debut in the production of *In Transit*, a new musical which begins previews November 10th at Broadway's Circle in the Square.

With this exciting news, Mariand will be joining the *In Transit* cast for rehearsals in September, and will perform in EVITA through September 18th. She will be replaced by celebrated actress Jenny Ashman, who recently played the role of Eva Peron in Opera North's production to rave reviews.

"Mariand was my first thought when casting EVITA, and our collaboration has been extraordinary," Rosen commented. "I'm so excited that we will open our production with Mariand, and that Jenny Ashman, an actor I have long admired, will be with us to take over the role for the final two weeks of the run. We couldn't be more proud when Rep actors have the opportunity to open a Broadway show, and are delighted that Ms. Ashman will be joining the company."

Review highlights from Ashman's recent performance as Eva Peron:

"Jenny Ashman gave dimension to Eva, beginning as hard as nails, becoming exalted, then more human in her decline. Her singing was brilliant, coupled with passion and, finally, with intimacy."

-The Barre Montpelier Times

"Jenny Ashman is regal and imperious, even as the young Maria Eva Duarte, who finds a way to escape her small-town life and get to the Argentine capital, where she became an actress and a radio host. Her voice conveys the young Evita's warmth and desire, but never lacks for steel."

-Valley News

To learn more about Jenny Ashman, visit her website or Twitter page:

<http://www.jennyashman.com/>

<https://twitter.com/jennyashman>

For more information on Mauricio Martínez, check out his social media presence or website below:

Twitter @martinezmau

[Facebook.com/MauricioMartinezOficial](https://www.facebook.com/MauricioMartinezOficial)

www.mauriciomartinez.com.mx

KC Rep Show Information:

Evita begins Sept. 9 and runs through Oct. 2, at KC Rep’s mainstage Spencer Theatre, located on the UMKC campus. Travel back to the times of revered Argentine icon, Eva Peron. The Tony Award-winning rock opera with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice uses playful storytelling to explore serious social topics. This iconic musical telling of the rise of Peronism in Argentina explores the dynamics of populism explored through the dynamic and extraordinary rise of a political icon, and how her legacy shapes South American politics sixty years later.

“During this extraordinary election cycle, our production of EVITA examines the present by exploring the not-too-distant past of post WWII South American politics. The revolution of Peronism has remarkable resonance with the events of this political season, from the force of populism, nationalism, and the impact of income inequality to the rise of powerful women and political outsiders. The darker truth of populism and its historical relationship to fascism underpins the show and our production,” says Rosen.

Press night is scheduled for Opening Night Friday, September 16.

Subscriptions and Tickets

Tickets to *Evita* start at \$25. For 2016-17 season subscription and ticket information, please contact the Box Office at 816.235.2700 or visit www.KCRep.org.

About Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre, one of the nation's oldest and most respected regional theaters, is the center of a great theatre town. KC Rep produces theatrical excellence, creating and sharing stories at the center of our nation's creative crossroads. KC Rep's mission is to advance the art form while cultivating passionate audiences, artists, and advocates to invest in our region's creative future. We build community by connecting people through productions and outreach that educate, entertain, challenge and inspire. Lauded by *The Wall Street Journal*, *TIME* magazine, *Variety* and *The Toronto Sun*, KC Rep produces mainstage plays and special events at Spencer Theatre, where it serves as the professional theatre in residence at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC), and Copaken Stage located in downtown Kansas City. KC Rep employs more than 250 professional artists, technicians and administrators, and serves more than 100,000 patrons and 12,000 school children annually. Kansas City Repertory Theatre is led by Artistic Director Eric Rosen and Executive Director Angela Lee Gieras.

Social and Digital Media

Receive daily updates by 'Liking' KCREP's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KCREP and follow KC Rep on Twitter at @KCREP or on YouTube by visiting <https://www.youtube.com/user/kansascityrep>. High resolution photos can be downloaded [here](#). B-roll is available upon request.

2016-2017 Season At A Glance

Kansas City Repertory Theatre

Kansas City Repertory Theatre ticket office 816.235.2700

Purchase tickets online at www.kcrep.org.

Evita

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Directed by Eric Rosen

Spencer Theatre

September 9 – October 2, 2016

There's no shortage of theatrics in U.S. politics but if you're looking to escape the drama of our election year, come travel back to the times of Argentine political leader Eva Peron. With music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, this rock opera explores the role of women in politics, the power of populism and the romantic rags-to-riches story of Evita's life and charity work. Playful storytelling tempers the serious subject matter, turning this classic show into a celebration of one politician's ability to connect with people and the issues that mattered most.

The Invisible Hand

Kansas City premiere

Written by Ayad Akhtar

Directed by Jerry Genochio

Copaken Stage

October 14 – November 13, 2016

Forget what you know about global terrorism and human nature, and prepare for a new perspective that's equally frightening and enlightening. Like a game of chess, two captors and their American hostage maneuver through life in a holding cell, where the hostage tries to negotiate his way out using stock market secrets. This intense show reveals the complicated truth behind our simple perceptions of good versus evil, as we discover the invisible hand that moves the global market and shifts the power to those you least want to have it.

The Fabulous Fitches

Kansas City premiere

Book by Robert Cary & Benjamin Feldman

Music by David Gursky

Lyrics by Robert Cary

Directed by Scott Schwartz

Spencer Theatre
January 27 – February 19, 2017

KC Rep is proud to present the premiere of the largest theatrical production in our history. Laugh your way through this 1930s screwball musical comedy with a modern-day spin. A colorful cast of characters jockey for position in the wealthy, glamorous but highly eccentric Fitch family, triggering a cavalcade of mishaps and mix-ups that explore gender roles, race, sexuality and relationships of every kind. Kansas City audiences will help shape this new Broadway bound musical and become forever part of its DNA. You are cordially invited to come be among the first to meet THE FABULOUS FITCHES!

Constellations

Kansas City premiere
Written by Nick Payne
Directed by Eric Rosen
Copaken Stage
February 24 – March 26, 2017

If you could hit rewind on a relationship, you might discover the nuances of choice and destiny, and how the two intersect. This spellbinding, heartbreaking love story removes the boundaries of time and space, delving into the infinite possibilities of a couple's relationship to reveal how the slightest change in conversation might send you down an entirely different path. The scene re-sets again and again, in a fascinating look at love and life from one parallel universe to the next.

A Raisin in the Sun

Written by Lorraine Hansberry
Co-Directed by Chip Miller and Marissa Wolf

Spencer Theatre
March 17 – April 9, 2017

The classic story of the Younger family remains universally relevant and deeply relatable more than 60 years after it first hit Broadway. In pursuit of the American Dream, this dynamic African American family wrestles with the push to assimilate into a white Chicago neighborhood, and the pull of their cultural roots. These opposing forces both unite and divide the family, as each grapples with the social issues that challenge their identity – and the personal choices that will determine their future.

Origin KC New Works Festival

Copaken Stage
April 28 – May 28, 2017
Curated by Marissa Wolf, Director of New Works

What Would Crazy Horse Do?

A World Premiere

Written by Larissa FastHorse

Director TBD

KC Rep proudly presents the world premiere of a new play by preeminent Native American writer Larissa FastHorse. Twin siblings, the last members of their tribe, have just lost their grandfather when the KKK comes knocking with hopes of forming an alliance to ensure the continuation of their race. A chilling look at the notion of racial purity, this story reveals the challenges contemporary Native Americans face when fighting extinction in a world that seems to have already forgotten they exist. The siblings attempt to find their voices in the outside world, while preserving the heritage that is now theirs alone to carry forward.

Man in Love

A World Premiere

Written by Christina Anderson

Directed by Marissa Wolf

In a segregated Depression-era city, rent parties rage above, while men hungry for work and love roam the streets. A string of murders occurs but no one suspects the killer is the quiet, charming librarian, Paul Pare Jr. Reactions vary across the city, and as we watch the word spread from person to person, we wonder if the killer's violence will extend to those closest to him. Written by Kansas City native Christina Anderson the story examines a world where a criminal and his victims can get lost in the crowd.

KC REP'S GREAT HOLIDAY CLASSICS RETURN!

A Christmas Carol

Based on the book by Charles Dickens

Adapted by Barbara Fields

Directed by Jerry Genochio

Spencer Theatre

November 18– December 24, 2016

Kansas City's favorite holiday tradition is back for its 36th season, presented in the magnificent new Spencer Theatre! A ripping good telling of the classic story of Ebenezer Scrooge, the curmudgeonly businessman who requires the intervention of a few spectral guides to understand the true meaning of Christmas and life. Complete with lively musical numbers, ornate costumes, and dashing stagecraft, Dickens' classic tale of hope and redemption continues to remind us what's really worth celebrating - at the holidays, or any time!

The Santaland Diaries

Written by David Sedaris

Adapted for the stage by Joe Mantello

Directed by Eric Rosen

Copaken Stage

December 8 - 24, 2016

David Sedaris' hysterical tale of elfin' woe is a hilarious send-up of his brief, misguided career as a Macy's elf. Last year's hit production returns, featuring a hilarious score of twisted holiday favorites against the twisted landscape of Sedaris's unmatched wit. *The Santaland Diaries* skewers our sentimental love of all things Christmas—in a production that has become a beloved part of KC Rep's annual celebration of the darker side of the holidays.

Subscriptions and Tickets

2016-17 season tickets range in price from \$72 to \$317. For subscription and ticket information for Kansas City Repertory Theatre's 2016-17 season, please contact the Box Office at 816.235.2700 or visit www.KCRep.org.

Season ticket holders receive many benefits including:

- Free ticket exchanges
- Co-operative arts discount card good for special ticket discounts from local performing arts partners
- Babysitter rebates for subscribers with young children
- Special discounts at over 20 participating area restaurants- Check www.kcrep.org for a complete list of participating restaurants in the Plaza (near Spencer Theatre) or downtown (near Copaken Stage)
- Monthly emails with exclusive insider info on upcoming events and special offers
- 20% off items at our lobby gift shop
- Up to 15% off tickets for Holiday Shows or additional tickets to regular season shows
- Free Parking at both theatres!

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Please direct all media inquiries to: Tammy Cunningham, cunninghamt@kcrep.org, or publicity@kcrep.org.

For further information, please visit our Web site at www.kcrep.org.

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