



FOR RELEASE:
April 29, 2008

CONTACT:
Matt Doll
901-529-4283
doll@orpheum-memphis.com

THE ORPHEUM THEATRE
presents
The 2008-2009 Orpheum Broadway Series
Sponsored by Harrah's Tunica

MEMPHIS, TN. — The season everyone has been waiting for is here! Three Best Musical Tony® Award winners! The hottest show on Broadway! Two encore engagements of audience favorites! The 2008-2009 Orpheum Broadway Series sponsored by Harrah's Tunica is a hit for theatre lovers and casual fans alike.

Shows scheduled on the Broadway season ticket series include *Avenue Q*, September 30-October 5, 2008; *The Pajama Game*, December 9-14, 2008; *The Drowsy Chaperone*, January 13-18, 2009; *Legally Blonde*, March 3-8, 2009; *The Color Purple*, March 31-April 5, 2009; *Fiddler on the Roof*, May 5-10, 2009; and *Wicked*, June 24- July 12, 2009.

Popular fan-favorites *Mamma Mia!*, November 18-23, 2008 and *Riverdance*, February 20-22, 2009 will return to the Orpheum stage and serve as special add-ons to the Broadway series.

“The 2008-2009 season has to rank as one of the best in my 27 years with the Theatre,” said Pat Halloran, Orpheum Theatre President. “The Orpheum is committed to presenting high-quality productions and providing the best entertainment value for the dollar in the Mid-South. This diverse lineup features the smash hit *Wicked* and five other productions on Broadway or that just recently left ‘The Great White Way’ to start touring America. If ever there was a season not to be missed, this is it.”

The national tour of *Wicked* has “cast quite a spell” (*Washington Post*) throughout North America. It opened at Toronto's Canon Theatre on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 and sold out a seven-week run. *Wicked* has continued to break box office records and sell out multiple-week engagements in Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, DC, Philadelphia and Boston, to name a few.

“We think this *Wicked* season is the perfect way to celebrate the Orpheum's 80 years of entertainment and usher in a new era of theatre in Memphis,” said Halloran.

The 2008-2009 Series coincides with The Orpheum Theatre's 80th Anniversary celebration. Opened in 1928, The Orpheum is an enduring Memphis landmark. The 2,400 seat theatre is the premier entertainment venue of the Mid-South.

“We are especially appreciative of our new season sponsor, Harrah's Tunica, whose financial commitments will allow us to bring such a fabulous season together,” Halloran added.

The Orpheum Theatre * 203 S. Main * Memphis, TN 38173
Phone: 901-525-7800 * Fax: 901-526-0829

The Orpheum Theatre is operated by the Memphis Development Foundation, a non-profit organization which depends on the financial support of the community to carry out its mission to foster the enjoyment and understanding of the Arts in Memphis, as well as the economic prosperity of Downtown and surrounding areas.

The 2008–2009 Orpheum Broadway Series is presented by The Orpheum Theatre and sponsored by Harrah's Tunica. Those interested in purchasing season subscriptions can do so by going to The Orpheum Theatre Box Office or Davis-Kidd Booksellers. Tickets may also be purchased by calling the Orpheum Theatre Box Office at (901) 525-3000 between 9am and 5pm, or by visiting the Theatre's website at www.orpheum-memphis.com. Prices begin at just \$149.50 for the full eight-show season package. Group tickets and individual show ticket sale dates will be announced later.

AVENUE Q

Sept. 30, 2008-October 5, 2008

AVENUE Q is the smash-hit Broadway musical about real life in New York City, as told by a cast of people and puppets through a hilariously irreverent, Tony-winning book and score. The three-time Tony Award® winning musical tells the story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college grad who moves to NYC with big dreams and a tiny bank account. The only apartment he can afford is way out on **Avenue Q**, where everyone's looking for the same things he is: a decent job, a stable relationship, and a "purpose." Eventually, Princeton learns to embrace the ups and downs of city life and realizes that "the real world" isn't so bad, after all!

MAMMA MIA!

Nov. 18-23, 2008

Seen by over 30 million people around the world, **MAMMA MIA!** is the global smash hit musical celebrating 6 sold-out years at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway, and is currently playing record-breaking engagements in Las Vegas and on National Tour in the United States. The original West End production has played more than 3,500 performances, an international tour has played in more than 30 foreign cities, and the feature film of **Mamma Mia!** will be released on July 18, 2008. Inspired by the storytelling magic of ABBA's songs from "Dancing Queen" and "S.O.S." to "Money, Money, Money" and "Take a Chance on Me," **Mamma Mia!** is a celebration of mothers and daughters, old friends and new family found.

THE PAJAMA GAME

Dec. 9-14, 2008

Bright and riotously funny, this fast-paced, frisky tale is theatre at its very best with this sparkling, all-new production of the Tony-Award® winning, Broadway smash hit – **THE PAJAMA GAME**. The feisty employee representative has found her match in the pajama shop superintendent and when the two get together, they wind up discussing a whole lot more than job actions! The high-energy score by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross brims with popular hits and musical theatre standards such as "Hey There," "Steam Heat" and the seductive "Hernando's Hideaway" that will keep you humming all the way home.

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Jan. 13-18, 2009

Visit a world where the critics are in awe, the audiences are in heaven and the neighborhood is buzzing with excitement. Welcome to **THE DROWSY CHAPERONE**, the new musical comedy that is swooping into town with tons of laughs and the most 2006 Tony Awards of any musical on Broadway! It all begins when a die-hard musical fan plays his favorite cast album, a 1928 smash hit called "The Drowsy Chaperone," and the show magically bursts to life. We are instantly immersed in the glamorous, hilarious tale of a celebrity bride and her uproarious wedding day, complete with thrills and surprises that take both the cast (literally) and the audience (metaphorically) soaring into the rafters.

The Orpheum Theatre * 203 S. Main * Memphis, TN 38173
Phone: 901-525-7800 * Fax: 901-526-0829

The Orpheum Theatre is operated by the Memphis Development Foundation, a non-profit organization which depends on the financial support of the community to carry out its mission to foster the enjoyment and understanding of the Arts in Memphis, as well as the economic prosperity of Downtown and surrounding areas.

RIVERDANCE

Feb. 20-22, 2009

Few shows have touched audiences like **RIVERDANCE**. A celebration of Irish music, song and dance, the show focuses on the evolution of Irish dance and its similarities with, and influences on, other cultures. The phenomenon of **Riverdance** draws on Irish traditions and combines the richness of the music with the magic and sensuality of the dance.

LEGALLY BLONDE

Mar. 3-8, 2009

The hilarious MGM film is Broadway's new smash hit musical, and now **LEGALLY BLONDE THE MUSICAL** is coming to you. **Legally Blonde** follows sorority star Elle Woods, an underestimated blonde who doesn't take "no" for an answer. When her boyfriend dumps her for someone more "serious," Elle puts down the credit card, hits the books, and sets out to go where no Delta Nu has gone before: Harvard Law. Along the way, Elle proves that being true to yourself never goes out of style. The Orpheum is an investor in the New York and the tour production of **Legally Blonde**.

THE COLOR PURPLE

Mar. 31-Apr. 5, 2009

Nominated for eleven Tony Awards[®], including Best Musical, **THE COLOR PURPLE** opened on December 1, 2006 at the Broadway Theatre where it ran for over two record-breaking years. It is based on the classic Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Alice Walker and the moving film by Steven Spielberg. It is the unforgettable and inspiring story of a woman named Celie, who finds the strength to triumph over adversity, and discover her unique voice in the world. With a joyous GRAMMY[®]-nominated score featuring gospel, jazz, pop and the blues, **The Color Purple** is about hope and the healing power of love. The Orpheum Theatre is proud to join ranks with Oprah Winfrey as investor/producer of **The Color Purple**.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

May 5-10, 2009

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, the Tony Award[®]-winning musical that has captured the hearts of people all over the world with its universal appeal, embarks on its National Tour. In what is a huge theatrical feat, audiences will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the original Tevye, Chaim Topol, perform the role that made him legendary with his award winning portrayal in **Fiddler on the Roof**. Based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem, **Fiddler on the Roof** has been lauded by critics again and again, and won the hearts of people all around the world. Filled with a rousing, heartwarming score, which includes "Tradition," "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were A Rich Man" and "Sunrise, Sunset," **Fiddler on the Roof** is a timeless classic.

WICKED

June 24-July 12, 2009

WICKED, winner of 15 major awards, including a Grammy[®] Award and 3 Tony[®] Awards, is the untold story of the witches of Oz. Long before Dorothy drops in, two other girls meet in the land of Oz. One - born with emerald green skin - is smart, fiery and misunderstood. The other is beautiful, ambitious and very popular. **Wicked** tells the story of their remarkable odyssey, how these two unlikely friends grow to become the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch.

The Orpheum Theatre * 203 S. Main * Memphis, TN 38173
Phone: 901-525-7800 * Fax: 901-526-0829

The Orpheum Theatre is operated by the Memphis Development Foundation, a non-profit organization which depends on the financial support of the community to carry out its mission to foster the enjoyment and understanding of the Arts in Memphis, as well as the economic prosperity of Downtown and surrounding areas.