

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**FULL LINE-UP OF SHOWS AND SPECIAL GUESTS
ANNOUNCED FOR *THE CURTAIN UP! LIVE FROM
BROADWAY FINALE CONCERT***

**AMBER RUFFIN AND JESSE TYLER FERGUSON TO HOST
THE FREE OUTDOOR CONCERT FEATURING
PERFORMANCES AND APPEARANCES FROM
BROADWAY MUSICALS AND PLAYS**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022
11:00am – 1:00pm, rain or shine
DIRECT FROM TIMES SQUARE AND AIRING LIVE ON WABC**

(Times Square – September 8, 2022) – The Broadway League, in partnership with *Playbill* and the Times Square Alliance, announce the full lineup of talent that will appear throughout *The Curtain Up! LIVE from Broadway* finale concert taking place on **Sunday, October 2 at 11:00am in Duffy Square**. This free outdoor concert marks the culmination of the three-day *Curtain Up* Broadway Festival, taking place throughout Times Square from September 30-October 2 presented by title sponsor Prudential Financial; sponsored in part by Wagoneer and Audible Theater, with additional support from the NYC Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment and The Music Performance Trust Fund.

For a full, detailed listing of all the events, please visit [Playbill.com/CurtainUp](https://www.playbill.com/curtainup).

Amber Ruffin and **Jesse Tyler Ferguson** will host this year's *Curtain Up! LIVE from Broadway* finale concert which will include performances and special appearances from the following Broadway shows: *A Beautiful Noise; Aladdin; A Strange Loop; Beetlejuice; Chicago; Death of a Salesman; Funny Girl; Hadestown; Harry Potter and the Cursed Child; Into the Woods; & Juliet; The Lion King; The Music Man; Moulin Rouge! The Musical; Six; The Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*.

The Curtain Up! LIVE from Broadway finale concert will be directed by **Sammi Cannold** with musical direction by **Daryl Waters** and live music provided by **The Music Performance Trust Fund**. The concert is a celebration of Broadway for all the world to enjoy and is a perfect way to usher in the new season. With the exhilarating energy of Times Square providing the setting, *Curtain Up! LIVE from Broadway* also honors the great city of New York, which is home to Broadway's renowned 41 theatres. The concert will be broadcast live on WABC.

BIOS

Amber Ruffin is a writer, executive producer, and host of the WGA Award nominated series *The Amber Ruffin Show* on Peacock. She was recently nominated for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Host in a Reality/Reality Competition, Game Show or Variety (Series or Special). She is an Emmy and WGA Award nominee writer and performer for NBC's *Late Night with Seth Meyers* and was the first African American female to write for a late-night network talk show in the U.S. She wrote and performed on Comedy Central's *Detroiters* and was a regular narrator on the cabler's *Drunk History*. Ruffin was previously a performer at Boom Chicago in Amsterdam, the iO Theater and the Second City in Chicago. In addition, she was a writer/performer for the 2018 and 2019 Golden Globe Awards and has written for the series *A Black Lady Sketch Show*. Ruffin is a *New York Times* bestselling author, along with her sister Lacey Lamar, of *You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey: Crazy Stories of Racism*, published by Gran Central Publishing. She is currently co-writing the Broadway musical *Some Like it Hot*, which will begin performances in 2022. Last year, Ruffin was named to the 2021 TIME100 Next List, *TIME*'s list of the next 100 most influential people in the world.

Jesse Tyler Ferguson won a Tony Award & Outer Critics Circle Award for his performance in *Take Me Out*. Broadway: *On the Town, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* (Drama Desk Award), *Fully Committed* (Drama Desk Award). In addition to numerous off-Broadway credits Ferguson has performed five seasons with The Public Theater's Shakespeare in the Park as well as *The Producers & Spamalot* at The Hollywood Bowl. Most recent film/TV: *Ivy + Bean* (Netflix), *Modern Family* (5 Emmy Nominations, 4 SAG Awards, 4 People's Choice Nominations), *Cocaine Bear* opposite Margo Martindale and Keri Russell. (February 2023). Ferguson is the cofounder of Pronoun, a foundation fighting oppression in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Sammi Cannold is a theater, film, and television director who is one of *Forbes Magazine's* 30 Under 30 in Hollywood & Entertainment, class of 2019 and has worked on and off Broadway as well as for CBS, Nickelodeon, Paramount+, Cirque du Soleil, and TikTok and at some of the world's most prestigious venues, including The Kennedy Center, Royal Albert Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and Lincoln Center. Credits include *Evita* (New York City Center), *Endlings* (NYTW,

A.R.T.), *How to Dance in Ohio* (Syracuse Stage), *Ragtime on Ellis Island*, and *Violet* (A.R.T.). Recently, Sammi's first documentary feature premiered at Broadway's Majestic Theatre and on AppleTV. Upcoming projects include new musicals, revivals, feature films, and an opera. Sammi has also served as Artistic Fellow at the A.R.T., a member of Cirque du Soleil's Creative Cognoscenti, and a Sundance Institute Fellow. Outside of the arts, Sammi serves as Chief of Staff for Human First Coalition, an organization providing humanitarian aid in Afghanistan. B. A., Stanford University; M.A., Harvard University. www.sammicannold.com. @sammi.cannold

Daryl Waters' Broadway credits include music supervision/orchestrations/arrangements for *The Cher Show* (Drama Desk nomination for best orchestrations); *Shuffle Along, or, the Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921* and *All That Followed* (Tony nom for best orchestrations); *Holler If Ya Hear Me*; *Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk*; and *Street Corner Symphony*. He was the music supervisor and conductor for *After Midnight* and dance music arranger for *The Color Purple* and *Jelly's Last Jam*. He received the Tony and Drama Desk orchestration awards for *Memphis*. His composing credits include *Noise/Funk* (Tony nom for best original score) and *Drowning Crow*. Mr. Waters is a proud founding member of MUSE (Musicians United for Social Equity), an organization that promotes diversity in the music departments of theatrical productions.

The Music Performance Trust Fund (MPTF) was established in 1948 as a nonprofit independent public service organization whose mission includes contributing to the public knowledge and appreciation of music, as well as making music a part of every child's life experience. Headquartered in New York City, the tax-exempt MPTF, operating under section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code, evolved from a landmark collective bargaining agreement between the American Federation of Musicians and the major recording companies of the day. Today the MPTF is a vital organization that brings music to the public and supplements the income of musicians, all at no cost to those receiving this precious gift of music.

Event organizers will continue to follow the city, state and federal COVID-19 guidelines and will inform the public of any changes to the event protocols or schedule.

Join the conversation about ***Curtain Up Broadway Festival*** by following @Playbill, @TimesSquareNYC, and @BroadwayLeague and using #CurtainUpBway.

For photo and video assets from *Curtain Up 2021*, please click [here](#).

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2

Concert: ***Curtain Up! LIVE from Broadway***

Time: **11:00am – 1:00pm; rain or shine**

Location: **Mainstage on Duffy Square** (Broadway between 45th & 47th Streets)

Admission: **Free**

A grand, outdoor event that marks the culmination of *Curtain Up Broadway Festival*, ***Curtain Up! LIVE from Broadway*** spotlights marquee talent from Broadway productions and showcases the new Broadway season. This concert will also be airing live on WABC.

Participating shows include: *A Beautiful Noise*; *Aladdin*; *A Strange Loop*; *Beetlejuice*; *Chicago*; *Death of a Salesman*; *Funny Girl*; *Hadestown*; *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*; *Into the Woods*; *& Juliet*; *KPOP*; *The Lion King*; *The Music Man*; *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*; *Six*; *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*.

Hosts: **Amber Ruffin** and **Jesse Tyler Ferguson**

Director: **Sammi Cannold**

Musical Director: **Daryl Waters**

Music Provided by: **The Music Performance Trust Fund**

Please note that performances and artists are subject to change.

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The Broadway League

The Broadway League (Charlotte St. Martin, President), founded in 1930, is the national trade association for the Broadway industry. The League's 700-plus members include theatre owners and operators, producers, presenters, and general managers in nearly 200 markets in North America and internationally. Each year, League members bring Broadway to upwards of 30 million people in New York, on tour across the U.S. and Canada, and around the globe. The Broadway League's newest category of membership, League Fellows, affords access and benefits to upcoming professionals who represent a diversity of background, ethnicity, experience, and views. The Broadway League annually co-presents the Antoinette Perry "Tony" Awards®, one of the most coveted awards in the entertainment industry.

Key League programs and resources include Kids' Night on Broadway®, The Jimmy Awards®, Stars in the Alley®, Viva Broadway, Black to Broadway, Internet Broadway Database® (ibdb.com), Broadway.org, SpotlightonBroadway.com, Commercial Theater Institute (with TDF), as well as numerous conferences and forums for our members. Broadway Bridges®, is aimed at giving every New York City public high school student the opportunity to see a Broadway show before graduation. TheatreAccessNYC (co-produced with TDF) is the one-stop website of accessible Broadway performances for theatregoers with disabilities. Broadway.org is the League's official on-line headquarters for Broadway in NYC, on tour, and internationally.

For more information visit BroadwayLeague.com or follow @BroadwayLeague on Twitter and visit us at [Facebook.com/BroadwayLeague](https://www.facebook.com/BroadwayLeague). Follow @Broadway on Instagram for more Broadway content.

Broadway theatres are filled with an exciting array of new and classic musicals and plays, providing the perfect experience for every audience. Great seats are available at every price point and are easy to buy online, by phone, or in person at theatre box offices. It's always the perfect time to see a show. Broadway performs every day of the week at multiple curtain times to accommodate every schedule.

Playbill

Founded in 1884, Playbill is an internationally known trademark synonymous with theatre and is a symbol of the arts. Playbill Magazine is distributed to every Broadway theatre, most Off-Broadway theaters, and regional theaters and fine arts institutions in over 24 cities across the country. The company's website, Playbill.com, debuted in 1994 and continues to be the most trusted source of theatre news and information on the web, reaching nearly 2 million unique users per month. Playbill Online boasts the popular subsidiaries The Playbill Store, the online-only store for theatre fans; PLAYBILLder, the make-your-own Playbill site; and Playbill Jobs, the premiere job marketplace for the Broadway industry. Playbill Travel was introduced in 2011, focusing on chartering Broadway-themed cruises and additional vacations worldwide. The newest division, Playbill Events, curates and produces in-person and virtual events annually for audiences worldwide.

Times Square Alliance

The Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square - cultivating the creativity, energy and edge that have made the area an icon of entertainment, culture, and urban life for over a century. Founded in 1992, the Alliance keeps the neighborhood clean and safe, promotes local businesses, manages area improvements and produces major annual events with partners including New Year's Eve, Solstice in Times Square and Taste of Times Square. As the custodians of Times Square, the Alliance works every day to improve the quality of life for the neighborhood residents and businesses while driving economic growth in New York City. www.TSQ.org

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