BILLY'S THE BEST. IT'S GOT HEART, PASSION AND THE BEST ELTON JOHN SCORE EVER."



THE TONY AWARD-WINNING BEST MUSICAL ELECTRIFIES VANCOUVER FROM APRIL 2 - 7, 2013

(Vancouver, B.C.) —Universal Pictures Stage Productions, Working Title Films Old Vic Productions and NETworks Presentations, LLC bring the multi-award-winning *Billy Elliot the Musical* to Vancouver from April 2 - 7, 2013. Based on the international smash-hit film and featuring music by Elton John, book and lyrics by Lee Hall, choreography by Peter Darling and direction by Stephen Daldry, *Billy Elliot the Musical* has earned critical acclaim around the world and was the winner of ten 2009 Tony Awards including Best Musical.

Tickets for **Billy Elliot the Musical** go on sale Monday, January 21, 2013, at 10:00 am at all Ticketmaster locations, at <u>www.ticketmaster.ca</u> or call toll-free 1.855.985.5000.

Billy Elliot the Musical is the joyous celebration of one boy's journey to make his dreams come true. Set in a small town, the story follows Billy as he stumbles out of the boxing ring and into a ballet class, discovering a surprising talent that inspires his family and his whole community and changes his life forever.

In addition to the Tony Award for Best Musical, *Billy Elliot the Musical* received the award for Best Direction of a Musical (Stephen Daldry); Best Book of a Musical (Lee Hall); Best Choreography (Peter Darling); Best Orchestrations (Martin Koch); Best Scenic Design of a Musical (Ian MacNeil); Best Lighting Design of a Musical (Rick Fisher); Best Sound Design of a Musical (Paul Arditti); Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Musical (David Alvarez, Trent Kowalik, Kiril Kulish); Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical (Gregory Jbara).

The production has been awarded 81 national and international awards including ten Tony Awards, Best Musical by the New York Drama Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Drama League and Outer Critics Circle.

Ben Brantley of the *New York Times* says that **Billy Elliot** "Sends audiences into a mass swoon!" *Time Out* says it's "The most electric and passionate show in years."

The Daily News calls **Billy** "So exhilarating that you feel like leaping!" Liz Smith calls the show "Absolutely awesome," The New York Observer raves that **Billy** is "The best thing to happen to Broadway in a long while," and WOR's Dave Richardson cheers, "All I can say is WOW!"

The show is produced by Universal Pictures Stage Productions, Working Title Films, Old Vic Productions and NETworks Presentations, LLC. The production features scenic design by **Ian MacNeil**, associate direction by **Julian Webber**, costume design by **Nicky Gillibrand**, lighting design by **Rick Fisher** and sound design by **Paul Arditti**. Musical supervision and orchestrations are by **Martin Koch**. Touring production direction is by Justin Martin and choreography is by Kathryn Dunn.

In Vancouver, **Billy Elliot** plays Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday matinee at 2:00 p.m.; Sunday matinee at 1:00pm and Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for **Billy Elliot** vary in range depending on performance, seat location, and date of purchase and start at \$35.00.

Performances run from April 2 – 7, 2013, at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. **Tickets go on-sale 10 a.m.**, **January 21, 2013,** through all Ticketmaster outlets, online at <u>www.ticketmaster.ca</u> or call toll-free 1.855.985.5000. Group orders for 10 or more may be placed by calling 1.800.889.8457.

Billy Elliot in Vancouver, presented by Broadway Across Canada, is part of a five city tour in Canada including dates in Ottawa January 1 - 6, 2013, Montreal January 8 - 13, 2013, Edmonton March 19 - 24, 2013 and Calgary March 26 - 31, 2013.

Additional information about *Billy Elliot the Musical* is available at <u>www.BillyElliotTour.com</u>.

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UNIVERSAL PICTURES STAGE PRODUCTIONS (UPSP) (*Producer*) is the live stage division of Universal Pictures, the motion picture studio which is part of NBCUniversal. UPSP currently produces the record-breaking, cultural phenomenon *Wicked*, which has been seen by over 30 million people worldwide, and the critically acclaimed *Billy Elliot the Musical*, winner of 10 Tony Awards[®]. UPSP also produces the national tour of *Bring It On: The Musical* and the Broadway revival of *Porgy and Bess*. NBCUniversal owns and operates a valuable portfolio of news and entertainment networks, a premier motion picture company, significant television production operations, a leading television stations group and world-renowned theme parks. Comcast Corporation owns a controlling 51% interest in NBCUniversal, with GE holding a 49% stake.

WORKING TITLE FILMS (*Producer*) is a producer of *Billy Elliot the Musical* worldwide. Co-chaired by Tim Bevan and Eric Fellner, the company has produced more than 95 feature films, won six Academy Awards and has grossed more than \$5 billion at the box office worldwide. Films include: *Contraband; Tinker Tailor Solider Spy; Senna; Paul; Nanny McPhee Returns; Green Zone; A Serious Man; State Of Play; The Soloist; Frost/Nixon; Billy Elliot; Burn After Reading; Atonement; Pride & Prejudice; United 93; The Interpreter; About A Boy; Notting Hill; Elizabeth; Fargo; Dead Man Walking; Bean; Four Weddings And A Funeral; Bridget Jones's Diary and Love Actually.* Upcoming features include *Les Misérables* and *Anna Karenina*. Working Title recently announced the creation of a new television production company, WTTV. Based in LA and London, WTTV is a joint venture between NBC Universal International, Bevan and Fellner. Recent productions include adaptations of *Birdsong* and *The Borrowers*, both for BBC One.

OLD VIC PRODUCTIONS PLC (*Producer*) Run by Sally Greene and executive producer Joseph Smith, OVP is a producer of *Billy Elliot the Musical* worldwide. OVP is an independent commercial producer that has co-produced or partnered in more than 100 productions in the West End and on Broadway, winning numerous awards, most recently: *Sweeney Todd, Jerusalem, Clybourne Park, and The Prisoner of Second Avenue, Three Days of Rain,* and *Swimming with Sharks*. OVP works in association with The Old Vic Theatre Company led by Artistic Director Kevin Spacey. Recent productions include *Noises Off* (West End transfer and Old Vic), *The Duchess of Malfi, The Playboy of the Western World, Cause Célèbre, A Flea in Her Ear, Design For Living, The Real Thing, Inherit the Wind, The Norman Conquests* and *Speed-the-Plow*. Sally is also the chief executive of The Criterion Theatre and Greene Light Films and the proprietor of the renowned Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club and three restaurants, The Cheyne Walk Brasserie, The Waterloo Bar and Grill and The Phene in Chelsea.

NETworks PRESENTATIONS, LLC (*Producer*) Since 1995, NETworks has produced and managed over 45 touring productions in the US., U.K. and internationally . Current productions include *Disney's Beauty and the Beast, Young Frankenstein, Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific, Blue Man Group National Tour, La Cage, Shrek The Musical and The New 25th Anniversary Production of <i>Les Misérables*. Future productions include Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's *Mary Poppins, Flashdance the Musical* and National Theatre of Great Britain's production of *War Horse* touring the U.S.

Broadway Across Canada and Broadway Across America, part of the Key Brand Entertainment family of companies which includes Broadway.com, is owned and operated by theatre producer John Gore (CEO). Broadway Across Canada in association with Broadway Across America is a leading Broadway producer and the foremost presenter of first-class touring productions in North America. As a presenter, Broadway Across America operates in 40 cities, bringing first-class touring musicals and plays to audiences across the U.S. and Canada. Its recent Broadway production credits include *Promises, Promises* starring Kristin Chenoweth and Sean Hayes; *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* starring Daniel Radcliffe and John Larroquette; *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* starring Harry Connick, Jr.; *Million Dollar Quartet* (Broadway, off-Broadway, West End,

US Tour); Jerusalem; Memphis; One Man, Two Guvnors; War Horse (Toronto, Tour); and West Side Story (Broadway, Tour). Broadway Across America is also dedicated to the creation and development of new and diverse theatre; upcoming original works include Hands on a Hardbody, Tuck Everlasting, Little Miss Sunshine, and The Blonde Streak. <u>BroadwayAcrossCanada.ca</u> and <u>Broadway.com</u>

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