

## **ABOUT THE LION KING**

Celebrating 27 landmark years on Broadway, *The Lion King* continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals in the world. Produced by Disney Theatrical Group, under the direction of **Andrew Flatt**, **Anne Quart** and **Thomas Schumacher**, *The Lion King* has made theatrical history with two productions worldwide running 20 or more years and three others running 25 or more years.

Performed over its lifetime in nine different languages (English, Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), there are currently eight productions of *The Lion King* around the world: Broadway, Toronto, London, Paris, Hamburg, Madrid, Tokyo and on tour across North America. *The Lion King* has played over 100 cities in 24 countries on every continent except Antarctica; its worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in box office history.

*The Lion King* won six 1998 Tony Awards®: Best Musical, Best Scenic Design (**Richard Hudson**), Best Costume Design (**Julie Taymor**), Best Lighting Design (**Donald Holder**), Best Choreography (**Garth Fagan**) and Best Direction of a Musical. *The Lion King* has also earned more than 70 major arts awards including the 1998 NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album, the 1999 Evening Standard Award for Theatrical Event of the Year and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design.

Director, costume designer and mask co-designer **Julie Taymor**, the first woman to win a Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical, remains actively involved in the show, launching new productions and maintaining the flagship Broadway production.

The Broadway score features **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**'s songs 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 **Lebo M**'s rich choral numbers.

**Elton John**, **Lebo M** and **Hans Zimmer** all collaborated on the 2019 version of the film, executive produced by **Julie Taymor** and **Thomas Schumacher**, which has gone onto extraordinary worldwide success.

The book has been adapted by **Roger Allers**, who co-directed the animated *The Lion King* feature, and **Irene Mecchi**, who co-wrote the film's screenplay. Other members of the creative team include: **Michael Curry**, who designed the masks and puppets with Taymor, **Steve Canyon Kennedy** (sound design), **Michael Ward** (hair and makeup design), **Anthony Lyn** (associate director), **Marey Griffith** (associate choreographer), **Clement Ishmael** (music supervisor), **Lisa**

**Dawn Cave** (production supervisor), **Thomas Schlenk** (general manager) and **ARC / Mark Brandon, CSA** (casting). **Anne Quart** serves as executive producer.

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