The Portland Observer -

Beauty and the Beast, A Broadway Hit

Focus

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," the Tony Award-winning smash hit musical, returns to Portland. The elaborate Broadway production, based on the beloved animated film, will come to life on stage at Keller Auditorium, located at 222 S.W. 3rd and Clay, from Aug. 15-26 for a limited two-week engagement.

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" is the classic story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped in a spell placed by an evil enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. Time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" has become an international sensation that has played to more than 17 million people world-wide.

Danyelle Bossardet will star as Belle, the courageous, intelligent and strong-willed beauty who makes a new life for herself in the castle of the Beast. Bossardet has been in both the Los Angeles company and Second National Tour of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" and starred as Florence in "Chess" and Sandy in "Grease." Playing the menacing Beast with a loving heart is

Grant Norman, who has starred in the title role of "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway, in London and on the U.S. National Tour. Edward Staudenmayer stars as Gaston, the handsome braggart who is determined to have Belle for his wife. Staudenmayer's credits include the National Company of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" and the off-Broadway production of "Forbidden Broadway Cleans Up Its Act!"

For tickets, call Ticketmaster at 503/790-ARTS or the Portland Opera Box Office at 503/241-1802. To learn more about the musical hit, visit online at www.broadwayseries.com or www.portlandopera.org.

Summer's Biggest Blockbusters

Coming Soon in August:

The Princess Diaries

Synopsis: Fifteen-year-old Mia discovers that her father is the Prince of Genovia and she is the sole heir to the throne. She must decide, by her sixteenth birthday, whether she will live as a princess and move to Genovia or remain in Manhattan where she lives with her artist mom. She must suffer through the indignity of princess lessons at the hands of her stern grandmother. **Genre(s):** family adaptation; **Theatrical Release:** Aug. 3.

Rush Hour 2

Synopsis: As Detectives Carter and Lee become increasingly tangled in a criminal conspiracy involving a deadly Triad, they find themselves on a precarious journey from Hong Kong to Los Angeles and Las Vegas, where they must use all of their talents to trap one of the world's most feared gangsters. Genre(s): sequel, action, crime, comedy; Theatrical Release: Aug. 3.

The Curse of the Jade Scorpion

Synopsis: CW Briggs is the top insurance investigator in New York in 1940, and prides himself on being able to get into the mind of any thief who attempts to scam his company. However, thanks to the hypnotic powers of the Jade Scorpion, the mind of a thief is instead getting into Briggs. Genre(s): comedy; Theatrical Release: Aug. 10.

Ghosts of Mars

Synopsis: Two hundred years in the future, a small squad of police on Mars are sent to transfer an extremely dangerous criminal, Desolation Williams, back to the main administrative Martian city, Chryse. Melanie is second in command of this squad. What no one realizes is that mining operations have uncovered —and disturbed— the ruins of an ancient Martian civilization and unleashed a kind of spiritual doomsday defense system that will relentlessly destroy any alien presence (in this case, Earthlings) inhabiting Mars. When the cops arrive at this remote outpost, no one but the criminals locked away in the local jail have survived... and the "Martian Ghosts" are determined not to let them get away. Genre(s): sci-fi; Runtime: 93 mins.; Theatrical Release: Aug. 24.



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