

**LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE ANNOUNCES CAST FOR
STAGED CONCERT PERFORMANCE OF PLAYHOUSE-BORN
MUSICAL *THE WHO'S TOMMY*, FEATURING SEVERAL ORIGINAL
BROADWAY COMPANY MEMBERS**

***Benefit to Include Guest Appearances by Musical's Creators
Pete Townshend, Co-Founder of The Who, and Des McAnuff,
Two-Time Tony Award-Winning Director***

La Jolla, CA — La Jolla Playhouse announces the cast of its upcoming fundraising event: *The Who's Tommy: A Staged Concert Benefiting La Jolla Playhouse*, taking place on **Monday, October 14 at 7:30pm** in the Mandell Weiss Theatre.

Helmed by Playhouse Director Emeritus and *Tommy* original director and co-book writer **Des McAnuff**, this exclusive staged concert performance of the Playhouse-born, Tony Award-winning musical will feature **members of the original *Tommy* Broadway cast**, as well as a special guest appearance by **Pete Townshend**, legendary musician and *Tommy* composer/lyricist, co-book writer and principal creator. The event also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the release of The Who's iconic *Tommy* album.

The cast features several original Playhouse and Broadway company members, including two-time Tony Award winner **Michael Cerveris** (*Fun Home*) as "Tommy," **Jonathan Dokuchitz** as "Captain Walker," **Cheryl Freeman** as "Gypsy Queen," Tony winner **Christian Hoff** (*Jersey Boys*) as "2nd Pinball Lad," **Paul Kandel** as "Uncle Ernie," **Donnie Kehr** as "1st Pinball Lad," **Michael McElroy** as "The Hawker/The Specialist," **Lee Morgan** as "Harmonica Player/The Lover" and Tony winner **Alice Ripley** (*Next to Normal*) as "Mrs. Walker." The cast also includes **Noah Baird** as "Tommy (Age 10)," **Thom Nemer** as "Tommy (Age 4)," **Paul Alexander Nolan** (Playhouse's *Escape to Margaritaville*, *Yoshimi Battles the Pink Robots*) as "Cousin Kevin" and **Jennifer Rider-Shaw** as "Sally Simpson," along with ensemble members **James Royce Edwards**, **Melissa Hoff**, **Jolie Jenkins**, **Robert Markus**, **Kürt Norby**, **Rachel Peterson**, **David Price**, **Anise**, **E. Ritchie**, **Melissa Strom** and **Cody Walker**.

Tickets start at \$500 for the Concert and Cast After-Party, including hosted cocktail and dessert bar; with tiers at \$750 for upgraded Concert seating and Cast After-Party; and \$1,000 for Premium Concert seating, Cast After-Party, and a pre-concert Reception with hosted bar and hors d'oeuvres. Please visit LaJollaPlayhouse.org for tickets and additional information. All proceeds benefit La Jolla Playhouse's Artistic, Education and Outreach programs, including those benefiting military families.

Event sponsors include Michael and Melissa Bartell, Michael and Susanna Flaster, Kay and Bill Gurtin, Debby and Hal Jacobs, Joan and Irwin Jacobs and Sheri L. Jamieson, along with corporate sponsors: Show Imaging, James' Place, The Lodge at Torrey Pines, PRP Wine International and Rancho Valencia Resort & Spa.

— more —

FACT SHEET

WHAT: *The Who's Tommy: A Staged Concert Benefiting La Jolla Playhouse*
Music and Lyrics by Pete Townshend
Book by Pete Townshend and Des McAnuff
Additional Music and Lyrics by John Entwistle and Keith Moon
Directed by Des McAnuff

- 1992: World Premiere at La Jolla Playhouse
- 1993: Broadway Premiere
- Awards: 5 Tony Awards, 5 Drama Desk Awards, Grammy Award

WHO:

Noah Baird	<i>Tommy (Age 10)</i>
Thom Nemer	<i>Tommy (Age 4)</i>
Michael Cerveris	<i>Tommy</i>
Jonathan Dokuchitz	<i>Captain Walker</i>
Cheryl Freeman	<i>Gypsy Queen</i>
Christian Hoff	<i>2nd Pinball Lad</i>
Paul Kandel	<i>Uncle Ernie</i>
Donnie Kehr	<i>1st Pinball Lad</i>
Michael McElroy	<i>The Hawker/The Specialist</i>
Lee Morgan	<i>Harmonica Player</i>
Paul Alexander Nolan	<i>Cousin Kevin</i>
Jennifer Rider-Shaw	<i>Sally Simpson</i>
Alice Ripley	<i>Mrs. Walker</i>
Ensemble:	James Royce Edwards, Melissa Hoff, Jolie Jenkins, Robert Markus, Kürt Norby, Rachel Peterson, David Price, Anise E. Ritchie, Melissa Strom, Cody Walker

WHEN: October 14 at 7:30pm

WHERE: Mandell Weiss Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse
2910 La Jolla Village Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

TICKETS: LaJollaPlayhouse.org

- Wizard Ticket: \$1000, includes pre-show Reception, Premium Concert Performance Seating and Cast After-Party
- Expert Ticket: \$750, includes Upgraded Concert Performance Seating and Cast After-Party
- Pro Ticket: \$500: includes Concert Performance Seating and Cast After-Party

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 103 world premieres, commissioning 52 new works, and sending 32 productions to Broadway – including the currently-running hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. LaJollaPlayhouse.org