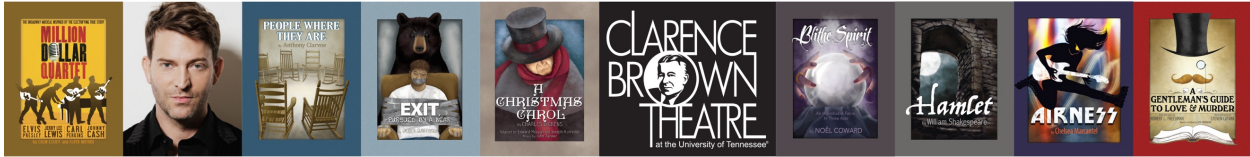


2019 SEASON 2020



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For Immediate Release:

Tony Award Winning “Million Dollar Quartet” Opens the Clarence Brown Theatre 2019/2020 Season

There'll be a whole lotta shakin' going on at the Clarence Brown Theatre when the Tony Award winning musical “Million Dollar Quartet” takes the mainstage August 28, 2019 to September 22, 2019!

A Pay What You Can Preview performance, where patrons can name their own price, will be held Wednesday, August 28 with proceeds from these tickets benefitting The Joy of Music School. A pre-show reception for Clarence Brown Theatre Society members will take place prior to the Opening Night performance on August 30. A Behind the Scenes Sunday event focusing on what it takes to make the music happen on stage will take place following the September 1 matinee performance. An Actor Talk Back will take place Sunday, September 8 following the matinee performance. The Open Captioned performance is Sunday, September 15 at 2:00 pm. An additional “Broadway at the Keys” performance featuring Levi Kreis will take place September 23rd at 7:30 pm.

The production is sponsored by Schaad Companies, Bob and Margie Parrott, Moxley Carmichael, the Clayton Foundation, and Stowers Machinery with support from the Mildred Haines and William Elijah Morris Lecture Endowment Fund. Media sponsors are WBIR, WUOT, WUTK, B97.5, the Daily Beacon, and the Knoxville News Sentinel. Free and convenient parking is available in the McClung Tower Garage on Volunteer Boulevard.

If you loved “Always, Patsy Cline,” “Honky Tonk Angels,” and “Lost Highway,” you don't want to miss this Tony Award winning musical based on actual events! It's December 4, 1956 in Memphis, Tennessee. Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash hold an impromptu jam session at Sam Phillips' Sun Record Studios.

“No doubt you will enjoy the music as you see familiar characters come to life, however you will not see impersonators but a cast of great musicians recreating the time, the music, and one day in American musical history. They are spirited, passionate and filled with youthful optimistic energy as they fight and find individual successes at the beginning of their careers,” said director Kate Buckley.

Kate Buckley (Director) As an Associate Professor at UT, Buckley has previously directed: “Antigone,” “Copenhagen,” “Charley's Aunt,” “The Merry Wives of Windsor,” “Moonlight and Magnolias,” “Black Pearl Sings!,” “Will Power!,” “The Trip to Bountiful,” “The Miracle Worker,” “The 39 Steps,” “Outside Mullingar,” “Around the World in 80 Days” and “Alabama Story.” Other regional theatre credits include: The Goodman Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Utah Shakespeare Festival, American Players Theatre, Kansas City Repertory, Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. Writer's Theatre, Skylight Opera, The Resident Theatre Ensemble of Delaware, The Next Theatre, Writer's Theatre, Renaissance Theatre Works and the New Victory Theatre in NYC. International Credits Include: The National Theatre of Slovakia; Colla Marionette Company, Milan, Italy. Buckley was a founding member of Chicago Shakespeare Theatre and served as the Artistic

Director of The Next Theatre in Evanston, Illinois. She has been a guest lecturer on Shakespeare at universities and arts organizations nationally and abroad, most notably at Charles University in Prague. She received a Joseph Jefferson award for Best Director, four nominations for best director, four Chicago After Dark Awards for Outstanding Direction and her productions have won four consecutive Jefferson Awards for Best Ensemble. She has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Aurora University, a Creative Achievement/Research Award and the Paul Soper Professorship both from the University of Tennessee.

Kory Danielson (Musical Director) is a music director/conductor in the Chicago where he has worked in such theaters as Chicago Shakespeare; Royal George Theatre; Paramount; Theo Ubique; Porchlight; Drury Lane, Writer's Theatre and Broadway in Chicago.

The cast is comprised of visiting guest artists who have a long history of performing in "Million Dollar Quartet."

Kavan Hashemian (Elvis Presley) is enjoying his ninth production as Elvis Presley in "Million Dollar Quartet." Hashemian has performed in this show previously in Springboro, OH, Fredericksburg, VA, Memphis, TN, Aurora, IL, Phoenix, AZ, Ivins, UT, Cohoes, NY and San Antonio, TX. He began performing a tribute to Elvis Presley at the young age of three. He has performed all over the world as Elvis Presley and was named "The World's #1 Rock N Roll Elvis" by the BBC in London, England on a television competition.

Levi Kreis (Sam Phillips) is best known for originating the role of Jerry Lee Lewis in Broadway's Tony nominated musical "Million Dollar Quartet." The role won him the 2010 Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical, a 2010 Outer Critics Circle Award, and a 2010 Drama League nomination. Other notable credits include the Tony nominated revival of "Violet," "Smokey Joe's Cafe," "Pump Boys & Dinettes" and the Broadway national tour of "Rent." In film, he is best known for the role of Fenton, in Bill Paxton's directorial debut "Frailty." He has recently returned to screen with roles in "A Very Sordid Wedding" and "The Divide."

Andrew Kuenzi (Fluke) is thrilled to be performing in his first show at the Clarence Brown Theatre! He has a variety of performance experience ranging from international tours, cruise ships, musical theater, country artists, and more. He received his degree in Commercial Music: Jazz Studies (drums), from Liberty University. Recently, Andrew has been totaling over 150 shows a year.

Zach Lentino (Brother Jay Perkins) is thrilled to be making his Clarence Brown Theatre debut. He has been previously seen playing Brother Jay in the original Apollo Theatre's production in Chicago followed by multiple other Chicago-area productions. When he's not acting on stage, he can be seen traveling around the world with his own rockabilly band, Lance Lipinsky and the Lovers.

Sean McGibbon (Jerry Lee Lewis) is an Austin, Texas native who received his bachelor's in Musical Theater with minor degrees in Psychology and Jazz from Texas State University. Favorite credits include: North Shore Music Theater's "Singing in the Rain" (Cosmo Brown), 1st National Tour "Million Dollar Quartet" (Jerry Lee Lewis U/S), 25th Anniversary National Tour "The Buddy Holly Story," Encores "On Your Toes" (Dir. Warren Carlyle), and Goodspeed's "The Great American Mousical" (Dir. Julie Andrews).

Peter Oyløe (Johnny Cash) Peter is thrilled to return to the Clarence Brown Theatre where he starred at Hank Williams in "Lost Highway." Credits include: Nat. Tour: "Million Dollar Quartet" (Cash), "Paul Clayton in Search: Paul Clayton" (Paul Clayton), "Juno" (Mr. Bentham), "Passion" (Giorgio – Jeff Award Best Musical), "See What I Wanna See" (Priest/Thief); "Hank Williams: Lost Highway" (Hank Williams - LCT Award Best Lead Actor, Musical), "Hank Williams: Lost Highway" (Hank Williams - Jeff Award Best Lead Actor, Musical); "REVERB" (Dorian); "Eurydice" (Orpheus); "Elling" (Kjell, Jeff Award Nom., Best Actor); "The Pillowman" (Michal Jeff Award, Best Supporting Actor), "Equus" (Alan Strang - Jeff Award, Best Actor), "Phantom" (The Phantom); "Cherry Smoke" (Duffy); "Baal" (Ekart), "Les Misérables" (Marius). Film work includes: "In Love With A Nun" (Cannes Selection), NBC's "Chicago PD" (Guest Star).

Chance Wall (Carl Perkins) is thrilled to join the Clarence Brown Theatre! He grew up a few miles south in Winder, GA, received his B.F.A at Valdosta State University in 2013, and is now based out of New York. He loves traveling and working regional theatres all over the country. He's currently in between contracts with "Million Dollar Quartet" on Norwegian Cruise Lines. Some of his other favorite credits include: "West Side Story," "Ring of Fire," "Into the Woods," "Fox on the Fairway," "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," and "Nice Work If You Can Get It."

Missy Wise (Dyane) Missy is thrilled to make her Clarence Brown Theatre debut! She has performed regionally at Boho Theater, Paramount Theatre, Pride Films and Plays, Theo Ubiq, Kandy Productions, Big Noise Theatre, Steppenwolf LookOut and StageCenter. She was the 2016 Winner of the NATS National Musical Theater Competition. She is also the proud recipient of two Joseph Jefferson Awards: Best Supporting Actor for her work as “Blanche Barrow” in Kokandy Productions “Bonnie & Clyde” and most recently for Best Lead Actor for “Alice Murphy” in “Bright Star.”

The creative team for this production includes: **Katherine Stepanek** (Scenic Designer), **Lauren T. Roark** (Costume Designer); **Kirk Bookman** (Lighting Designer); **Bart Fasbender** (Sound Designer) and **Patrick Lanczki** (Production Stage Manager).

Previews for “Million Dollar Quartet” are Wednesday, August 28 and Thursday, August 29 followed by Opening Night Friday, August 30. The production runs through September 22. UT faculty/staff, senior citizens, students receive discounts. The Clarence Brown Theatre only sells tickets online through KnoxvilleTickets.com. For tickets, call the Clarence Brown Theatre Box Office at 865-974-5161, or order online 24/7 at www.clarencebrowntheatre.com

With a dual mission to train the next generation of theatre artists and to provide top quality professional theatre, the Clarence Brown Theatre at the University of Tennessee Knoxville is one of only 12 academic LORT (League of Resident Theatre) institutions in the nation. Under the leadership of Producing Artistic Director Calvin MacLean and Interim Managing Director Thomas Cervone, the CBT season runs from August through May and features eight productions ranging from musicals to drama.

The CBT provides a cultural resource for both the university and the larger East Tennessee community and affirms diversity and inclusivity in all their forms.

For more information or tickets, call the CBT Box Office at 865-974-5161 or visit us online at <http://clarencebrowntheatre.com/>. Stay connected to the Clarence Brown Theatre on Facebook (Clarence Brown Theatre), follow us on Twitter (@ClarenceBrown) and view Clarence Brown videos on YouTube (Clarence Bro).

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