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THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS TO PRESENT THREE SENSORY-FRIENDLY SHOWS

*Performances specially designed for individuals with sensory processing and autism spectrum disorders
to be presented at the Broward Center and Parker Playhouse*

FORT LAUDERDALE – Building on the enthusiastic community response to last year's introduction of performances specially designed for individuals with sensory processing and autism spectrum disorders, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts will present sensory-friendly performances of three productions in the coming season.

The Broward Center will collaborate with the acclaimed Slow Burn Theatre Company to present *Madagascar – A Musical Adventure* and *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Broward Center and with Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida to offer its first sensory-friendly dance event with the holiday favorite *The Nutcracker* at Parker Playhouse.

The adaptive productions include special seating arrangements, pre-curtain preparatory activities, modifications to stage and auditorium lighting, lower sound volumes and the use of noise-cancelling devices as well as the availability of a quiet room for those experiencing sensory overload.

These performances are made possible through the generous support of The Taft Foundation. The Theatre Development Fund's Autism Theatre Initiative served as an advisor.

Madagascar – A Musical Adventure will be presented in the Amaturio Theater at the Broward Center on Saturday, October 7 at 11 a.m. This upbeat musical based on the DreamWorks Animation motion picture leaves audiences with no choice but to "Move It, Move It!" Alex the Lion, Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe, Gloria the hip hip Hippo and, of course, those hilarious, plotting penguins escape from their home in New York's Central Park Zoo and find themselves on an unexpected voyage to the madcap world of King Julien's Madagascar. This show features original music and lyrics by George Noriega & Joel Someillan and book by Kevin Del Aguila. This production is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International.

Just in time for the holidays, the special performance of Arts Ballet Theatre's *The Nutcracker* will be held at Parker Playhouse on Saturday December 15 at 1 p.m. Featuring the timeless score by Tchaikovsky, Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida's *The Nutcracker* tells the story of a spectacular Christmas Eve party and the magical events that take place late that night. The critically acclaimed performance is choreographed and directed by renowned Ballet Master Vladimir Issaev and features dancers of all ages and colorful costumes in a wonderful introduction to the ballet.

Based on the Peanuts comic strip by Charles Schulz, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* will be presented on Saturday, March 2 at 2 p.m. in the Abdo New River Room at the Broward Center. Bossy Lucy is hopelessly in love with piano prodigy Schroeder who doesn't give her the time of day, perfectionist Sally

All dates, times, programs, artists and ticket prices are subject to change without notice.

is still mocking blanket-toting Linus, Snoopy is in the doghouse and the “blockhead” Charlie Brown is in the middle of it all.

Tickets to each sensory-friendly performance are \$15. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center and Parker Playhouse. Buy tickets online at BrowardCenter.org, ParkerPlayhouse.com or Ticketmaster.com; by phone at 954.462.0222 or in person at the Parker Playhouse box office Tuesday through Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and at the Broward Center’s AutoNation Box Office.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale. The Parker Playhouse, located in Holiday Park at 707 N.E. Eighth Street in Fort Lauderdale, is an affiliated venue of the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, which provides programming and management of the facility.

For more information visit BrowardCenter.org, like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/BrowardCenter, follow us on Twitter and Instagram @BrowardCenter, subscribe to our channel at Youtube.com/user/BrowardCenter and join the conversation with #BrowardCenter.

For more information visit ParkerPlayhouse.com, like us on Facebook at Facebook.com/TheParkerPlayhouse and join the conversation on Twitter with #ParkerPlayhouse.

The Broward Center 2018-2019 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation. AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, JetBlue, MasterCard, Paramount Refreshment Solutions and *Sun Sentinel* are proud sponsors of the Broward Center. *Sun Sentinel* is a proud sponsor of the Parker Playhouse.

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About The Broward Center for the Performing Arts

One of America’s premier performing arts venues, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts presents more than 700 performances each year to more than 700,000 patrons, showcasing a wide range of exciting cultural programming and events. Guest experiences at the Broward Center include the all-inclusive JetBlue Flight Deck on the Club Level, special events in the Huizenga Pavilion, waterfront dining at Marti’s New River Bistro and innovative classes and workshops for all ages at the Rose Miniaci Arts Education Center. With one of the largest arts-in-education programs in the United States, the Broward Center serves more than 130,000 students annually. The Broward Performing Arts Foundation, Inc. receives and maintains funds to sustain, develop and secure the future of the Broward Center. The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Ave. in Fort Lauderdale. For more information, visit BrowardCenter.org.

The Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment Consortium is a cultural partnership between the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera, Fort Lauderdale History Center and the Historic Stranahan House Museum. It is supported by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council and the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau. Programs are sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

About Parker Playhouse

The neo-classical Playhouse Parker is one of Fort Lauderdale’s first venues. Built by Dr. Louis Parker, the playhouse opened its doors on February 6, 1967 and is managed now by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. This 1,168-seat, fully equipped theater plays an important role in the community by fueling economic development, while also bringing the community together with performances, activities and educational programming.

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