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## **THE BROWARD CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS INCREASES OPTIONS FOR THE HEARING- AND VISION-IMPAIRED**

*2017 events include performances by Florida Grand Opera, Slow Burn Theatre Company and Broadway shows*

**FORT LAUDERDALE** – The first theater in the state to provide open captioned and audio described performances for the hearing- and vision-impaired, the Broward Center for the Performing Arts is now offering those services for performances of the Slow Burn Theatre Company's 2016-17 season.

These special options that make live performances enjoyable for all continue to be available at select performances of Broadway shows presented by Bank of America Broadway Across America-Ft. Lauderdale, Florida Grand Opera and Miami City Ballet.

Audio description enables audience members with low or no vision to hear on special headsets narration between the dialogue and songs of a performance's visual elements including lights, costumes, actions and scenery. Open captioning features a text display located to the side of the stage which scrolls dialogue and lyrics synchronized with the performance.

Select Broadway performances also feature an interpreter using American Sign Language to describe the vocal line of the production including dialogue, song lyrics and sound effects. Assistive listening devices that amplify and clarify the sound are available at performances at the Broward Center, at no charge, on a first come, first serve basis.

The Broward Center's facilities feature ADA-approved signage, handrails and automatic door openers as well as wheelchair accessible seating, companion restrooms and public areas. The Wayne and Marti Huizenga Family Skywalk, which connects the Arts & Entertainment Parking Garage with the Horvitz Grand Lobby in the Au-Rene Theater, allows easy access to the theater for patrons with disabilities. A second entry is located at the bottom of the driveway entrance and patrons with limited mobility may be dropped off in the front driveway.

Several organizations partner with the Broward Center to make the programs possible including Lighthouse of Broward, Bank of America Broadway Across America-Ft. Lauderdale, Florida Theatrical Association, the Theatre Development Fund and through a generous donation by Daniel Baker.

It is recommended to specifically request seating for wheelchair access, sign-interpreted or open-captioned performances when purchasing tickets. Ticketmaster is the only official ticketing service of the Broward Center, Parker Playhouse and affiliated venues. Buy tickets online at [BrowardCenter.org](http://BrowardCenter.org) or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com); by phone at 954-462-0222; in person at Ticketmaster outlets or the Broward Center's AutoNation Box Office. Know who you are buying from when you purchase tickets. We CANNOT PROVIDE REFUNDS OR CUSTOMER SERVICE for tickets purchased from unauthorized sites, brokers or secondary ticket sellers.

The Broward Center for the Performing Arts is located in the Riverwalk Arts & Entertainment District at 201 SW Fifth Avenue in Fort Lauderdale.

The Broward Center 2016-2017 season is presented by the Broward Performing Arts Foundation with generous support from the Salah Foundation. AutoNation, Bank of America, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, LATAM AIRLINES, MasterCard, Paramount Refreshment Solutions and *Sun Sentinel* are proud sponsors of the Broward Center.

All dates, programs and artists are subject to change.

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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 LATAM AIRLINES CLUB LEVEL, spectacular riverfront views for 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 150,000 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](http://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.

### **2017 Performances Offering Audio Described, Open Captioned and Signed Performances**

#### **Broadway Season**

##### *The Little Mermaid*

Friday, March 3 at 8 p.m. – S

Saturday, March 4 at 2 p.m. – AD, OC

##### *Something Rotten*

Friday, March 31 at 8 p.m. – S

Saturday, April 1 at 2 p.m. – AD, OC

##### *Matilda The Musical*

Friday, May 5 at 8 p.m. – S

Saturday, May 6 at 2 p.m. – AD, OC

##### *Finding Neverland*

Friday, June 23 at 8 p.m. – S

Saturday, June 24 at 2 p.m. – AD, OC

#### **Florida Grand Opera** (All performances feature projected translations)

##### *Eugene Onegin*

Thursday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. – B & LP

Saturday, February 11 at 7:30 p.m. – AD, B & LP

*A Masked Ball*

Thursday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. – B & LP

Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m. – AD, B & LP

**Slow Burn Theatre Co.**

*Titanic*

Sunday, January 29 at 2 p.m. – AD, OC

*Big River*

Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m. – AD, OC

*Aida*

Sunday, April 30 2 p.m. – AD, OC

AD - Audio described

OC - Opened captioned

S – Signed

B & LP – Braille and large print

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