



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts:

Shari Gasper | Communications Director | sgasper@overture.org | 608.443.1756

Hope Horne | Communications Intern | hhorne@overture.org

[Click here for photos.](#)



‘Disney Musicals in Schools’ returns to Capitol Theater stage bringing a unique musical theater opportunity to five Madison area schools

Madison, Wis. (May 1, 2024) — Students at five Madison Metropolitan School District elementary schools are singing, acting and dancing with [Disney Musicals in Schools](#). In celebration, Overture will host the **Disney Musicals in Schools 2024 Student Share** on **Tuesday, May 7** with a one-hour performance at **11:45 a.m.** in Capitol Theater. The event is for students and their families only, not open to the public.

The following schools will star in the show:

- Hawthorne Elementary School
- Henderson Elementary School
- Leopold Community School
- Mendota Elementary School
- Nuestro Mundo Elementary School

Overture Center is working alongside Disney Theatrical Group to bring the Disney Musicals in Schools program to the Madison area.

“We are excited to welcome students for their Overture Center debut!” said Karra Beach, director of Broadway engagement programs. “Join us as we celebrate the joy of creativity and the unforgettable experience of seeing these young artists shine.”

Schools that participate in the Disney Musicals in Schools program receive a 17-week musical theater residency in their first year, led by a team of teaching artists trained by Disney Theatrical Group and Overture Center. Each school also receives performance rights and educational support materials at no cost. Support is provided for licensing and materials in the second and third years of participation as well.

Overture Center is among 18 arts organizations in the world collaborating with Disney Musicals in Schools.

Disney Musicals in Schools was launched in 2010 in response to Disney Theatrical Group’s concern that under-resourced public elementary schools were not afforded equitable access to the arts. After successfully offering the program in New York City schools, Disney Theatrical Group began collaborating with organizations in other communities across the United States.

Disney KIDS musicals, created in partnership with Music Theater International (MTI), are 30-minute musicals designed for elementary school performers and have been adapted from the classic Disney films *101 Dalmatians*, *Aladdin*, *Finding Nemo*, *Frozen*, *The Aristocats*, *The Jungle Book*, *The Lion King* and *Winnie the Pooh*.

DISNEY THEATRICAL GROUP, a division of The Walt Disney Studios, operates under the direction of Andrew Platt, Anne Quart and Thomas Schumacher. The group produces and licenses Broadway productions around the world, including *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, Elton John & Tim Rice’s *Aida*, *TARZAN®*, *Mary Poppins*, a co-production with Cameron Mackintosh, *The Little Mermaid*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Newsies*, *Aladdin* and *Frozen*, winning 20 Tony® Awards and 62 nominations for their Broadway productions. Other stage ventures include the Olivier-nominated London hit *Shakespeare in Love*, stage productions of *Disney’s High School Musical*, *Der Glöckner Von Notre Dame* in Berlin and *King David* in concert on Broadway. Disney Theatrical Group has collaborated with the nation’s preeminent theatres to develop new stage musicals including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Freaky Friday* and *Hercules*. As a part of the recent acquisition of 21st Century Fox, Disney Theatrical Group also heads the Buena Vista Theatrical banner, which licenses Fox titles for stage adaptations, including *Anastasia*, *Moulin Rouge! The Musical* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*. Next on the Disney Theatrical schedule: the world-premiere of *Hercules* in Hamburg, Germany and the North American tour of a reimagined production of *Beauty and The Beast* in 2025.

Music Theatre International (MTI) is one of the world's leading theatrical licensing agencies, granting theatres from around the world the rights to perform the greatest selection of musicals from Broadway and beyond. Founded in 1952 by composer Frank Loesser and orchestrator Don Walker, MTI is a driving force in advancing musical theatre as a vibrant and engaging art form. MTI works directly with the composers, lyricists and book writers of these musicals to provide official scripts, musical materials and dynamic theatrical resources to over 100,000 professional, community and school theatres in the US and in over 150 countries worldwide.

MTI is particularly dedicated to educational theatre and has created special collections to meet the needs of various types of performers and audiences. MTI's Broadway Junior® shows are 30- and 60-minute musicals for performance by elementary and middle school-aged performers, while MTI's School Editions are musicals annotated for performance by high school students. MTI maintains its global headquarters in New York City with additional offices in London (MTI Europe) and Melbourne (MTI Australia).

Overture Center's Disney Musicals in Schools program is sponsored by Starion Bank.

OVERTURE CENTER FOR THE ARTS in Madison, Wis., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization that features seven state-of-the-art performance spaces and four galleries where national and international touring artists, nine resident companies and hundreds of local artists engage people in nearly 700,000 educational and artistic experiences each year. Overture's mission is to support and elevate our community's creative culture, economy and quality of life through the arts. overture.org

###