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Programme

March 2018



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A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

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PRINCESS OF WALES THEATRE

MagicSpace Entertainment and RAIN

present

RAIN®

A TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES

Cast

STEVE LANDES
PAUL CURATOLO
AARON CHIAZZA
ALASTAR MCNEIL
MARK BEYER

Created By

STEVE LANDES
JOEY CURATOLO
JOE BITHORN
RALPH CASTELLI
MARK LEWIS

RAIN has a running time of 2 hours and 20 minutes,
including intermission.



The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, either with or without flash, is strictly prohibited. Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones, beepers and watches.

STEVE LANDES

Vocals, Rhythm Guitar, Harmonica, Piano, Original Broadway Cast

A life-long, second generation Beatles fan, Steve taught himself guitar at ten by listening to Beatles records and by 13 was fronting a top 40 cover band in his native Philadelphia. At 17 he joined Beatlemania and further developed his musicianship, touring the world with the show. After “passing the audition” with the existing Rain band members in 1998, his career was set. On one of his travels to England, he found himself at Liverpool’s Casbah Club, owned by pre-Ringo Beatles drummer Pete Best. Encouraged to get on stage, Steve belted out lead vocals to the Beatles rocker *Slow Down*, while Best sat in on drums. As a backup musician, Steve has performed alongside legendary sixties artists Peter Noone (Herman’s Hermits), Joey Molland (Badfinger), Mitch Ryder and the Detroit Wheels and Tiny Tim. As an actor, he appeared in the films *Wedding Bell Blues*, *For Which He Stands* and Tim Burton’s *Mars Attacks!* Steve writes and records his own original music. www.steve-landes.com, facebook.com/steve.landes.rain.

PAUL CURATOLO

Vocals, Bass, Piano, Guitar

The Beatles became Paul’s biggest influence as a child growing up with RAIN. At ten years old, his musical journey began when he taught himself the drums. He quickly adapted to guitar & piano which drove him to write and record his own music. When he was 14, as a member of the pop band “Wayward”, he went on to record five albums. Until recently the band has toured the U.S.

and was voted home town heroes in A.P. magazine (Alternative Press). Paul’s love for the Beatles has driven him to master the character of Paul McCartney down to every detail. From vocal inflections to turning the bass over to perform left-handed. Paul considers it an honour to pay tribute to his idol.

AARON CHIAZZA

Drums, Percussion, Vocals

Aaron began playing music at the young age of 5 when his parents gifted him a drum set. This drum set did not last long under the strength of a kindergartner and eventually he moved into a full size instrument by early elementary school. Early yet important musical influences stemmed from a blend of past era funk, soul, jazz, rock, and others. From there he went on to study music in an academic setting through high school and college participating in Jazz, Symphonic, and percussion ensembles. Amongst tossing up time between original projects, writing and shows, Aaron also loves being an audio engineer and artist. You can follow his work and ventures with RAIN on his website—www.AaronChiazza.com

ALASTAR McNEIL

Vocals, Lead Guitar, Guitar Synth

Born and raised on the island of O’ahu, State of Hawai’i, Alastar McNeil grew up surrounded by musicians who played ukulele and guitar. These instruments would play a pivotal role in his life as he became an ukulele luthier – for a time supervising a local factory – and eventually changed careers to fulfill the dream of being a full time musician. Alastar and his wife Miwa (herself a

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kiho alu'or Hawaiian slack key guitarist) have played with the iconic band Kupa'aina for years even as he earned a solid reputation for his instrumentation and adaptability playing with Honolulu bands doing everything from Irish to reggae, funk to classic rock and even a local Beatles tribute. "Playing with RAIN has challenged and improved my ability to express myself not just as a musician but as an actor and entertainer as well. Nothing is more thrilling!"

MARK BEYER

Keyboard, Percussion

Mark began piano lessons at age 8, and at 12 was given special acceptance into a local University music school where he was privately trained in piano and music theory. At 14, he began experimenting with electronic keyboards and synthesizers from the 1970s, and played professionally in a progressive rock band. As keyboard technology advanced, Mark became known for his uncanny reproductions of elaborate sound textures, exotic instruments, and simulations of full orchestras. Mark is the primary programmer and sound designer for the keyboards currently used in RAIN's production. www.Beatlekeys.com

PERFORMERS MAY CHANGE.

ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS MAY INCLUDE:

JOEY CURATOLO

Vocals, Bass, Piano, Guitar, Original Broadway Cast

Joey grew up in a Brooklyn household where classical music and opera formed the soundtrack. A natural musician, he was infatuated with The Beatles, taught himself guitar at age 10 and played piano by ear at 16. After winning multiple McCartney sound-alike contests, Joey

toured with the Broadway production of *Beatlemania*. He joined RAIN shortly after, and helped transform the band into the multimedia production it is today. In addition, he is an active singer/songwriter and studio musician. His original Christmas song *Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas* is featured on Broadway's *Carols for a Cure, Volume 12* (to benefit BC/EFA) as well as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's *Hope for the Holidays* charity album. When Universal Pictures needed a McCartney sound, they contacted Joey to record the song *Love Take Me Down* for the recently released comedy *Role Models*. For Joey, performing on Broadway was a dream come true.

JOE BITHORN

Vocals, Lead Guitar, Guitar Synth, Sitar, Original Broadway Cast

Joe grew up in Manhattan and Long Island, where he was exposed to a variety of music including jazz, Latin, classical and more. By age three, his musical father taught his children how to sing harmony. He was profoundly influenced by the experiences he had at Carnegie Hall through his Mom, who worked with the Festival Casals. Thanks to The Beatles' appearance on Ed Sullivan, Joe took a strong interest in the guitar. Early influences include the band Cream, and Joe developed the ability to learn guitar parts by ear by age 14. By age 16, he was so proficient that he was recruited for studio sessions. While in high school, Joe and his brother formed the Bithorn Brothers Band, performing the early music of the Allman Brothers Band. Joe heard about an audition for *Beatlemania* and was hired for the touring production as George. After touring with the show in North America, Joe joined RAIN in 1983 and has been touring the world ever since.

CHRIS SMALLWOOD

Keyboard, Percussion

Chris fell in love with music as a young kid, but didn't fall onto a piano bench until high school, when he broke his leg. Just two years later, he was invited to Kentucky's prestigious Governor's School for the Arts program. In 2008, Chris received a bachelor of music from Belmont University, and in 2010 earned his master of music from the University of Louisville. Chris has toured internationally with RAIN – *A Tribute to the Beatles* for five years, and loves sharing his passion for The Beatles' music with fans all over the world. Chris currently serves as adjunct music faculty at Belmont University, and owns Mockingbird Musicians – a Nashville contracting service for live music and entertainment. Chris was appointed Music Director/Performer for the Eat Your Science tour, Chef Alton Brown's live show, which toured in 2016. Chris recently released his first piano pop record, *Out in the Open*, which is available on iTunes.

JIM IRIZARRY

Vocals, Rhythm Guitar, Piano, Harmonica

Jim is from Chicago, IL, and began singing and playing the music of his favourite band, The Beatles, at the age of 12. He performed in local Chicago Beatle bands and learned the harmonica to master some of his early Beatle favourites. Years later Jim visited Liverpool for Beatle Week and made several appearances at the Cavern Club. He naturally captures the look and sound of Lennon and transforms himself through all eras of The Beatles, as well as recreating John's famous humor and onstage antics.

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RALPH CASTELLI

Drums, Percussion, Vocals, Original Broadway Cast

Ralph was born and raised in southern California, surrounded by a musically talented family, and by age six became passionate about playing drums. On that momentous night in February, 1964, when The Beatles first appeared on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, Ralph was hypnotized and knew playing drums was what he was born to do. Captivated by Ringo Starr and The Beatles that night, Ralph's excitement continued to grow, and his dream would eventually become his reality. After touring and performing with numerous bands and pursuing his acting career, Ralph landed the role of Ringo Starr in the touring production of *Beatlemania*: *The Movie*. His talent, drum techniques, humor, style and appearance were in his favor. Ralph joined RAIN in 1986 and was thrilled to be on Broadway.

MARK LEWIS

Founder, Manager, Original Keyboardist

As the managerial and creative mind that transformed RAIN from a 1970's southern California bar band doing Beatles covers into an ultra-professional group, Mark Lewis recruited the excellent musicians who would gel into RAIN's long-standing line-up. He traces his love of the Fab Four to the Sunday night of February 9, 1964, when his generation was smitten by The Beatles on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Originally called *Reign*, the band gained national fame, changed its name to RAIN and cut the soundtrack to the made-for-TV movie *Birth of The Beatles* (thanks to Dick Clark). An accomplished pianist at 13, having studied since age five, he began his career playing the Farfisa organ in teenage rock bands around his native Los Angeles. It

was Mark, the original keyboard player with RAIN, who worked out all of the musical parts and sounds that enabled RAIN to bring to life many songs that The Beatles themselves never performed live.

MAGICSPACE ENTERTAINMENT

Producer

MagicSpace Entertainment is headed by Lee D. Marshall, Joe Marsh, John Ballard, Steve Boulay and Bruce Granath and has been producing and presenting national tours, Broadway shows, concerts and museum exhibits worldwide for over 35 years. Consistently one of the top promoters in the world, MagicSpace Entertainment typically produces and presents more than 350 events worldwide per year. Recent Broadway credits include *The Illusionists – Witness the Impossible* (Broadway & West End), *Donny & Marie – A Broadway Christmas*, *American Idiot*

and *RAIN – A Tribute to the Beatles On Broadway*. National tour credits include *The Illusionists – Live From Broadway*, *Lord of the Dance* created by Michael Flatley, Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage starring in *Mythbusters – Unleashed*, *Alton Brown Live*, *Mannheim Steamroller Christmas* by Chip Davis, *Donny & Marie Christmas*, *RAIN – A Tribute to the Beatles*, *The Magic of David Copperfield*, *Circus 1903 – The Golden Age of Circus*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *A Chorus Line* and national concert tours by Janet Jackson, Cher and Fleetwood Mac to name just a few. Touring museum exhibitions produced include *Jurassic World: The Exhibition*, *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* exhibition, *Titanic: The Exhibition and Diana – A Celebration*, *St Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes* exhibition. MagicSpace Entertainment has offices in Park City and Salt Lake City, UT. www.magicspace.net

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without whom we wouldn't be here.

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for all their love and support throughout the years.

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Shea Stadium photos courtesy of Tony Griffin

And the late Jim Riddle



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MUSIC CREDITS

She Loves You, Please Please Me, From Me To You, I Want To Hold Your Hand, A Hard Days Night, If I Fell, I'm Happy Just To Dance, Yesterday, I Feel Fine, The Night Before, Help, Day Tripper, Twist and Shout, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, With A Little Help From My Friends, Eleanor Rigby, Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, When I'm 64, Sgt. Pepper (Reprise), A Day In The Life, Penny Lane, Blackbird, Across The Universe, Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da, In My Life, Here Comes The Sun, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, Come Together, Get Back, Revolution, The End, Give Peace A Chance, Let It Be, Hey Jude – written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC.
Twist and Shout – written by Bert Berns and Phil Medley © Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC and Sloopy II Music
Here Comes The Sun, While My Guitar Gently Weeps – written by George Harrison © Harrisongs Publishing.

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