



PRESS RELEASE

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**BROADWAY'S BIG-HEARTED, HIGH-HEELED HIT
STRUTS INTO AUSTRALIA FROM OCTOBER 2016**

**BY HARVEY FIERSTEIN & CYNDI LAUPER
DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY JERRY MITCHELL**

The feel-good, multi award-winning musical **Kinky Boots** will make its Australian premiere at **Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne** from October 2016.

Kinky Boots features a book by four-time Tony Award-winner **Harvey Fierstein**, music and lyrics by pop icon **Cyndi Lauper**, and direction and choreography by two-time Tony Award-winner **Jerry Mitchell**.

The ticket waitlist is now open at www.kinkybootsthemusical.com.au. Sign up to be first in line for tickets.

"Delightful, high-energy fun!"
The New York Post

"A sizzling, high-spirited new musical that's bound to put cheer in your heart!"
USA Today

In statements today, Victorian Premier, Daniel Andrews said: "I'm thrilled to announce that the Australian premiere season of *Kinky Boots* will be hosted in Melbourne, the theatre and arts capital of the country. It tells a powerful story and speaks to equality, to fairness, to dignity and to all of those things that Victorians hold dear."

Producers Daryl Roth and Hal Luftig said: "We are very proud of the show, and we cannot wait for Australian audiences of all ages to experience the joyful and heartwarming production that has been embraced around the world."

Australian Producer, Michael Cassel said: "I am very excited to partner with Daryl, Hal and Cameron Mackintosh to bring this phenomenal, Tony Award-winning production to Australia. I am looking forward to our auditions commencing later this year as we begin the search for our Australian cast."

Composer and Lyricist, Cyndi Lauper said: "People's reactions to *Kinky Boots* have been amazing from the very beginning. By the end of the show, the audiences are on their feet clapping and dancing and cheering – what more could you possibly ask for? And the show has a tonne of heart. It feels like such an honour to be part of something that makes people so happy."

The blockbuster Broadway hit scooped six Tony Awards in 2013, including Best Musical and Best Original Score Written for the Theatre – the first time a solo female composer has ever won the award. The production also took home the 2014 Grammy Award for Best Musical Theatre Album.



Inspired by a true story and based on the Miramax film by Geoff Deane and Tim Firth starring Joel Edgerton, **Kinky Boots** tells the story of Charlie Price who has reluctantly inherited his father's Northampton shoe factory. Trying to live up to his father's legacy and save the family business from bankruptcy, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola, a fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos. Lola turns out to be the one person who can help Charlie become the man he's meant to be. As they work to turn the factory around, this unlikely pair finds that they have more in common than they ever dreamed possible – and that when you change your mind, you can change the world.

Kinky Boots officially opened on Broadway in April 2013, with a production also currently on tour in the US. It has since opened in Seoul (November 2014) and Toronto (June 2015), with the production opening at London's Adelphi Theatre on 15 September 2015.

NOTES TO EDITORS

HARVEY FIERSTEIN (BOOKWRITER)

Harvey Fierstein is the author of the recent Broadway hits *Newsies* (Tony nomination) and *Casa Valentina* (Tony nomination), as well as *Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony, Drama Desk and Obie Awards), *La Cage aux Folles* (Tony and Drama Desk Awards), *A Catered Affair* (12 Drama Desk nominations), *Safe Sex* (Ace Award), *Legs Diamond*, *Spookhouse*, *Flatbush Tosca*, *Common Ground* and more. His political editorials have been published in *The New York Times*, *TV Guide* and the *Huffington Post* and broadcast on PBS's *In the Life*. His children's book, *The Sissy Duckling* (Humanitas Award), is now in its fifth printing. As an actor, Harvey Fierstein is known worldwide for his performances in films including *Mrs. Doubtfire*, *Independence Day* and *Bullets Over Broadway*; on stage in *Hairspray* (Tony Award), *Fiddler on the Roof*, *La Cage aux Folles* and *Torch Song Trilogy* (Tony Award); and on TV shows such as *Smash*, *How I Met Your Mother*, *The Good Wife*, *Cheers* (Emmy nomination), *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy* and *Nurse Jackie*.

CYNDI LAUPER (COMPOSER & LYRICIST)

Cyndi Lauper is a Grammy, Emmy and Tony Award-winning (for her *Kinky Boots* score) artist, who after 30 sterling years and global record sales in excess of 50 million albums, has proven that she has the heart and soul to keep her legion of fans compelled by her every creative move. With her first album, *She's So Unusual*, Lauper won a Grammy Award for Best New Artist and became the first female in history to have four top-five singles from a debut album. Since then, Lauper has released ten additional studio albums, with her most recent, the Grammy nominated *Memphis Blues*, ruling the Billboard Blues Chart for 14 consecutive weeks to become the best-selling blues album of 2010. Overall, during her storied music career, Lauper has been nominated for 15 Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, seven American Video Awards and 18 MTV Awards. She recently captured her journey through music and life in her *New York Times* best-selling autobiography, *Cyndi Lauper: A Memoir*. As an actress, Lauper made her Broadway debut in *The Threepenny Opera* alongside Alan Cumming in 2006. She has appeared in numerous television shows, including *Mad About You* (Emmy Award) and *Bones* and films including *The Opportunist* with Christopher Walken, *Mrs. Parker and the Vicious Circle*, *Life With Mikey*, *Off and Running* and *Vibes*. Lauper also continues her philanthropic work through her foundation, the True Colours Fund.



JERRY MITCHELL (DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER)

Jerry Mitchell received the Tony Award in recognition of his choreography for the 2013 Tony Award-winning Best Musical, *Kinky Boots*, for which his direction was also recognised with a Tony nomination. In the 33 preceding years, Jerry has been involved with more than 50 Broadway, Off-Broadway, West End and touring productions. His Broadway debut as a choreographer, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, was followed by *The Full Monty* (Tony nomination), *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Hairspray* (Tony nomination), *Gypsy*, *Never Gonna Dance* (Tony nomination), *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Tony nomination), *La Cage aux Folles* (Tony Award), *Imaginary Friends*, *Legally Blonde* (Tony nomination), which he also directed, and *Catch Me If You Can*. Most recently, Jerry received the Drama League's Founders' Award for Excellence in Directing and the George Abbott Lifetime Achievement Award from his peers. Twenty-three years ago, Jerry conceived and created *Broadway Bares*, a comedy burlesque show performed annually for the charity Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. He continues to serve as executive producer of *Broadway Bares*, with a book, website and satellite productions in Fire Island Pines, Las Vegas (*Peepshow*, now in its fifth year of continuous performance) and London (*West End Bares*).

CREATIVE TEAM

Book	Harvey Fierstein
Composer & Lyricist	Cyndi Lauper
Director & Choreographer	Jerry Mitchell
Musical Supervision, Arrangements & Orchestration	Stephen Oremus
Scenic Designer	David Rockwell
Costume Designer	Gregg Barnes
Lighting Designer	Kenneth Posner
Sound Designer	John Shivers
Hair Designer	Josh Marquette
Make-up Designer	Randy Houston Mercer

Kinky Boots is produced by Daryl Roth, Hal Luftig and Michael Cassel, James L. Nederlander, Terry Allen Kramer, Independent Presenters Network, CJ E&M, Jayne Baron Sherman, Just for Laughs Theatricals/Judith Ann Abrams, Yasuhiro Kawana, Jane Bergere, Allan S. Gordon & Adam S. Gordon, Ken Davenport, Hunter Arnold, Lucy and Phil Suarez, Bryan Bantry, Ron Fierstein and Dorsey Regal, Jim Kierstead/Gregory Rae, BB Group/Christina Papagjika, Michael DeSantis/Patrick Baugh, Brian Smith/Tom and Connie Walsh, Warren Trepp, and Jujamcyn Theaters, in association with Cameron Mackintosh.

Kinky Boots

Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne
219 Exhibition Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
From October 2016

Ticket waitlist now open at:
www.kinkybootsthemusical.com.au

Follow **Kinky Boots on social media:**
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