



**NYC Actor Cast as Gaston in Ramsey Theatre Company's  
*Beauty and The Beast***



**Jesse Luttrell, credited with productions such as *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Cats*, *Cabaret*, *Oliver* and *Beauty and The Beast*, will play Gaston in Ramsey Theatre Company's inaugural production.**

**Tickets on sale now.**

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BOWLING GREEN, KY – Today, Arts of Southern Kentucky announced that actor Jesse Luttrell will join Ramsey Theatre Company's production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Luttrell has toured the country since childhood. Through the years, he has been a part of several productions, including *Beauty and The Beast*.

"I'm beyond thrilled to not only be returning to my all-time favorite role, but to also be a part of the inaugural production of the Ramsey Theatre Company," said Luttrell. "It's rare that you get to be a part of the beginning of something so important and wonderful for the community. Theatre brings people

together; stories unite us, and musical theatre is the greatest conduit for collaboration between theatre professionals, students, and the community at large.”

“Jesse’s casting is unique for me as a director since he has played the role of Gaston twice before. I am eager to see what he brings to the table with that history, while having a fresh take on this Gaston. I can already tell lots of fun is going to be had in the rehearsal room when I get to work with this trio (Beast, Belle, Gaston), and I can’t wait!” said Elise Charny director of the production.

“We are enthused to have such a fine Gaston for our production. I was able to see Jesse’s audition. He has the look, the voice, and the experience for this role,” said Jeffrey Reed, President and CEO of Arts of Southern Kentucky.

Luttrell is the most recent addition to Ramsey Theatre Company, joining cast members previously announced: Emily Pellecchia (Belle), Jesse McFarland (Beast), and Craig Schulman (Maurice).

“I had the fabulous opportunity of attending Jesse's most recent performance in New York City. His stage presence and powerful voice were truly stunning. I can’t wait to work with him. It's going to be a lot of fun," said Emily Pellecchia, who will play Belle.

“I haven’t been able to meet Jesse in person just yet, but being friends with him on social media, I can tell he is a hardworking person. I am looking forward to working with him! He also has a pretty cool first name,” said Jesse McFarland, who will play the Beast.

On April 1, in-person casting for principal roles and ensemble will take place at the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center. From 12:00 PM-3:00 PM, vocal and dance auditions for 15- to 18-year-olds will take place. Adults, college-age and older, will have vocal and dance auditions from 4:00 PM-7:00 PM. To audition in person, email Elise Charny at [echarny@artsofsky.org](mailto:echarny@artsofsky.org) to reserve an individual audition time.

To accommodate friends and family of the cast, and to keep up with the demand of interested patrons, SKyPAC has added an additional performance on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 PM. Tickets for this newly-added performance are on sale. The Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> performance is almost sold out. Limited seating remains.

*Beauty and The Beast* is the third and final Broadway production of the 2022-2023 Willanna K. Ramsey Memorial Broadway Series, sponsored by Robert P. Ramsey. The musical is sponsored by Houchens Insurance Group/Auto-Owners Insurance, co-sponsored by English, Lucas, Priest and Owsley, LLP. The costume sponsor is Q Coffee Emporium.

Tickets are available online at [www.theyskypac.com](http://www.theyskypac.com), by calling (270) 904-1880, or in person at 601 College Street in downtown Bowling Green. Tickets start at \$35.

## **ABOUT JESSE LUTTRELL**

Hailed as “dazzling” by legendary *Village Voice* columnist Michael Musto, Jesse has been touring the country since childhood, playing such roles as “Frank-N-Furter” in *Rocky Horror*, “Pharaoh” in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, “Munkustrap” and “Rum Tum Tugger” in *Cats*, “Emcee” in *Cabaret*, and “Bill Sikes” in *Oliver*. He’s played “Gaston” in *Beauty and the Beast* multiple times. Jesse has also enjoyed an international concert career playing major nightclubs worldwide, including The Palm in Puerto Vallarta, Birdland, 54 Below, The Triad, Live at Zedel in London, The Orlando Cabaret Festival, and Austin Cabaret Theatre. Before moving to New York City 20 years ago, Jesse was a ballet dancer

who danced and trained on full scholarship with the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, The Rock School of the PA Ballet, CPYB, and The PA Academy of Ballet. He was the last artist to record at the historic Nola Studios in NYC, and paid tribute to the luminaries who were there before him - with a swing EP that is available everywhere music is streamed. Read more at [www.jessesings.com](http://www.jessesings.com).

#### **ABOUT RAMSEY THEATRE COMPANY**

The Ramsey Theatre Company was formed through a generous gift from Robert P. Ramsey to produce professional-level musical theatre to serve the BRADD area. The Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall at SKyPAC serves as its primary home. Principal roles are cast through nation-wide auditions with supporting roles filled by other accomplished actors. Orchestra Kentucky takes the place of honor in the Robin and David Ciochetti orchestra pit.

#### **ABOUT ARTS OF SOUTHERN KENTUCKY**

In 2020, with the assistance of the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge Michael O. Buchanon, Orchestra Kentucky assumed management of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). The new organization, which also includes BG Onstage and the Ramsey Theatre Company, is titled Arts of Southern Kentucky, and is led administratively and artistically by Jeffrey Reed. The Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center is a premier performing arts venue located in downtown Bowling Green, KY. The facility includes the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall, a 1,700-seat state-of-the-art auditorium; the Goodwin Gallery, the primary art exhibition space; the Renshaw Education Center which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater - a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls/classrooms; and the Denny and Carol Wedge Children's Art Gallery.

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