



National Touring Actor, Courtney Dease Cast as Lumiere in Ramsey Theatre Company's *Beauty and The Beast*



Courtney Dease, credited with productions such as *Pippin*, *Kinky Boots*, *Hairspray*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Big River* and *Into The Woods* will play Lumiere in Ramsey Theatre Company's inaugural production.

Tickets on sale now.

CONTACT: Makenzie Belcher (270) 904-5007, mbelcher@artsofsky.org

March 31, 2023

BOWLING GREEN, KY – Today, Arts of Southern Kentucky announced that actor Courtney Dease will take on the role of Lumiere in Ramsey Theatre Company's production of *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*. Dease calls NYC home where he's performed in numerous Off-Broadway productions. He has also traveled to almost 40 countries and five continents performing in various productions.

“What a joy it is to be a part of the Ramsey Theatre Company and to get to play Lumiere! I’ve portrayed him before and he is so much fun! I’m a child of the 90’s and the Disney Renaissance era had a huge impact on who I am today. Those iconic movies like *Beauty & The Beast*, *Aladdin*, *The Little Mermaid*, *The Lion King*, etc., were basically my first introductions to what a Broadway show is, in a sense, so getting to step into the role of one of the most beloved characters again is a dream,” said Dease. “Lumiere is ‘full out with feeling’ in every aspect. Whatever emotions he’s feeling at the time; joy, sadness, passion, you can bet they are at 100%, so as an actor, a role like this is like winning the lottery!”

“Courtney’s audition video had me in stitches! I just cannot wait to get this cast together in person. I absolutely love the serendipity of the theatre world as well; Jesse Luttrell (our Gaston) and Courtney worked with each other in this show last year,” said Elise Charny, director of the production.

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

“I’m so excited to reunite with Courtney on this beautiful show. I had the privilege of performing with him on it a year ago. He’s hilarious and super talented which makes for the perfect Lumiere. Although our characters are never onstage together, we put on quite a show backstage,” said Jesse Luttrell, who will play Gaston.

“Courtney Dease is a welcome addition to our cast. His experience playing Lumiere will greatly strengthen our presentation,” said Jeffrey Reed, President and CEO of Arts of Southern Kentucky.

To accommodate friends and family of the cast, and to meet the demand of interested patrons, SKyPAC has added an additional performance on Friday, June 23rd at 7:30 PM. Tickets for this newly-added performance are on sale. Limited seating remains for the Saturday, June 24th performance.

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 and Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet. The costume sponsor is Q Coffee Emporium.

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

ABOUT COURTNEY DEASE

Courtney Dease is a performer known for his versatility and charm. Whether he’s playing a leading man or a character role, he brings a passion and precision to his performances, that have been resonating with audiences across the globe. Courtney appeared in the national tour

of Stephen Schwartz's *Pippin*, where he traveled the country portraying the role of Lewis as well as tackling the title role of Pippin at select performances. He calls NYC home, where he's performed in numerous Off-Broadway productions. Most recently, he strutted in the famous red heels as Charlie Price in *Kinky Boots*. Throughout his career, he has traveled to almost 40 countries and five continents performing with popular cruise lines like Princess Cruises, Holland America Line, and Celebrity Cruises. In addition to his onstage work, Courtney enjoys being on-camera as well. You can catch him on *Evil Lives Here* on *Investigation Discovery* and in the upcoming film *Aspersions*. He is a graduate of Coker University where he earned a BA in Vocal Performance. Favorite past roles include Seymour Krelborn (*Little Shop of Horrors*), The Baker (*Into the Woods*), Huck Finn (*Big River*) and Link Larkin (*Hairspray*).

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 Ciochetty 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.

#####