



For Release: December 11, 2024  
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**Disney's *The Lion King* Opens In One Week –  
Performances Begin on Wednesday, December 18 at  
Shea's Buffalo Theatre**

**“Kids Night on Broadway” Performance is December 30  
with special pricing and pre-show activities**

**“Pride Reads: A Book Drive Fit for a King” Happening During the  
Three-Week Engagement**

**BUFFALO, NY** – The Buffalo return of **Disney's *The Lion King***, presented by arrangement with Shea's Performing Arts Center and Broadway presenting partner Albert Nocciolino is just one week away. The three-week Buffalo engagement, part of the Five Star Bank 2024-2025 Broadway Season, begins performances on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30PM at Shea's Buffalo Theatre and runs for 24 performances through Sunday, January 5, 2025.

Kids Night on Broadway performance is 7:30PM on Monday, December 30, 2024 thanks to promotional support provided by Wegmans. Young people ages 17 and under can see **Disney's *The Lion King*** for half price when accompanied by a full-paying adult. At this performance only, families can also enjoy activities in Shea's Smith Theatre from 6:30 – 7:15pm before the show, a talkback with members of ***The Lion King*** company after the performance, and the first 100 kids that evening will receive a Lion King bag. A limited number of tickets are available. Coupons, available at Wegmans, can be presented at the

Shea's Box Office at 650 Main Street in Buffalo or use the code WEGKNOB24 when purchasing tickets through the Shea's website at: [www.sheas.org/performances/the-lion-king](http://www.sheas.org/performances/the-lion-king)

Join us in celebrating **Disney's The Lion King** at Shea's Buffalo Theatre by giving the gift of books to our community! Shea's will be accepting donations of new or gently used books during all performances. Your donation brings the magic of storytelling full circle, helping readers of all ages discover their next great adventure. Donated books will be distributed during Shea's Free Family Film Series.

**The Lion King** began as a 1994 animated feature-length film developed and produced by the Walt Disney Company. The story, a coming-of-age parable set among animals indigenous to its setting, the African savanna, tells the tale of Simba, the lion cub who rises to be the King of the jungle.

**The Lion King** has been touring North America for more than 22 years, and during that time has welcomed over 23 million theatergoers, making it North America's longest-running and most-attended Broadway tour. Having already played more than 10,000 performances in over 90 cities across North America, **The Lion King** now proudly makes its return at Shea's Buffalo Theatre.

### **ABOUT THE LION KING**

Celebrating 27 landmark years on Broadway, **The Lion King** continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals of all time. Since its premiere on November 13, 1997, 29 global productions have been seen by over 120 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Group, under the direction of **Andrew Flatt**, **Anne Quart**, and **Thomas Schumacher**, **The Lion King** has made theatrical history with two productions worldwide running 20 or more years and three others running 25 or more years.

Performed over its lifetime in nine different languages (English, Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), there are currently eight productions of **The Lion King** around the world: Broadway, London, Paris, Hamburg, Madrid, Tokyo, Toronto, and on tour across North America. **The Lion King** has played over 100 cities in 24 countries on every continent except Antarctica; its worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in box office history.

**The Lion King** won six 1998 Tony Awards®: Best Musical, Best Scenic Design (**Richard Hudson**), Best Costume Design (**Julie Taymor**), Best Lighting Design (**Donald Holder**), Best Choreography (**Garth Fagan**) and Best Direction of a Musical. **The Lion King** has also earned more than 70 major arts awards including the 1998 NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album, the 1999 Evening Standard Award for Theatrical Event of the Year and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design.

Director, costume designer and mask co-designer **Julie Taymor**, the first woman to win a Tony Award for Best Director of a Musical, remains actively involved in the show, launching new productions and maintaining the flagship Broadway production.

The Broadway score features **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**'s songs from the *Lion King* animated film along with three new songs by John and Rice; additional musical material by South African **Lebo M**, **Mark Mancina**, **Jay Rifkin**, **Julie Taymor** and **Hans Zimmer**; and music from "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," an album inspired by the original music in the film, written by Lebo M, Mark Mancina and Hans Zimmer. The resulting sound of ***The Lion King*** is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa, ranging from the Academy Award®-winning song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" to Lebo M's rich choral numbers.

Elton John, Lebo M, and Hans Zimmer all collaborated on the 2019 version of the film, executive produced by Julie Taymor and Thomas Schumacher, which has gone onto extraordinary worldwide success.

The book has been adapted by **Roger Allers**, who co-directed the animated *The Lion King* feature, and **Irene Mecchi**, who co-wrote the film's screenplay. Other members of the creative team include: **Michael Curry**, who designed the masks and puppets with Taymor, **Steve Canyon Kennedy** (sound design), **Michael Ward** (hair and makeup design), **Anthony Lyn** (associate director), **Marey Griffith** (associate choreographer), **Clement Ishmael** (music supervisor), **Lisa Dawn Cave** (production supervisor), **Thomas Schlenk** (general manager) and **ARC/Mark Brandon, CSA** (casting). **Anne Quart** serves as executive producer.

For more information worldwide, visit [LionKing.com](http://LionKing.com), [www.facebook.com/thelionkingusa](https://www.facebook.com/thelionkingusa) and [www.instagram.com/thelionking](https://www.instagram.com/thelionking).

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