

THE MUNY



MIKE ISAACSON

Artistic Director & Executive Producer

Currently in his ninth season and only the third person to hold this position in The Muny's 101-year history. To date, he has produced 56 Muny shows, 23 of which had never been produced at The Muny before, including Dreamgirls, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Jersey Boys, Kinky Boots and Matilda.

He has collaborated at The Muny with many Tony award winners and breakthrough talents, including Christian Borle, Colin Donnell, Marcia Milgrom Dodge, Gary Griffin, Heather Headley, Jennifer Holliday, Denis Jones, Laura Michelle Kelly, Dan Knechtges, Beth Leavel, Norm Lewis, Beth Malone, Kathleen Marshall, Patti Murin, Josh Rhodes, Emily Skinner and Ken Page.

The Riverfront Times wrote, "Under the leadership of executive producer Mike Isaacson the quality of Muny productions rose like the proverbial phoenix." The St. Louis Post-Dispatch named him "Theatre Artist of the Year," noting that by "staging one impressive production after another, he made The Muny simultaneously hip and – believe it – important to our community."

During Isaacson's tenure, The Muny has produced new developmental productions of Irving Berlin's Holiday Inn, Lerner and Loewe's Paint Your Wagon and The Unsinkable Molly Brown. During its record-breaking 100th season, The Muny became the first theatre in the world to produce the legendary Jerome Robbins' Broadway, doing unprecedented archival work on both the artistic and business side. During that same season, The Muny produced the U.S. regional premiere of Jersey Boys.

Isaacson has changed the look and feel of a Muny production, overseeing a transformation in

every aspect of production that culminated in 2019 with the arrival of the theatre's extraordinary James S. McDonnell stage, a state-of-the-art stage house that includes revolutionary LED technology, automated sets and a host of other innovations.

With Kristin Caskey, Isaacson has produced more than 23 Broadway musicals and plays, national tours and off-Broadway and London productions. All told, his productions have received more than 122 Tony Award nominations and 34 Tony Awards. This season on Broadway, he and Caskey produced the highly-acclaimed David Byrne's *American Utopia*. Opening in April at The Hudson Theatre, will be their production of Neil Simon's *Plaza Suite*, starring Mathew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker. Last season, the duo co-produced the Tony-nominated Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*, starring Adam Driver and Kerri Russell.

Other career highlights for Isaacson include: *Fun Home* (2015 Tony Award, Best Musical; 2018 Olivier Award nominee, Best Musical), *Legally Blonde the Musical* (2011 Olivier Award, Best Musical), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2002 Tony Award, Best Musical), *Red* (2010 Tony Award, Best Play), *The Humans* (2016 Tony Award, Best Play), *If/Then*, starring Idina Menzel, *Bring It On: The Musical* (2013 Tony nomination for Best Musical), *A Doll's House 2* (2017 Tony nomination for Best Play), *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* (1999 Tony nomination for Best Revival of a Musical), *The Seagull*, *Caroline, or Change*; *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2001 Tony Award, Best Revival of a Play) and *Death of a Salesman* (1999 Tony Award, Best Revival of a Play). For the Independent Presenters Network, Isaacson served as producer for the Broadway shows *Spamalot* (2005 Tony Award, Best Musical), *Ragtime* (revival) and *The Color Purple*. He has received the St. Louis Arts and Education Council's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and in 2018, he was awarded The Broadway League's and Theatre Development Fund's Commercial Theater Institute "Robert Whitehead" Award for excellence in producing. He has served on the board of governors and executive committee of The Broadway League and received the Samuel J. L'Hommedieu Award. In 2016, he received the Equality Award from the St. Louis Chapter of Human Rights Campaign.

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