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## **Film Star Paolo Montalban and Broadway's Kendra Kassebaum to Lead Cast of The 5th Avenue Theatre's New Production of the Galaxy's Greatest Musical *Mamma Mia!***

**February 2–25, 2018**

*Book by Catherine Johnson*

*Music & Lyrics by Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus*

*Directed by Bill Berry*

*Choreographed by Bob Richard*

(Wednesday, November 22, 2017—Seattle, WA) This February **The 5th Avenue Theatre** will stage a new production of ***Mamma Mia!***, the hit musical that features the songs of the beloved pop group ABBA. The 5th is the first theater company in the Pacific Northwest to be granted the rights to create a brand new original version of the famed production that has wowed audiences for nearly 20 years. The 5th is delighted to welcome **Paolo Montalban**, best known for his portrayal of Prince Christopher opposite Brandy in the 1997 film version of *Cinderella*, who will make his 5th Avenue Theatre debut as Sam. Broadway's **Kendra Kassebaum** will return to The 5th Avenue Theatre stage to star as Donna, following her critically acclaimed performance as Mother in this season's *Ragtime*.

Montalban and Kassebaum will be joined by a fantastic cast of 5th Avenue favorites including **Lisa Estridge** (*Singin' in the Rain*, *Company*, *Into the Woods*) as Tanya, **Sarah Rudinoff** (*How to Succeed in Business*, *Cinderella*, *On the Town*) as Rosie and **Matt Wolfe** (*Catch Me if You Can*, *Disney's Aladdin*, *A Christmas Story*) as Bill. Making their 5th Avenue Theatre debuts are **Cobey Mandarino** as Harry, **Eliza Palasz** as Sophie and **Jordan Iosua Taylor** as Sky. *Mamma Mia!* will be directed by 5th Avenue Theatre Producing Artistic Director **Bill Berry** (*How to Succeed in Business*, *The Pajama Game*, *Broadway's First Date*) and choreographed by **Bob Richard**.

Playing **February 2-25, 2018** (press opening Friday, February 9, 2018), tickets for *Mamma Mia!* start at \$29 and are on sale now. They can be purchased at [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org), by phone at **206-625-1900** or at the Box Office at **1308 5th Avenue in Downtown Seattle**.

On the Greek island of Kalokairi, Sophie is preparing to marry her fiancé, Sky. She wants her father to walk her down the aisle but doesn't know who he is. She discovers her mother's old diary and finds entries describing intimate dates with three men—surely one of these men is her

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father. On the day before Sophie's wedding, her mother begins receiving guests at her taverna, and so the story of *Mamma Mia!* begins.

**WHEN:**        *Previews begin Friday, February 2, 2018*  
Opening Night: Friday, February 9, 2018 (press night)  
Closing Performance: Sunday, February 25, 2018

**SHOW**        Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – 7:30 PM  
**TIMES:**        Fridays – 8:00 PM  
                     Saturdays – 2:00 PM & 8:00 PM  
                     Sundays – 1:30 PM & 7:00 PM

**WHERE:**        **The 5th Avenue Theatre** (1308 5th Avenue, Downtown Seattle)

**TICKETS:**      Please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org) or call the Box Office at (206) 625-1900 for tickets (starting at \$29).

Special thanks to The 5th Avenue Theatre's 2017/18 season sponsors ArtsFund, U.S. Bank and Alaska Airlines. Additional thanks to restaurant sponsor Purple.

### **About The 5th Avenue Theatre**

The non-profit 5th Avenue Theatre is the nation's premier incubator for new musical theater. Since 2001, the Seattle-based company has produced 18 new musicals. To date, nine (including the sensational hit *Disney's Aladdin*) have moved on to Broadway premieres, earning a combined 15 Tony Awards®, including two for Best Musical (*Hairspray* and *Memphis*). The 5th Avenue Theatre is also known for its world class, critically acclaimed new productions of musicals chosen from both the contemporary canon and the Golden Age of Broadway.

Unique in its Chinese-inspired design, this exquisite theater opened in 1926 as a venue for vaudeville and film. Today, under the leadership of Executive Producer and Artistic Director David Armstrong, Managing Director Bernadine C. Griffin and Producing Artistic Director Bill Berry, this non-profit theater company attracts an annual attendance of more than 300,000, including over 20,000 subscribers—one of the largest theater subscriptions in North America.

In addition to its main stage productions, The 5th Avenue Theatre is also committed to encouraging the next generation of theatergoers through its extensive educational outreach programs. For more information about The 5th Avenue Theatre, its season and its programs, please visit [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org).

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