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City Springs Theatre Company Opens Eighth Season With Mel Brooks' Musical-Comedy *The Producers*, Sept. 5-21

*Brooks' musical based on his own Oscar-winning film is still the
winningest show in the history of Broadway's Tony Awards®*

SANDY SPRINGS - In 2001, American comedy legend **Mel Brooks** changed the face of Broadway forever with the musical version of his own 1967 film *The Producers*. Hailed as an instant classic, Brooks' musical won a record twelve Tony Awards® and has kept audiences across the globe laughing ever since. Now Atlanta's-own **City Springs Theatre Company** (CSTC) kicks off their eighth season of musicals with Brooks collaborator **James Gray** directing and choreographing ***The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical***, having appeared as an actor in the show on both Broadway and in London's West End. The production runs September 5-21 at the Byers Theatre in Sandy Springs, GA.

In *The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical* a down-on-his-luck New York producer teams up with his mild-mannered accountant to produce the biggest disaster in Broadway history, allowing them to run off with the surplus of money they raise. Together they do everything in their power to make sure the show (a wholly offensive musical titled "Springtime For Hitler") is a sure-fire flop, only to have their efforts spectacularly backfire. Arguably the funniest Broadway musical ever, *The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical* overflows with the signature bold, unapologetic humor of its creator.

Brooks, 99, has been vocal over the years, defending his comedy. "After all the people that he was responsible for killing and after utterly destroying half the world," he has said, "I just thought the only weapon I've really got is comedy. And if I can make this guy ludicrous, if I can make you laugh at him, then it's a victory of sorts."

Tony-award winner Shuler Hensley is City Springs Theatre Company's Artistic Director, and he has had the pleasure of working with Mel Brooks on stage. "Working with Mel Brooks and being able to call him a friend is an unqualified privilege. He's a one-of-a-

kind voice, a true craftsman of comedy, finding humor in impossible situations and maddening injustices. As an actor, an audience roaring with laughter is a gift like no other - even more so than applause or a standing ovation. Nothing unifies an audience like the kind of outrageous, gut-busting laughter that has been Mel's hallmark for decades. It's his superpower and it's why he is still thriving at 99!"

Leading the cast of *The Producers* is New York-based actor **Adam B. Shapiro**, making his CSTC debut as the larger-than-life producer Max Bialystock. Returning to the CSTC stage is **Tyler Pirrung** (CSTC's *Jersey Boys*, *Spamalot*) as the nebbish accountant Leo Bloom. Also returning to CSTC are Atlanta theatre favorites **Jeff McKerley** as Roger De Bris, **Blake Fountain** as Franz Liebkind, and **Frankie Marasa 5th** as Carmen Ghia. Making her CSTC debut in the role of Ulla will be **Celine Sullivan**.

The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical features Tony Award®-winning songs by **Mel Brooks**, and a Tony®-winning book by Brooks and **Thomas Meehan**. The production will be directed and choreographed by **James Gray**, based on the original Tony®-winning direction and choreography by **Susan Stroman**. The remainder of the production's creative team are **Jesse Kissel** (music director), **Naomi Kakuk** (associate choreographer), **Eric Luchen** (scenic designer), **Alyx Jacobs** (lighting designer), **Anthony Narciso** (sound designer), and **Shay Holihan** (production stage manager). The CSTC production will proudly feature the musical's original Tony Award®-winning costumes designed by Broadway legend **William Ivey Long**.

The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical contains adult language, adult situations, and includes mention and depictions of Adolf Hitler and Nazis. It is recommended for audiences 13+. *The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). Performances take place September 5th through September 21st at the Byers Theatre in the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs, GA 30328. Tickets are now on sale at www.CitySpringsTheatre.com. For more information contact City Springs Theatre Company at 404-477-4365 during regular business hours.

Performance Schedule:

Friday, September 5 @ 8:00pm
Saturday, September 6 @ 2:00pm
Saturday, September 6 @ 8:00pm
Sunday, September 7 @ 2:00pm
Wednesday, September 10 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, September 11 @ 7:30pm
Friday, September 12 @ 8:00pm
Saturday, September 13 @ 2:00pm
Saturday, September 13 @ 8:00pm
Sunday, September 14 @ 2:00pm
Wednesday, September 17 @ 7:30pm
Thursday, September 18 @ 7:30pm
Friday, September 19 @ 8:00pm

Saturday, September 20 @ 2:00pm
Saturday, September 20 @ 8:00pm
Sunday, September 21 @ 2:00pm

Individual tickets to *The Producers: A Mel Brooks Musical* range from \$70 to \$172, including all fees, with discounts for seniors, students, groups, and active and retired military personnel. Call 404-477-4365 or visit CitySpringsTheatre.com for more information. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by calling the Box Office at 404-477-4365. CSTC's Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00am - 5:00pm. City Springs Theatre Company productions take place at the Byers Theatre in the Sandy Springs Performing Arts Center, 1 Galambos Way, Sandy Springs.

City Springs Theatre Company (CSTC) is dedicated to entertaining, educating, and enriching lives by creating world-class entertainment experiences and innovative arts education programs that drive cultural and economic vitality. Through musical theatre productions that utilize the talents of local and national artists, CSTC provides Broadway-quality entertainment to the diverse Atlanta populace, helping to establish Sandy Springs, Georgia, as a growing cultural center. City Springs Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, led by **Natalie DeLancey** as executive director, and Tony Award®-winner and Atlanta native **Shuler Hensley** as artistic director. To date, CSTC has served over 320,000 patrons and 150,000 students through its mainstage musicals and educational programs. For tickets and more information call 404-477-4365 or visit www.CitySpringsTheatre.com.