

## SAM RUDY MEDIA RELATIONS

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# THE LAST SHIP

announces October 26th opening  
at Neil Simon Theatre on Broadway

New musical by Sting, John Logan and Brian Yorkey  
Choreography by Steven Hoggett, Directed by Joe Mantello  
set for pre-Broadway engagement in Chicago this summer  
Tickets on sale February 14<sup>th</sup> in Chicago

Michael Esper, Rachel Tucker, Jimmy Nail, Aaron Lazar,  
Sally Ann Triplett, Collin Kelly-Sordelet and Fred Applegate  
lead the cast

Design team set

“STING: THE LAST SHIP”  
– concert filmed at The Public Theater –  
to air February 21 on PBS “Great Performances”

**THE LAST SHIP** – the new musical with music and lyrics by 16-time Grammy winner Sting, and book by Tony winner John Logan and Pulitzer Prize-winner Brian Yorkey – will begin previews on Broadway at the Neil Simon Theatre (250 W. 52 St.) on September 29 prior to opening night on October 26, according to producers Jeffrey Seller and Kathryn Schenker. **THE LAST SHIP** is directed by Tony winner Joe Mantello and has choreography by Olivier Award winner and Tony nominee Steven Hoggett.

**THE LAST SHIP** will travel to New York following a pre-Broadway tryout June 10 to July 13 in Chicago at Bank of America Theatre. Tickets to the Chicago engagement go on sale February 14.

On Friday, February 21, PBS “Great Performances” will broadcast “STING: THE LAST SHIP at 9 pm, ET (check local listings). Filmed on Sting's birthday last fall during a run of benefit concerts for The Public Theater in New York City, “STING: THE LAST SHIP” features Sting joined by 14 musicians, including Jimmy Nail, performing songs from the album and musical. The telecast offers unique insight into the creative process behind **THE LAST SHIP**, with Sting providing a glimpse into the narrative of the play through the songs on his new album and his experience emerging from a songwriting hiatus to pen his first album of original material in nearly a decade.

Inspired by Sting's own childhood experiences, **THE LAST SHIP** marks the renowned musician's Broadway debut as a composer.

Principal roles in the cast of **THE LAST SHIP** will be played by Michael Esper, Rachel Tucker, Jimmy Nail, Aaron Lazar, Sally Ann Triplett, Collin Kelly-Sordelet and Fred Applegate. Additional casting for the ensemble will be announced at a later date.

As well, the producers have announced **THE LAST SHIP**'s design team: set and costume design by Tony nominee David Zinn; lighting design by Tony winner Christopher Akerlind and sound design by Tony winner Brian Ronan.

**THE LAST SHIP** is set in the English seafaring town of Wallsend, a close-knit community where life has always revolved around the local shipyard and the hardworking men construct magnificent vessels with tremendous pride. But Gideon Fletcher dreams of a different future. He sets out to travel the world, leaving his life and his love behind. When Gideon returns home 14 years later, he finds the shipyard's future in grave danger and his childhood sweetheart engaged to someone else. As the men of Wallsend take their future into their own hands and build a towering representation of the shared dream that defines their existence, Gideon realizes that he left behind more than he could have ever imagined.

**THE LAST SHIP** is a portrait of a community so bound together by passion, faith and tradition, they'll stop at nothing to preserve the only life they've ever known.

### CAST

Michael Esper has appeared on Broadway in Green Day's musical **AMERICAN IDIOT**, **THE LYONS** and **A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS**. Off-Broadway credits include Tony Kushner's **THE INTELLIGENT HOMOSEXUAL'S GUIDE TO CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM WITH A KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES** and Edward Albee's **ME, MYSELF AND I**.

Rachel Tucker – an Irish singer and actress who appeared the West End production of **WICKED**, and was a finalist on the BBC's televised talent series “I'd Do Anything” – will make her Broadway debut in **THE LAST SHIP**.

Jimmy Nail is an accomplished singer-songwriter and actor, a native of Wallsend, where **THE LAST SHIP** is set. Mr. Nail first earned acclaim on the television series “Auf Wiedersehen, Pet” and “Spender,” which he co-wrote. He appeared in the films **EVITA** and **STILL CRAZY**. He has released several albums of his own music, including “Growing Up in Public” and “Big River.” His collective body-of-work has received five BAFTA nominations and a Golden Globe nomination. **THE LAST SHIP** marks his Broadway debut, as well.

Aaron Lazar has appeared on Broadway in **MAMMA MIA**, **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**, **IMPRESSIONISM**, **LES MISERABLES** and **THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA**.

Sally Ann Triplett's credits on London stages in the West End include leading roles in **THE BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN TEXAS**, **FOLLIES**, **CHESS**, **GREASE**, **CATS**, **ANYTHING GOES**, **GUYS AND DOLLS** and many more. She made her Broadway debut in the musical **CARRIE**.

Fred Applegate's numerous Broadway roles include in **THE PRODUCERS**, **LA CAGE AUX FOLLES**, **YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN**, **SISTER ACT** and **THE SOUND OF MUSIC**.

Colin Kelly-Sordelet makes his Broadway debut in **THE LAST SHIP**.

(Rachel Tucker and Jimmy Nail are appearing with the support of Actors' Equity Association. The Producers gratefully acknowledge Actors' Equity Association for its assistance of this production.)

### DESIGNERS

David Zinn was nominated for a Tony Award for his costume designs of **IN THE NEXT ROOM**. He has done both costume and scenic design for **SEMINAR**, costume design for **XANADU**, **GOOD PEOPLE**, **BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO**, **OTHER DESERT CITIES**, **PICNIC**, **THE OTHER PLACE** and **ROCKY** on Broadway, and scenic design for the upcoming **VIOLET**. He has done scenic and costume design for opera companies across the U.S. including New York City Opera, Santa Fe Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Chris Akerlind is a five-time Tony Award nominee who won the Tony Award for THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA and was nominated for SEVEN GUITARS, AWAKE AND SING, THE GERSHWINS' PORGY AND BESS and 110 IN THE SHADE. His other Broadway productions include END OF THE RAINBOW, THE TALE OF THE ALLERGIST'S WIFE, WELL and THE PIANO LESSON.

Brian Ronan is a four-time Tony nominee, having won for his design for THE BOOK OF MORMON. His many other Broadway credits include BEAUTIFUL, ANNIE, BRING IT ON, NICE WORK IF YOU CAN GET IT, ANYTHING GOES, EVERYDAY RAPTURE, PROMISES, PROMISES, AMERICAN IDIOT, NEXT TO NORMAL, GREASE, CURTAINS, SPRING AWAKENING, GREY GARDENS, THE PAJAMA GAME, ALL SHOOK UP, 12 ANGRY MEN and others.

## PRODUCERS

Producer Jeffrey Seller is the winner of three Tony Awards for Best Musical: RENT (1996), which also won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama; AVENUE Q (2004); and IN THE HEIGHTS (2008). He has also produced and/or developed DE LA GUARDA, Andrew Lippa's THE WILD PARTY, Baz Luhrmann's production of PUCCINI's LA BOHEME, HIGH FIDELITY, title of show, WEST SIDE STORY and BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO. He directed the premiere of the musical FLY last summer at Dallas Theater Center.

Producer Kathryn Schenker has over 30 years experience in the entertainment business. As Sting's longtime manager, she has worked side by side with him for most of her professional career. She has produced three Emmy Award winning musical specials including A&E PRIVATE SESSIONS, A&E IN CONCERT-STING SACRED LOVE, and STING...ALL THIS TIME. Schenker has also produced numerous music documentaries including the upcoming PBS "Great Performances" STING: THE LAST SHIP, among others. In 2012, Schenker received the prestigious Cannes Lion Award for developing and co-producing the groundbreaking STING 25 YEARS iPad App. She is the daughter of the late Joel W. Schenker, a Tony Award nominated Broadway producer and one of the original members of the Theatre Guild.

Joining Mr. Seller and Ms. Schenker as producers of THE LAST SHIP are Kevin McCollum, Sander Jacobs, James L. Nederlander, Roy Furman, Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss.

Kevin McCollum is producer of the Broadway hit MOTOWN and has won the Tony Award for Best Musical as producer of AVENUE Q, IN THE HEIGHTS and RENT, which also won the Pulitzer Prize and was made into a motion picture. He also produced THE DROWSY CHAPERONE, Baz Luhrmann's LA BOHEME, HIGH FIDELITY, [title of show], the debut stage production of Irving Berlin's WHITE CHRISTMAS and the Off-Broadway hit DE LA GUARDA.

Sander Jacobs' most recent successes are the 2008 Tony Award-winning Best Musical IN THE HEIGHTS and its national tour, and the 2009 Tony Award-nominated WEST SIDE STORY revival and its national tour. Mr. Jacobs has served as co-producer and/or major investor for numerous Broadway, national and international productions, including a selection of the theatre's most celebrated and critically acclaimed musicals: LES MISERABLES, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, GRAND HOTEL and FOLLIES are among his many investments. His business career began with the creation of a multi-product fashion manufacturing and distributing company and quickly expanded to include ventures in the real estate and cosmetic industries.

James L. Nederlander is President of the Nederlander Organization and is the son of James M. Nederlander (Chairman). His most recent Broadway productions include SPIDER MAN: TURN OFF THE DARK, KINKY BOOTS, ROMEO AND JULIET and AFTER MIDNIGHT. Other Broadway credits: I'LL EAT YOU LAST, MIKE TYSON: UNDISPUTED TRUTH, WEST SIDE STORY, NEXT TO NORMAL, THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE, WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? with Kathleen Turner and Bill Irwin and MOVIN' OUT.

Roy Furman's numerous Broadway productions include THE BOOK OF MORMON, Rodgers & Hammerstein's CINDERELLA, ANNIE, CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF, LUCKY GUY, WAR HORSE, EVITA, THE HERIESS, THE ADDAMS FAMILY, WEST SIDE STORY, GYPSY, SPAMALOT, THE COLOR PURPLE and THE HISTORY BOYS. He is vice chairman, Lincoln Center, and chairman emeritus, Film Society Lincoln Center.

Herb Alpert was the recipient of the National Medal of Arts Award. Co-founder of A&M Records, with Jerry Moss, Alpert won his ninth Grammy Award in 2014 for his album "Steppin' Out." Alpert is a professional painter, sculptor, philanthropist and has produced SEVEN GUITARS, BROKEN GLASS, ANGELS IN AMERICA, JELLY'S LAST JAM and CRYPTOGRAM on Broadway.

New York born Jerry Moss was cofounder with Herb Alpert of A&M records and Rondor Music Publishing. A&M signed and distributed many worldwide successful recording artists among whom was Sting. Moss has lately turned his and his wife Ann's sporting interest to horse racing where their colt, Giacomo, won the 2005 Kentucky Derby, and the filly Zenyatta became a 3-time champion and 2010 Horse of the Year. Moss was also an investor in both the Australian and Broadway productions of THE BOY FROM OZ.

### **CREATIVE TEAM BIOS**

**STING** (Score) Composer, singer, author, actor and activist, Sting is one of the world's most renowned and distinctive artists. Throughout his enduring career, he has earned 16 Grammy Awards, a Golden Globe, an Emmy, three Oscar nominations, and has sold close to 100 million albums from his combined work with the Police and as a solo artist. He is a member of both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Songwriters Hall of Fame, has appeared in more than 15 films and authored two books, including the New York Times best-selling memoir, "Broken Music." His fourteenth solo album, entitled THE LAST SHIP, is inspired by the story of his forthcoming play of the same name and draws upon his memories of the shipbuilding community of Wallsend in the North East of England where he was born and raised. PBS' "Great Performances" will premiere STING: THE LAST SHIP on February 21, featuring Sting performing songs from both the album and play captured live at The Public Theater in New York City. Sting and Paul Simon recently embarked on a North American tour, blending their voices for many years of their best-known songs and performing individual sets with their respective bands. For further information, please visit: [sting.com](http://sting.com)

**JOHN LOGAN** (Book) John Logan received the Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Drama League awards for his play *Red*, directed by Michael Grandage. This play premiered at the Donmar Warehouse in London and at the Golden Theatre on Broadway. Since then *Red* has had more than 200 productions across the US and has been presented in over 30 countries. He is also the author of more than a dozen other plays including *Never The Sinner* and *Hauptmann*. In 2013, his new play *Peter and Alice* premiered in London and *I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers* opened on Broadway. As a screenwriter, Logan has been three times nominated for the Oscar and has received a Golden Globe, BAFTA and WGA award. His film work includes *Skyfall*, *Hugo*, *The Aviator*, *Gladiator*, *Rango*, *Coriolanus*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Last Samurai*, *Any Given Sunday*, and *RKO 281*. He is currently writing the next James Bond film and is in production for "Penny Dreadful," a drama series he created and is producing for Showtime.

**BRIAN YORKEY** (Book) received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, as well as the 2009 Tony Award for Best Score, for *Next to Normal*. Brian was also nominated for the Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for *Next to Normal*, and his work on the show earned him the Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Score. Brian is currently at work on *If/Then*, a new musical with *Next to Normal* composer Tom Kitt, director Michael Greif, and producer David Stone, which will open at the Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway in March 2014. He is also working with Tom Kitt on a stage musical adaptation of Tom McCarthy's acclaimed film *The Visitor*. Brian and Tom are also writing songs for the stage adaptation of the much-loved movie *Magic Mike* and for Diablo Cody's feature film adaptation of the *Sweet Valley High* books. Brian's musical film *Time After Time* is in pre-production at Lionsgate/Summit. Film projects in active development include *Score!* for Team Downey and Warner Bros., *Love Undercover* for Pandemonium Films, and *Chase* for Anonymous Content and Rosenzweig Films. Brian's other theatre credits include *Making Tracks*, which has played off-Broadway and regionally, the musical adaptation of Ang Lee's *The Wedding Banquet* and the country musical *Play It By Heart*. Brian has directed off-Broadway and regionally and for seven years was associate artistic director at Village Theatre in Washington state, one of the nation's leading producers of new musicals. He's a graduate of Columbia University, where he was artistic director of the Varsity Show, an alum of the BMI/Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop and a proud member of the Dramatists Guild and the WGA.

**JOE MANTELLO** (Direction). Directing credits include *I'll Eat You Last*, *The Other Place*, *Dogfight*, *Other Desert Cities*, *The Pride*, *Pal Joey*, *9 to 5*, *November*, *The Receptionist*, *The Ritz*, *Blackbird*, *Three Days of Rain*, *The Odd Couple*, *Glengarry Glen Ross* (Tony® nomination), *Laugh Whore*, *Assassins* (Tony Award®), *Wicked*, *Take Me Out* (Tony Award®), *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *A Man of No Importance*, *Design for Living*, Terrence McNally and Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* for San Francisco Opera, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Bash*, *Another American: Asking and Telling*, *Love! Valour! Compassion!* (Tony® nomination), *Proposals*, *The Mineola Twins* and *Corpus Christi*. As an actor: *The Normal Heart* (Tony® nomination), *Angels in America* (Tony® nomination) and *The Baltimore Waltz*. He is the recipient of Outer Critics Circle, Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel, Helen Hayes, Clarence Derwent, Obie and Joe A. Callaway Awards. He is a member of Naked Angels and an associate artist at Roundabout Theatre Company.

**STEVEN HOGGETT** (Choreography). Broadway: *Once* (also West End. Obie Award, Lortel Award, Calloway Award), *The Glass Menagerie* (also A.R.T.), Green Day's *American Idiot*, *Peter and the Starcatcher* (Lortel Award). West End: *The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-Time* (also National Theatre). *Rocky The Musical* (Stage Entertainment, Hamburg), *Rigoletto* (Metropolitan Opera), *The Full Monty* (Sheffield Theatres), *Dr Dee* (Manchester International Festival / ENO), *The Light Princess*, *Dido Queen Of Carthage*, *The Hothouse* and *Market Boy* (National Theatre), *Let The Right One In*, *Black Watch* (Olivier Award, Best Choreographer), *The Bacchae*, *365*, *The Wolves in the Walls* (National Theatre of Scotland). As founding Artistic Director of Frantic Assembly, his director/choreographer credits include *Little Dogs* (with National

Theatre Wales), *Lovesong*, *Beautiful Burnout*, *Othello*, *Stockholm*, *Pool (No Water)* and *Dirty Wonderland*. With Scott Graham, Steven co-wrote *The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre* (Routledge).

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Performances of ***THE LAST SHIP*** will begin at Chicago's Bank of America Theatre (18 West Monroe Street) on June 10, 2014 for a five-week-only limited engagement through July 13, 2014.

#### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets are available now for groups of 10 or more by calling Broadway In Chicago Group Sales at (312) 977-1710. **THE LAST SHIP** will be a part of the Broadway In Chicago 2014 Spring Season. Individual tickets will go on sale February 14. For more information, visit [www.BroadwayInChicago.com](http://www.BroadwayInChicago.com).

Tickets to **THE LAST SHIP** on Broadway will be available through Ticketmaster, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 800-745-3000.

**To view a video of Sting discussing the origins of *The Last Ship*, visit:**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vCuwE7kg1w>