

# RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

## PRESS RELEASE

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### PERFORMANCE FROM THE MEGA-SMASH *MAMMA MIA!* TO BE FEATURED ON THE 2009 TONY AWARDS® TELECAST

The American Theatre Wing's 2009 Tony Awards Will Be Broadcast Live from Radio  
City Music Hall on CBS, Sunday, June 7 from 8 to 11 pm

### NATIONAL TOUR COMES TO RUTH ECKERD HALL FOR 8 PERFORMANCES BEGINNING AUGUST 11

### TICKETS ON SALE NOW

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**June 3, 2009, Clearwater, FL** - Featured performances for the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tony Awards were announced today. The Tony Awards telecast on Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> will feature performances by each of the Tony-nominated Best Musicals and Best Musical Revivals. The Tony Awards will feature a special performances from *Mamma Mia!* the smash hit musical.

The Tony Awards will be broadcast live in HD, from Radio City Music Hall on CBS, Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 11 pm. The 2009 Tony Awards are presented by the Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing.

Based on the songs of ABBA, *Mamma Mia!* The Musical returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall for 8 performances beginning Tuesday, August 11 through Sunday, August 16. Tickets are on sale now.

An independent, single mother who owns a small hotel on an idyllic Greek island, Donna is about to let go of Sophie, the spirited daughter she's raised alone. For Sophie's wedding, Donna has invited her two lifelong best girlfriends—practical and no-nonsense Rosie and wealthy, multi-divorcee Tanya - from her one-time backing band, Donna and the Dynamos. But Sophie has secretly invited three guests of her own.

On a quest to find the identity of her father to walk her down the aisle, she brings back three men from Donna's past to the Mediterranean paradise they visited 20 years earlier. Over 24 chaotic, magical hours, new love will bloom and old romances will be rekindled on this lush island full of possibilities. Inspired by the storytelling magic of ABBA's songs from *Dancing Queen* and *S.O.S.* to *Money, Money, Money* and *Take a Chance on Me*, ***MAMMA MIA!*** is a celebration of mothers and daughters, old friends and new family found.

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The performance schedule for **MAMMA MIA!** is Tuesday, August, 11 through Friday, August 14 at 8 pm; Saturday, August, 15 at 2 & 8 pm and Sunday, August 16 at 2 & 7 pm.

Reserved tickets priced from \$57.00 to \$77.00 are available at the Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office located at 1111 McMullen Booth Road in Clearwater, by calling 727.791.7400 or by logging onto [www.rutheckerdhall.com](http://www.rutheckerdhall.com). The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from 12 noon to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime.

*Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall celebrates its 26<sup>th</sup> season as the number six ranked venue in the world, according to the entertainment industry trade publication Billboard Magazine. Known for its 2,180-seat acoustically perfect auditorium, artists from America and around the world, ranging from classical, rock, opera, Broadway, Jazz, pop and more are included in the stellar lineup of more than 200 performances a year.*

*Ruth Eckerd Hall and the Ruth Eckerd Hall Foundation are 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations.*

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