

RUTH ECKERD HALL

RICHARD B. BAUMGARDNER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

PRESS RELEASE

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WALKS DOWN THE AISLE OF RUTH ECKERD HALL!

**THE GLOBAL SMASH HIT WILL RETURN
FOR EIGHT PERFORMANCES ONLY!**

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

May 12, 2009, Clearwater, FL - Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' *MAMMA MIA!*, the smash hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, returns to Ruth Eckerd Hall for 8 performances beginning Tuesday, August 11 through Sunday, August 16. Tickets are on sale now.

Seen by over 30 million people around the world, Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus' global smash hit musical *MAMMA MIA!* is celebrating 6 sold-out years at the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway, and is currently playing record-breaking engagements in Las Vegas and on National Tour in the United States. The original West End production has played more than 3,500 performances, an international tour has played in more than 30 foreign cities, and the feature film of *MAMMA MIA!*, produced by Judy Craymer and Gary Goetzman, was released in July 2008.

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.

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. The Ruth Eckerd Hall Ticket Office is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 am to 6 pm and one hour prior to showtime. For Group sales please call 727.712.2717.

Produced by Judy Craymer, Richard East and Björn Ulvaeus for Littlestar in association with Universal, the creative team responsible for bringing **MAMMA MIA!** to theatrical life includes some of the most gifted and celebrated talents of musical theatre and opera. With music and lyrics by Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus, **MAMMA MIA!** is written by Catherine Johnson and directed by Phyllida Lloyd. **MAMMA MIA!** has choreography by Anthony Van Laast, production design by Mark Thompson, lighting design by Howard Harrison, sound design by Andrew Bruce and Bobby Aitken, and musical supervision, additional material and arrangements by Martin Koch.

The original cast recording of **MAMMA MIA!** is available on Decca Broadway.
For information about **MAMMA MIA!** around the world, go to www.mamma-mia.com

Designed by the prestigious Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, Ruth Eckerd Hall celebrates its 26th 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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