



## MEDIA ALERT

### Contact:

Mical Hutson, *Marketing & Communications Director*

207.283.5007 mobile

[mhutson@portlandstage.org](mailto:mhutson@portlandstage.org)

### PORTLAND, MAINE, JULY 19 • FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash*, a Maine State Music Theatre and Portland Stage coproduction musical is playing at Portland Stage August 3 through 29.**

**PHOTOS: Cast headshots.** <https://bit.ly/3zeh76d>

**Check back for updated dress and rehearsal photos through August 3:**

**Reviewers are invited to attend the Friday, August 6 - 7:30 pm opening performance.**

In their fifth annual summer musical coproduction, Maine State Music Theatre and Portland Stage announce the rousing musical revue *Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash* in a quasi-biographical musical show about the “Man in Black” playing at Portland Stage August 3 through 29. Originally playing on Broadway in 2006, the show has entertained audiences across the country, and comes to Portland, Maine with one of the original Broadway cast members Eric Anthony in the role of music director, and Maine native Scott Moreau in a starring role on stage. Moreau, a 22-year veteran of the stage, is most known for playing Johnny Cash on the Broadway National Tour of *Million Dollar Quartet*; touring over 200 American cities, as well as Tokyo and Osaka, Japan.

The autobiographical nature of the music of Johnny Cash lends itself to seamlessly bridging narration and song. The five actor-musicians play fourteen instruments between them to share more than two dozen classic hits — including “I Walk The Line,” “A Boy Named Sue,” “Folsom Prison Blues,” and the title tune “Ring of Fire.”

“Cash's talent and uniqueness earned him 11 Grammy Awards, the National medal of the Arts, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and memberships in the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame,” say Katie Barton, a co-director the production, “But it's not really his fame and commercial successes we like to celebrate in *Ring of Fire* as much as his writing, his intellect and most especially his heart.”

Co-director Ben Hope adds, “The source material for the script, Johnny Cash's autobiography titled CASH, moved us from the first page. Reading it is like curling up in

your Grandpa's lap and letting him tell you stories... if your Grandpa was Johnny Cash! It's intimate and funny and all-around heartwarming."

Hope, who is married to co-director Barton continues, "As a married couple directing this piece together, we really like to give weight to Johnny and June's relationship because we truly admire it. As Mr. Cash would tell us, nothing he accomplished could ever compare to his greatest triumph: his 35-year marriage to the incomparable June Carter Cash."

*Ring of Fire* was created by Richard Maltby, Jr., conceived by William Meade, and adapted from the Broadway production by Richard Maltby, Jr and Jason Edwards. Orchestrations by Steven Bishop and Jeff Lisenby  
Additional Arrangements by David Abbinanti.

*Ring of Fire* was originally produced on Broadway by William Meade, CTM Productions, Bob Cuillo, GFour Productions, and James B. Freyberg.

The production is generously sponsored by H.M. Payson, The Porthole Restaurant & Pub, and the media partner Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram.

## CAST & ARTISTS

- Scott Moreau\*
- Morgan Morse\*
- Elizabeth Nestlerode\*
- Katie Barton\*
- Ben Hope\*
- [\*member of AEA]
- **Director** Ben Hope
- **Associate Directors** Katie Barton & Scott Moreau
- **Music Director** Eric Anthony
- **Scenic Designer** Anita Stewart\*\*
- **Costume Designer** Katie Barton
- **Lighting Designer** Jamie Grant
- **Sound Designer** Christopher Sutton

- **Stage Manager** Myles C. Hatch\*
- **Assistant Stage Manager** Meg Lydon\*
- \* *member of Actors Equity Association* | \*\* *member of United Scenic Arts*

## QUICK INFO

- **Run Time:** estimated: 2 hours
- **Location:** 25 Forest Ave, Portland ME
- **Dates:** August 3 - August 29, 2021 • Show Times 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
- **Price:** Previews \$44-\$63 • All Other Times: \$51-\$70 • Digital Streaming: \$25

**Box Office Hours:** Tuesday – Saturday • Noon to 5 pm & 2 hours before performance time

**Box Office Phone:** 207.774.0465

**Box Office Email:** [boxoffice@portlandstage.org](mailto:boxoffice@portlandstage.org)

**Sign up for Tickets Online:** <https://www.portlandstage.org/show/ring-of-fire/>

\*\*\*\*\*