



For immediate release  
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## ***Mary Poppins Flies to Near West Theatre's Stage this May!*** *Diverse Intergenerational cast stages the exhilarating family musical May 5 – 21*

CLEVELAND – Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! At last, this imaginative convergence of the classic Disney musical and the sophisticated children's books by P. L. Travers comes to Near West Theatre from May 5-21, 2017. And yes, *Mary Poppins*, everyone's favorite practically perfect nanny, **will fly** on Near West Theatre's stage!

In this Broadway adaptation, a collaboration between Disney & Cameron Mackintosh, not only are audiences treated to favorites like "A Spoonful of Sugar," "Step in Time" and many more, but also a deeper dive into the rich world of Travers' eight *Mary Poppins* books, published from 1934-1988. New numbers such as "Practically Perfect," "Playing the Game," and "Anything Can Happen," along with fresh characters from Travers' original stories, offer new insights into familiar faces and storylines, adding depth and meaning to the world of the Banks family at 17 Cherry Tree Lane. (Ever wonder just how curmudgeon-y George Banks got that way? You'll wonder no longer after you meet *his* old nanny, Miss Andrew, and learn her child rearing philosophy that only "Brimstone & Treacle will work!")

"Flying" performers is a complex production element, and an exciting first for Near West Theatre, requiring the expertise of a professional stage-flying team from ZFX Flying Effects. The team will come to Cleveland three weeks before opening to secure rigging and teach the Near West production crew how to fly actress Meg Martinez, who plays the title role. Stage flying would not have been possible for Near West before moving into their new facility in February of 2015. Other technical elements of the show are keeping the production staff busy, as well, with large, beautiful sets and magical effects.

The cast of *Mary Poppins*, featuring 65 intergenerational performers, has worked hard to explore the relevance, meaning and messages of the production while also mastering its extensive music, staging and choreography. The cohesion, trust, and "family" energy created during Near West's unique rehearsal process has prepared a powerful ensemble to bring to life the series of unforgettable events that forever change how the Banks family – and perhaps we too – prioritize our lives.

Reserved Star Seat tickets are \$25; general admission is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org) or by calling 216-961-6391 weekdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The theater, constructed as part of the Gordon Square Arts District capital campaign, is at 6702 Detroit Avenue.

As always, Near West Theatre's volunteer actors are diverse in race, neighborhood, age, size, physical ability, and acting experience. They range from ordinary city and suburban residents on stage for the first time, to actors familiar to the Near West stage and Northeast Ohio audiences. Near West continues to enjoy and explore the possibilities that their new wheelchair accessible, climate controlled building provides.

Near West Theatre is grateful for ongoing operating support from the [Cuyahoga Arts and Culture](#), [Ohio Arts Council](#), [Greater Cleveland Community Shares](#), and additional 2016-2017 season support from Patron Sponsor [Consolidated Solutions](#).

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*Disney & Cameron Mackintosh's*  
**Mary Poppins**  
*Original Music and Lyrics by*  
*Richard M. Sherman & Robert B. Sherman*  
*Book by Julian Fellowes*  
*New Songs & Additional Music & Lyrics by*  
*George Stiles & Anthony Drewe*  
*Co-Created by Cameron Mackintosh*

**Near West Theatre Production, May 5-21, 2017**

**Cast**

Kate Atherton, Edie Barcelona, Angie Bendahan, Amanda Bender, Cyle Black, Asha-Bryanna Brown, Isabella Capuano, Crystal Chambers, Josh Davis, Sharron DeCosta, Obi Ehn, Rylie Elswick, Clare Fox, Joshua Freeman, Saundra Green, Amani Green (Mrs. Corry), Stafford Hartman (Miss Andrew), Kate Healy, Jaye Hill, Dave Hopkins (Admiral Boom) Moriyah Faith Jackson (Annie), Donnell James, Zeakia Jordon, Anthony Keaton, Anthony "Bones" Kruse, Julianne Kurdila (Miss Lark), Ste-vee Lang (Fannie), Jack Lange, Nicholas Leverknight (Northbrook), Roger Lowe (Robertson Ay), Anthony Loyed, Jr., Sam Maistros, Samantha Manoloff, Cory Markowitz (Winifred Banks), Violet Markowitz, Meg Martinez (Mary Poppins), Chloe Mihelich, Evan Mortensen, Lisa Mortensen, Andrew Narten (George Banks), Sophie O'Leary (Jane Banks - Double Cast), Laurien Palmer, Phil Pantalone (Michael Banks - Double Cast), Sam Pantalone, Julie Penzvalto, Louisa Penzvalto, Djuan Pierce, Rachel Ploenzke, Carlo Polisen, Patrick Polito, Cocoa Star Price (Katie Nanna), Diamond Rhodes, Rebecca Riffle-Polito (Bank ChairWoman), Ellie Ritterbusch, Jen Ryan, Deepak Sharma, Sun-Hee Smith, Gwen Stembridge (Mrs. Brill), Macon Taylor (Michael Banks - Double Cast), Dashiell Tidrick, Devon Turchan (Bert), Steven Walker (Neleus), Ayeshia Wilson, Calista Zajac (Jane Banks - Double Cast), Bob Zombar (Von Hussler).

**Production staff**

**Director:** Bob Navis Jr. **Music Director/Keyboard Conductor:** Matthew Dolan. **Assistant Director:** Scott Pyle. **Assistant Music Director:** Robin Woods Davis. **Production Manager:** Michael Stein. **Co-Technical Directors:** Perren Hedderson and Josh Padgett. **Scenic Designer:** Cameron Michalak. **Properties Master:** Susie Underwood. **Co-Lighting Designers:** Adam Ditzel and Michael Stein. **Sound Designer:** Joshua Caraballo. **Costume Designer:** Sarah Russell. **Choreographer:** Josh Landis. **Stage Manager:** Ryan Wolf. **Assistant Stage Managers:** Bethy Jarus, Alexa Jones, Allan Stubbs.

**Performance dates**

Fri., <b>May 5</b> – 7:30 p.m.	Sun., <b>May 14</b> – 3:00 p.m.
Sat., <b>May 6</b> – 7:30 p.m.	Thurs., <b>May 18</b> – 7:30 p.m.
Thurs., <b>May 11</b> – 7:30 p.m.	Fri., <b>May 19</b> – 7:30 p.m.
Fri., <b>May 12</b> – 7:30 p.m.	Sat., <b>May 20</b> – 7:30 p.m.
Sat., <b>May 13</b> – 7:30 p.m.	Sun., <b>May 21</b> – 3:00 p.m.

**Suggested performance listing:**

**Near West Theatre**, 6702 Detroit Ave., Cleveland's Gordon Square Arts District. 216-961-6391 or [nearwesttheatre.org](http://nearwesttheatre.org). "Mary Poppins" May 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 & 20 at **7:30 p.m.**; May 14 & 21 at **3:00 p.m.** Reserved Star Seat: \$25; General Admission: \$10 adults, \$8 children ages 12 and under. "Mary Poppins" is presented by special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI).