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## **Marcus Performing Arts Center Announces**

### **an Evening with Christopher Jackson at the 19th Annual BASH**

*May 3<sup>rd</sup> event brings actor and songwriter Christopher Jackson to Milwaukee to benefit MPAC's mission and honors Make-A-Wish Wisconsin and We Energies.*

**MILWAUKEE (March 5, 2024)** – The [Marcus Performing Arts Center \(MPAC\)](#) announces **An Evening with Christopher Jackson** on Friday, May 3, as part of the [19th Annual BASH](#). Funds raised during the BASH, MPAC's signature fundraiser, support MPAC's education and engagement programs, which provide access to the performing arts to over 10,000 youth at little to no cost each year. Honorary Chairs for the 19th Annual BASH are **Tammy Belton-Davis** and **Syneathia LaGrant**.

Christopher Jackson's exclusive performance is a Milwaukee debut that will feature an evening of music highlighted by powerhouse showstoppers, musical gems, and more. Jackson, a Tony Award®–nominated actor and GRAMMY® and Emmy® Award–winning songwriter/composer, is best known for starring as George Washington in the Original Broadway Cast of Lin-Manuel Miranda's hit musical *Hamilton*.

In addition to Christopher Jackson's performance, the 19th Annual BASH will include a dinner reception with interactive food stations celebrating the 2024/25 MPAC season, beverages, and entertainment throughout the building. Guests will then be treated to a program with special host **Portia Young** featuring a live auction and award presentations honoring **Make-A-Wish Wisconsin** and **We Energies**, organizations whose contributions have made an indelible mark on Milwaukee's cultural landscape:

- **Visionary iMPACt Award** – MPAC will recognize We Energies for their philanthropic commitment to making the arts accessible to all people and enhancing their well-being in the communities they serve. In 2023, the We Energies Foundation awarded over \$14.5 million in grants, with \$3 million designated for arts and culture organizations, aiming to promote diversity and accessibility in the arts for the community. We Energies’ long-standing support of MPAC and the citywide Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration is a testament to their dedication to enriching the community through arts and culture.
- **Community Legacy Award** – MPAC will honor Make-A-Wish Wisconsin for their profound impact on the lives of countless individuals throughout our region. Make-A-Wish Wisconsin, celebrating 40 years of granting life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses, has reached a significant milestone with their 8,000th wish granted. MPAC is proud to partner with Make-A-Wish Wisconsin to bring joy and unique opportunities to engage in the arts to local children and families facing difficult circumstances.

Following the program, the celebration continues with a post-party, complete with desserts, late-night snacks, and dancing.

“We are very proud to welcome the immensely talented Christopher Jackson for his debut Milwaukee performance as part of the 19th Annual BASH,” said **MPAC President & CEO Kevin Giglinto**. “This annual fundraiser serves as a cornerstone in supporting MPAC’s commitment to fostering access to the arts across the entire community and serving as a cultural gathering place for everyone.”

The BASH is the Marcus Performing Arts Center’s largest fundraiser, and funds raised support MPAC’s education and community engagement programs. Annually, these programs serve over 10,000 children from the Greater Milwaukee Region who have limited or no access to the performing arts, offering them the opportunity to engage with the arts in meaningful, educational ways.

Gala tickets and sponsorships for the 19th Annual BASH are now on sale and can be purchased [online](#). Through March 29, Early Bird gala tickets may be purchased at the special discounted price of \$250. Beginning March 30, gala tickets will be \$300. Gala tickets include the dinner and cocktail reception, award presentation and program, preferred seating for the Christopher Jackson performance, parking, and the post-party.

Performance-only tickets will go on sale Friday, March 8 to the public and are available at the Early Bird price of \$100 through March 29. Prices will increase to \$125 on March 30. Performance-only tickets include the award presentation and program, the Christopher Jackson performance, parking, and the post-party.

Support for the 19th Annual BASH is provided by Encore Sponsors Brewers Community Foundation and CG Schmidt, Inc.; Premier Sponsor ManpowerGroup; Arts Advocate Sponsors Ambassador Hotel Milwaukee, Johnson Financial Group, Saint Kate – The Arts Hotel, Ray & Kelly Wilson, and We Energies; and Supporting Sponsors 54 Hands Productions and Lexico. Sponsorships are available ranging from \$3,500 to \$50,000. For additional information or to sponsor the BASH, contact Jennifer Han, Sr. Manager of Development & Media Relations, at [jhan@marcuscenter.org](mailto:jhan@marcuscenter.org).

### **About Christopher Jackson**

Christopher Jackson is a Tony-nominated actor as well as a GRAMMY® and Emmy®-winning songwriter/composer best known for starring as George Washington in the critically acclaimed, award-winning Broadway musical, *Hamilton*. He

recently starred in the hit CBS drama *Bull* and Max's *And Just Like That...* and has recently completed a limited run of *Freestyle Love Supreme* on Broadway. He also starred in Ava DuVernay's Netflix mini-series *When They See Us*.

In December 2018, "One Last Time (44 Remix)" was released as a part of the Hamildrop series which featured Chris alongside President Obama and BeBe Winans.

His Broadway credits include *Holler if Ya Hear Me*, *After Midnight*, *The Bronx Bombers* (Derek Jeter), *In The Heights* (Benny), *Memphis* (Delray Farrell) and *The Lion King* (Simba). Off Broadway credits include *Bronx Bombers* (Primary Stages), *The Jammer* (Atlantic Theater Co.), *Lonely, I'm Not* (Second Stage), *In the Heights* (37 Arts), and *Cotton Club Parade* (ENCORES at City Center).

In film and TV, he has appeared in *Freestyle Love Supreme* (Pivot Network), *Person of Interest*, *A Gifted Man*, *Fringe*, *Gossip Girl*, *Tracers*, and *Afterlife*.

Chris won an Emmy Award for his song with Will.I.Am, "What I Am." In 2010, he released his first solo album titled, "In the Name of Love," and is currently working on his 2nd album. Recently, Chris performed at Kennedy Centers Honors Gala celebrating Lin-Manuel Miranda. He also has several musical projects in development for the musical stage and has sold out concerts at Carnegie Hall and The Kennedy Center.

#### **About Marcus Performing Arts Center**

A mission-based non-profit organization located in downtown Milwaukee, the Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) brings high-quality arts and cultural programming to Southeastern Wisconsin. MPAC strives to act as an energizing force that connects the community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of the performing arts. Through multiple performance series, community events, and educational experiences, MPAC brings a diverse range of celebrated artists to the region. A fixture in Milwaukee for over 50 years, MPAC is proud to be part of the Milwaukee Theater District as well as a dedicated War Memorial facility. Learn more at

[www.MarcusCenter.org](http://www.MarcusCenter.org).

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