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***For Immediate Release***

## **Kirkwood Performing Arts Center Lands St.Louis' 1st Pre-Broadway World Premiere of THE KARATE KID, The Musical**

August 25, 2021

**Kirkwood, Missouri:** This morning it was announced simultaneously in New York, Tokyo and St. Louis that STAGES St. Louis would be presenting the pre-broadway engagement of THE KARATE KID, The Musical at the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center (KPAC). This is the first major residency of a pre-Broadway musical ever in St. Louis, and marks the establishment of a pre-Broadway tryout tradition right here in Kirkwood's downtown.

The limited, pre-Broadway, performances of the stage musical adaptation of THE KARATE KID, The Musical, will begin on Wednesday May 25, 2022 and run through Sunday June 26, 2022, in the Ross Family Theater of the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center.

THE KARATE KID, The Musical is based on the smash 1984 hit Columbia Pictures motion picture, which became an instant cultural phenomenon, earning rave reviews and racking up millions of dollars at the box office. THE KARATE KID, The Musical will have a book by the film's screenwriter Robert Mark Kamen and music and lyrics by Drew Gasparini.

This pre-Broadway engagement will bring over 40 artists from around the world to the St. Louis region, including a creative team full of award winning figures such as, Japanese director Amon Miyamoto, MTV VMA nominees Keone and Mari Madrid on choreography, Tony and two-time Emmy Award winner Derek McLane on set design, Ayako Maeda on costume design, two-time Tony Award winner Bradly King on lighting design, two-time Tony Award winner Kai Harada on sound design, with orchestrations by Outer Critics Circle Award winner John Clancy, and music direction and arrangements by Andrew Resnick.

"When we built the PAC we knew great things would come of it in so many ways, and we're starting to see that happen," said Mayor Tim Griffin. "Having a pre-Broadway premiere at our Performing Arts Center is incredible, and Jack Lane with STAGES St. Louis has been a great partner in helping make this happen for our community. This announcement signals that the KPAC is now on the map!"

The opening of the Kirkwood Performing Arts Center, with its innovative design and state-of-the-art facilities, and STAGES St. Louis has set the stage to debut Kirkwood as the go-to destination for pre-Broadway musicals.

"When the City envisioned the KPAC we knew it needed to have the ability to accommodate the type of large-scale productions that you'd see in Chicago or Los Angeles," said Russ Hawes, Chief Administrative Officer for the City. This world premiere is a realization of that vision, and a real turning point for Kirkwood, STAGES St. Louis, and the entire St. Louis Region."

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