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Enlighten, Educate, and Entertain

Naperville's Only Professional Theatre Performing
in the Historic Downtown District

www.brightsidetheatre.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Monty Python's
SPAMALOT**

June 3 - 19, 2016

Fridays/Saturdays at 8 pm- Sundays at 3 pm

Book and lyrics by **Eric Idle** | Music by **John Du Prez & Eric Idle**
A new musical lovingly ripped off from the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"

From the original screenplay by
Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin

Directed by BrightSide Theatre's Artistic Director **Jeffrey Cass**
Musically Directed by **Sarah Giordano** | Choreographed by **Jeni Donahue**
Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall at North Central College

NAPERVILLE (April 2016) - BrightSide Theatre, Naperville's only professional theatre performing in the historic downtown district, presents the perfect finale to our 5th Anniversary Season with the outrageous musical comedy featuring the song that gave BrightSide Theatre its namesake and is lovingly ripped off from the motion picture "*Monty Python and the Holy Grail*"- **Spamalot**. **Spamalot** will perform at the Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall at North Central College, 31 S. Ellsworth Street in Naperville June 3-19, 2016. Tickets are on sale now at www.brightsidetheatre.com, or by phone at 630-447-TIXS (8497). The press performance is Friday, June 3 at 8pm.

A talented ensemble of actors from the Chicagoland Area make up the Cast of Spamalot: Abby Boegh, Mark Johnson and Genna Marie Walden (Naperville); Julie Bayer (Batavia); Mik Dempsey (Aurora); Josh Durham (Darien); Matt Gibson (Lombard); Ryan Breig and Eric Hansen (Bolingbrook); Connor Hernandez (Glen Ellyn); Scott Kelly (Schaumburg); Rob Sorensen (Clarendon Hills); Andrew Taylor Swanson (Downers Grove) and Alexis Aker, Kraig Kelsey,

Barbara Kosiek, Sierra Schnack and Amanda Walsh (Chicago).

Spamalot is the hysterically irreverent musical that tells the tale of King Arthur being instructed by God Himself to gather his Knights of the Round Table and find the Holy Grail. It features a bevy of beautiful showgirls, not to mention flying cows, killer rabbits, flatulent Frenchmen, one legless knight and several show-stopping musical numbers including "*Always Look on the **Bright Side** of Life*" and "*The Song That Goes Like This*". Labeled as one of the greatest Broadway Musicals of the modern age you'll be in stitches as you watch the Knights of the Round Table go on this ultimate and unforgettable quest only as Monty Python can provide as they search for the Holy Grail.

PRODUCTION DETAILS:

Title: **Monty Python's SPAMALOT**

Book and Lyrics: **Eric Idle**

Music: **John Du Prez & Eric Idle**

Director: **Jeffrey Cass**

Musical Director: **Sarah Giordano**

Choreographer: **Jeni Donahue**

Cast: Amanda Walsh (Lady of the Lake), **Rob Sorensen** (King Arthur), **Scott Kelly** (Patsy), **Mik Dempsey** (Sir Galahad), **Connor Hernandez** (Sir Robin), **Mark Johnson** (Sir Lancelot), **Matt Gibson** (Sir Bedevere), **Ryan Breig** (Historian) Completing the cast - **Alexis Aker, Julie Bayer, Abby Boegh, Josh Durham, Eric Hansen, Kraig Kelsey, Barbara Kosiek, Sierra Schnack, Andrew Taylor Swanson and Genna Marie Walden.**



Location: **Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall** at North Central College, 31 S. Ellsworth Street, Naperville. IL 60540

Dates: June 3 - 19, 2016

Press Performance/Opening: Friday, June 3 at 8pm

Curtain Times: Fridays & Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 3pm

Tickets: \$25 Discounts: Students/Seniors \$22. Groups 10+ /\$20.

Tickets are on sale now at www.brightsidedtheatre.com, by phone 630-447-TIXS (8497) or the night of the performance at the box office at the Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall at North Central College.

About the Creative Team

Eric Idle (Book, lyrics, and music) has multi-hyphenated his way through life, from

being a writer and actor in the legendary "Monty Python" TV series and movies, to the creator and director of "The Rutles." He has appeared on stage singing rude songs with John Du Prez at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl as well as performing in two highly successful tours, Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python (2000) and The Greedy Bastard Tour (2003), for which they journeyed 15,000 miles across North America in a bus. His *Greedy Bastard Diary* of that tour is available from Harper Collins. Their latest work, a comic oratorio called *Not the Messiah*, will be performed shortly in Toronto. His play *Pass The Butler* ran for five months in London's West End; he has written two novels, *Hello Sailor* and *The Road to Mars*, a children's book, *The Quite Remarkable Adventures of the Owl and The Pussycat*, and a bedside companion, *The Rutland Dirty Weekend Book*. *Spamalot* has already won him a Tony, a Grammy and the respect of his wife and children.

John Du Prez (Music) a Trevelyan Scholar at Christ Church, Oxford, and Associate of the Royal College of Music, he entered the film industry in 1978 composing additional music for *Monty Python's Life of Brian*. This began a long association with Eric Idle, leading eventually to their current writing partnership. He has scored more than 20 feature films including *The Meaning of Life*, *A Private Function*, *A Fish Called Wanda*, *Once Bitten*, *UHF* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles I, II, and III*. Other Python projects include the *Contractual Obligation Album*, *Monty Python at the Hollywood Bowl* and *The Fairly Incomplete & Rather Badly Illustrated Monty Python Song Book*. He was musical director for Eric Idle's two North American stage tours, Eric Idle Exploits Monty Python (2000) and The Greedy Bastard Tour (2003). This is his Broadway debut.

Monty Python Is he God or Godot, an agent of the devil or an agent of the William Morris Agency, or is he, as some have argued, a fictitious character invented in 1969 by Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, and Michael Palin in a desperate attempt to find a title for their rather silly TV show? Whatever the truth, he is the eponymous impresario who fronts "The Flying Circus," *The Holy Grail*, *The Life of Brian*, *The Meaning of Life*, and *Now for Something Completely Different* and who appeared *Live* at Drury Lane, City Center and the Hollywood Bowl. He has fronted numerous books including *The Big Red Book* and the *Papperbok* as well as many CDs, DVDs and matching ties and handkerchiefs. He is currently in retirement in an old jokes home near Dover, anxiously awaiting Nighthood and a Knightnurse. This is his first Broadway show. Further details: www.PythOnline.com.

About the Director

Jeffrey Cass (Director/Artistic Director) a Joseph Jefferson Nominee most recently directed *The Sound of Music*, *It's a Wonderful Life: a Live Radio Play*, *Cabaret*, *RENT*, *Company*, BrightSide Theatre's inaugural production - *Run For Your Wife* and also for BrightSide Theatre's Youth Project inaugural production *Disney's Alice in Wonderland, Jr.*, *Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr.* *Disney's Aladdin, Jr.* and *Legally*

Blonde Jr. the Musical. He holds a B.F.A. in Musical Theater Performance from Roosevelt University where he also studied lighting design and stage management. He previously served as the Producing Director for Circle Theatre where he directed *The Who's Tommy* (6 Joseph Jefferson Nominations including Best Musical and Best Director) Neil LaBute's *Bash* and *The Distance From Here* (Midwest Premier), *Burning Blue* (Midwest Premier), *Crazy for You*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Urinetown*, *Peter Pan* and *New Plays Festival 2 and 3*.

About the Music Director

Sarah Giordano (Musical Director) earned her Bachelor's Degree in Instrumental Music Education from Eastern Illinois University and a Master's Degree in Choral Music Education from VanderCook College of Music. Currently, Sarah is in her 15th year as a music educator. She teaches general music, directs the choirs and the musical at Jackson Middle School in Villa Park, Illinois. Sarah consistently serves as a choral clinician, adjudicator, and music director.

About the Choreographer

Jeni Donahue (Choreographer) Jeni is a freelance choreographer who earned her degree in Vocal & Dance Performance from Columbia College. She currently works with high schools, theatre companies and colleges throughout the United States.

BrightSide Theatre (Jeffrey Cass, Artistic Director and Julie Ann Kornak, Executive Director) celebrates our 5th season as Naperville's only professional theatre performing in the historic downtown district. BrightSide Theatre is committed to Enlighten, Educate, and Entertain through comedies and inspirational stories from across the globe. BrightSide's shows are selected to be a unique blend of award-winners, premieres, modern works and timeless classics meant to reflect upon and inform our community. **BrightSide Theatre** is partially supported and funded by a generous grant from the City of Naperville. For more information on BrightSide Theatre, please visit www.brightsidetheatre.com.

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