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**For immediate release, please: Friday, December 14**

## **Berkshire Theatre Group Announces Winter and Spring Season**

### **Produced by Berkshire Theatre Group:**

As part of the 10X10 Upstreet Arts Festival

#### **Showtime with Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure**

Based on Magic Tree House: Stage Fright on a Summer Night

by Award-winning Author

Mary Pope Osborne

#### **Berkshire Theatre Group's Production of Disney's Aladdin JR.**

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chad Beguelin

### **National Touring Shows**

#### **Max Creek**

Four-decade Old Jam Band

#### **The Choir of Man**

Interactive Singing and Dancing

### **Tribute Series at The Colonial Theatre:**

#### **I'm Going to Graceland**

Rev Tor & Friends Perform Paul Simon's Classic Album

#### **Lez Zeppelin**

Critically Acclaimed All-girl Tribute

**Moondance**

The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Concert

**Who Are You**

A Celebration of The Who

**Changes in Latitudes**

Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show

**Music and Comedy at The Garage:**

**Music Garage:**

**The Alchemystics**

Modern-day Roots Music

**Rev Tor's 8th Annual Dead Of Winter Jam**

Featuring Rev Tor's Steal Your Peach Band

Celebrating The Music of The Grateful Dead

**Jen Durkin and The Business**

Lead Singer of Deep Banana Blackout

**Swingtown**

A Steve Miller Tribute

**Comedy Garage:**

Lineup Announced

**Pittsfield, MA**– Berkshire Theatre Group and Artistic Director/CEO Kate Maguire are excited to announce the 2019 winter and spring season at The Colonial Theatre and The Garage. Tickets are now available for purchase by contacting the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield by calling 413-997-4444 or online at [www.berkshiretheatregroup.org](http://www.berkshiretheatregroup.org).

Kate Maguire says, "The Colonial Theatre has become the center for great entertainment, wonderful education programs and exciting events in the hub of Berkshire county."

As part of the **10X10 Upstreet Arts Festival**, BTG presents BTG PLAYS! 2018-2019 Touring Show, ***Showtime with Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure***, based on *Magic Tree House: Stage Fright on a Summer Night* by Mary Pope Osborne, book and lyrics by Jenny Laird and Will Osborne, music and lyrics by Randy Courts and directed by Travis Daly on Saturday, February 23 at 2pm and Sunday, February 24 at 2pm at the Colonial. BTG PLAYS! 2018-2019 Touring Show is generously sponsored by Berkshire Bank.

For their second annual spring production, BTG is thrilled to present **Disney's Aladdin JR.**, with the Academy, Golden Globe, Grammy and Tony Award-winning team of music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chad Beguelin and book by Chad Beguelin. This production will feature over 60 Berkshire elementary and middle school students.

Directed by Travis Daly, music direction by Erin M. White and choreography by Kathy Jo Grover, Disney's *Aladdin JR.* will run at The Colonial Theatre on Friday, April 26 at 7pm, Saturday, April 27 at 11am and 2pm and Sunday, April 28 at 2pm and 5pm. Tickets are \$10 for children 16 and under and \$15 for adults.

BTG Programmer, Tor Krautter says, "The community reacted enthusiastically to our music and comedy programming this fall. This inspired us to create a new Tribute Series, so audiences can hear the music of classic bands at the Colonial. In addition to the wildly popular Comedy Garage series, we are presenting some of the region's most popular original bands and special collaborative events in the newly revived Music Garage series. I'm very excited about these new and established series, along with some amazing national acts and shows coming up at The Colonial Theatre."

National touring acts at The Colonial Theatre include: interactive singing and dancing show, **The Choir of Man** (3/21) and the four-decade old jam band, **Max Creek** (4/5).

The new **Tribute Series** at The Colonial Theatre includes: **I'm Going to Graceland** (1/11), **Lez Zeppelin** (2/9), **Moondance** (3/2), **Who Are You** (3/30) and **Changes in Latitudes** (4/6).

The Garage (located in The Colonial Theatre lobby) will feature the Music Garage series and the popular Comedy Garage series, presenting acclaimed regional comedians. The Comedy Garage series is generously sponsored by The Pittsfield Cooperative Bank.

**Music Garage** series includes: **The Alchemystics** (1/18), **Rev Tor's 8th Annual Dead Of Winter Jam** (2/22), **Jen Durkin and The Business** (3/22) and **Swingtown** (4/12).

**Comedy Garage** series includes: **Andy Pitz** (1/10), **Comedians: TBA** (2/7, 3/7, 4/11), **Catherine Cohen** (5/16) and **Mary Cella** (6/6).

To purchase tickets, visit [www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org](http://www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org), contact the Colonial Ticket Office by calling 413-997-4444, or in-person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield. Ticket offices are open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sundays 10am-2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain.

## **WINTER/SPRING OVERVIEW IN DATE ORDER**

### **Comedy Garage**

**Andy Pitz**

at The Garage

Thursday, January 10 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$5

Andy Pitz has been a mainstay in comedy venues for over 20 years. His unique style and smart humor have landed him appearances on *The Late Show with David Letterman* and *The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, to name a few.

Andy's take on marriage, parenting and his own inadequacies are some of the funniest audiences will hear. He lives in Rockland County, NY with his wife, daughter, in-laws and some pets. In his spare time, he tries to create some spare time.

The Comedy Garage presents acclaimed comedians from near and far. After the show, head down the street to Methuselah Bar and Lounge (located just a few short blocks from The Colonial Theatre) and show your Comedy Garage ticket for a \$5 beverage.

We suggest early arrival for this event. It is general admission, first come, first served. The Comedy Garage is sponsored by The Pittsfield Cooperative Bank.

### **I'm Going to Graceland**

**Rev Tor & Friends Perform Paul Simon's Classic Album**

With Special Guests Belle of The Fall as Simon & Girlfunkel

at The Colonial Theatre

Friday, January 11 at 8pm

Tickets: \$25.

### **Pre-show entertainment: Tom Corrigan**

at The Garage at 6:30pm

Fresh off the success of *Respect: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin*, Rev Tor & Friends return to The Colonial Theatre with, *I'm Going to Graceland*, celebrating the music of Paul Simon. This event will feature the best of Simon's *Graceland* album, along with select songs from Simon's solo career. Lively, thoughtful, gritty and poignant, *Graceland* was one of the most intriguing and popular albums of the '80s and featured the classic songs: "Diamonds on the Soles of Her Shoes," "I Know What I Know" and "You Can Call Me Al."

Opening the show will be special guests, acoustic folk duo, Belle of The Fall performing as Simon & Girlfunkel. Tracy Walton plays upright bass and sings most of the Paul parts

while Julia Autumn Ford, plays guitar and sings the Art parts, creating a fun and unique experience.

### **The Alchemystics**

at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby)

Friday, January 18 at 8pm

Tickets: \$10 in advance | \$15 day of show

Fueled by their passion to explore beyond traditional musical boundaries, The Alchemystics blend reggae, hip-hop, soul and rock into modern-day roots music with global appeal creating a powerful and unmistakable sound.

The Alchemystics have shared stages with a global array of music luminaries such as: Stephen Marley, Inner Circle, King Sunny Ade, Clipse, Damian Marley, Busta Rhymes, Michael Franti & Spearhead, The Abyssinians, Sister Carol, Mighty Sparrow, The Coup, King Yellowman, Burning Spear, Gil Scott-Heron, Culture, Steel Pulse, Angelique Kidjo, The English Beat, Midnite and Taj Mahal, among many others.

Band members include: Ilana Morris and Ian-I (vocals), Force (lyricist), Matthew King and Freddy McCondichie (percussion), Chris Ball (bass) and John Corda (keyboard).

### **Lez Zeppelin**

at The Colonial Theatre

Saturday, February 9 at 8pm

Tickets: \$25

### **Pre-show entertainment: Jack Waldheim**

at The Garage at 6:30pm

Founded in 2004, the all-girl quartet Lez Zeppelin, has gained critical acclaim as one of the most exciting live acts around, becoming the first female rock act to pay homage to Led Zeppelin. Legendary guitarist and Led Zeppelin founder, Jimmy Page said, "They played the Led Zeppelin music with an extraordinary sensuality and an energy and passion that highlighted their superb musicianship."

What sets Lez Zeppelin apart is the seamless and unique way they infuse their gender-bending performance into the original material. They have been featured on BBC, CNN, ABC, CBS, MTV, VH1, FOX and radio shows worldwide, such as Sirius XM and NPR. The group's first studio album, *Lez Zeppelin*, was produced by multi-Grammy Award-winner and producer/engineer, Eddie Kramer, whose long-term associations include: Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix and Kiss. The group's second LP, *Lez Zeppelin I*, is an authentic re-make of Led Zeppelin's first album, using the same vintage equipment employed by Led in 1968.

Since Lez Zeppelin's formation, the group has broken glass ceilings, whether it's playing on a catwalk above Times Square for 40,000, playing the main stage at Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival or taking the stage at Madison Square Garden. *Spin Magazine* called them, "The most powerful all-female band in rock history."

### **Rev Tor's 8th Annual Dead of Winter Jam**

at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby)

Friday, February 22 at 8pm

Tickets: \$10 advance | \$15 day of show

Celebrate the music of The Grateful Dead at the 8th Annual Dead of Winter Jam, hosted by Rev Tor's Steal Your Peach Band complete with a slew of special guests to be announced at a later date. Patrons are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to a local food pantry in need.

### **Showtime with Shakespeare**

#### **A Magic Tree House Adventure**

Book and lyrics by Jenny Laird and Will Osborne

Music and lyrics by Randy Courts

Based on *Stage Fright on a Summer Night*

Magic Tree House #25

By Mary Pope Osborne

Directed by Travis Daly

BTG PLAYS! 2018-2019 Touring Show

Sponsored by Berkshire Bank

Part of 10x10 Upstreet Arts Festival

at The Colonial Theatre

Saturday, February 23 at 2pm

Sunday, February 24 at 2pm

Tickets: \$10

The show must go on, in this new hip-hop musical! That's what Jack and Annie learn when the Magic Tree House whisks them back to Elizabethan England. There they meet William Shakespeare himself—one of the greatest writers of all time! But, Mr. Shakespeare is having a hard time with some of the actors in his latest show. Are Jack and Annie ready to make a big entrance? Or, will it be curtains for Shakespeare?

Magic Tree House is a registered trademark of Mary Pope Osborne, all rights reserved • *Showtime with Shakespeare*© 2016 by Mary Pope Osborne • *Stage Fright on a Summer Night*© by Mary Pope Osborne.

## **Moondance: The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Concert**

at The Colonial Theatre

Saturday, March 2 at 8pm

Tickets: \$25

## **Pre-show Entertainment: Acoustic Groove**

at The Garage at 6:30pm

Back by popular demand and described by the *LA Times* as, “An incredible recreation of the Irish legend,” *Moondance: The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Concert* is packed with Van Morrison songs, including: “Brown Eyed Girl,” “Domino,” “Tupelo Honey,” “Into The Mystic,” “Moondance,” “It Stoned Me,” “Wild Night,” “Caravan” and so many more!

## **The Choir of Man**

at The Colonial Theatre

Thursday, March 21 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$39

## **Pre-show Entertainment: Brian Benlien**

at The Garage at 6pm

Known across the globe as “the ultimate-feel good show,” The Choir of Man offers up 90 minutes of indisputable joy. It’s a party. It’s a concert. It’s a pint-filled good time set in a real working pub that combines incredible harmonies, high-energy dance and live percussion with foot-stomping choreography. The multi-talented cast of nine handsome men sing everything from pub tunes and folk to Broadway and classic rock. The cast features world-class tap dancers, acrobats, singers, instrumentalists and poets, ensuring that there is something for everyone in this joyous and uplifting show for all ages.

One of the show’s producers, Nic Doodson states, “The guys have spent the last couple of years touring the UK and Australia, and they are ready to bring this show to American audiences! This concert is such a great time for all, whether it’s a ladies night, first date, guys night out or even a bachelorette party! So, grab your best mates, and we’ll see you at the venue...the first pint is on us (seriously!)”

Imagine the greatest pub gig you’ve ever been to, multiply it by ten, and you’ll still be nowhere near the fun that this show exudes throughout. The show celebrates popular music with wide appeal including songs by Adele, Queen, Paul Simon, Katy Perry, Red Hot Chili Peppers and more. It’s the best singing, dancing, stomping, pub crawl of a show you’ll ever attend!

## **Jen Durkin and The Business**

at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby)

Friday, March 22 at 8pm

Tickets: \$10 advance | \$15 day of show

Jen Durkin's funk band, Deep Banana Blackout (DBB), set her on the path to attain her dreams. After selling out clubs like Irving Plaza and Wetlands in NYC and the Gothic Theatre in Denver, DBB became a festival favorite and propelled Jen on stage with legends like Gregg Allman and Metallica. Jen's new band, Jen Durkin and The Business, is keeping up the funk, packed with tradition and new inspiration. Jen was one of the four featured artists in *Respect: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin* at the Colonial last November.

## **Who Are You**

### **A Celebration of The Who**

at The Colonial Theatre

Saturday, March 30 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$25

### **Pre-show Entertainment: Rev Tor Solo**

at The Garage at 6pm

Who Are You last played The Colonial Theatre in November 2013. Soon after, lead singer, Craig Simmons suffered a spontaneous brain bleed, leaving him unable to perform with the band...until now. In Craig's first show back, Who Are You returns to the Colonial for a night of Who classics.

The music of The Who defined a generation. Songs like "Won't Get Fooled Again," "My Generation" and "Behind Blue Eyes" are just as relevant now as they were when The Who lead guitarist Pete Townshend penned them decades ago. Who Are You brings audiences an exciting multimedia experience and boasts a complete repertoire of The Who songs ranging from, "I Can't Explain," "Magic Bus," "Baba O'Riley" and "Who Are You" to the revolutionary album, "Tommy."

"It's impossible to recreate the sound of The Who with any degree of perfection, but Who Are You comes damn close...You'd be hard pressed to find this sort of experience anywhere else, save perhaps a performance from Pete and Roger themselves."

-Mia Summerson, *Tonawanda News*

A portion of the proceeds from this show will benefit the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts.



**Max Creek**

at The Colonial Theatre

Friday, April 5 at 8pm

Tickets: \$25

**Pre-show Entertainment: Misty Blues Duo**

at The Garage at 6:30pm

Max Creek has reached its fourth decade of playing music, and you'd be hard pressed to find a music fan in the Northeast that hasn't heard of them. Creek's style lacks pretense; there is no genre title that can define them. From the beginning, they mixed rock, country, reggae, soul, jazz and calypso in with their own great songwriting, and it all comes out sounding like Creek.

The band is joyous, and their stage is full of smiles and laughter, both during and between songs. All one has to do is glance into the crowd to see the feeling is contagious. Creek is also engaging, sculpting lengthy shows on-the-fly from their 200+ song catalog with rockers, ballads, deep jams and crowd sing-alongs. Furthermore, Creek is, most definitely, a family. 40-odd years in, the audience is a multi-generational stew—it's not uncommon to witness old-school "Creek Freaks" getting down with their teenage (or older!) kids.

Creek itself is multigenerational. The "front line" of guitarist Scott Murawski, keyboardist Mark Mercier and bassist John Rider has remained intact since the mid-'70s, and the current drums and percussion team of Bill Carbone and Jamemurrell Stanley weren't even born when Max Creek was founded.

**Changes in Latitudes****Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show**

at The Colonial Theatre

Saturday, April 6 at 8pm

Tickets: \$25

**Pre-show Entertainment: Randy Cormier**

at The Garage at 6:30pm

Escape to Margaritaville with *Changes in Latitudes*. Over their ten-year history, *Changes in Latitudes* has performed all over the world, immersing audiences in an authentic reproduction of the Jimmy Buffett concert experience, complete with a tropical stage setup, flying beach balls and dancing conga lines.

Audiences will hear Buffett's fan favorites such as: "Margaritaville," "It's Five O'clock Somewhere," "Come Monday," "Cheeseburger In Paradise," "Volcano," "Changes In Latitudes, Changes In Attitudes," among many others.

## **Swingtown**

### **A Steve Miller Tribute**

at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby)

Friday, April 12 at 8pm

Tickets: \$10 advance | \$15 day of show

*Swingtown* is a good time party show featuring the hits of Steve Miller including, "The Joker," "Take The Money And Run," "Fly Like an Eagle" and so many more. It's a get out of your house and dance all night experience! Band members include: Randy Cormier, Dan Tiechert, Dave Vitone, Darrin Todd and Dan Esko.

## **Berkshire Theatre Group's Production of Disney's Aladdin JR.**

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice and Chad Beguelin

Book by Chad Beguelin

Based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, John Musker, Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio and directed & produced by Ron Clements & John Musker

Directed by Travis Daly

Music Direction by Erin M. White

Choreography by Kathy Jo Grover

at The Colonial Theatre

Friday, April 26 at 7pm

Saturday, April 27 at 11am and 2pm

Sunday, April 28 at 2pm and 5pm

Tickets: Adult \$15, Children 16 and under \$10

Disney's *Aladdin JR.* is based on the 1992 Academy-Award®-winning film and the 2014 hit Broadway show. Aladdin and his three friends, Babkak, Omar and Kassim, are down on their luck until Aladdin discovers a magic lamp and a wisecracking Genie who has the power to grant three wishes. Wanting to win the heart of Princess Jasmine, Aladdin embarks on a magic carpet ride adventure where he faces the evil sorcerer, Jafar and ultimately, himself. With favorite songs such as "Friend Like Me," "One Jump Ahead" and "Prince Ali," along with original songs and thrills, this new adaptation of the beloved story will open up "A Whole New World" for the entire family!

## **Comedy Garage**

### **Catherine Cohen**

at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby)

Thursday, May 16 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$5

Catherine Cohen is a comedian and voiceover artist living in Brooklyn. She was named

by *Time Out New York* as one of “Five Comedians to Watch For” in 2018. Catherine hosts a weekly show at Alan Cumming’s new East Village cabaret, as well as the monthly variety show, *It's A Guy Thing*, which was listed as one of *Paste Magazine*’s “10 Best Alt Comedy Shows in New York City.” Catherine appeared in the last season of *Difficult People* on Hulu, and starred in an episode of Comedy Central’s digital series, *Someone’s in Here*. Her work has been featured on *Splitsider*, *The New Yorker*, *The Huffington Post* and *New York Magazine*’s *The Cut*. Follow her at @catccohen for tweets and Instagram poetry.

The Comedy Garage presents acclaimed comedians from near and far. After the show, head down the street to Methuselah Bar and Lounge (located just a few short blocks from The Colonial Theatre) and show your Comedy Garage ticket for a \$5 beverage.

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## **Comedy Garage**

### **Mary Cella**

at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby)

Thursday, June 6 at 7:30pm

Tickets: \$5

Mary Cella is a stand-up comedian and writer based in New York City. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, Comedy Central, *Jezebel*, *McSweeney's*, *The Hairpin*, CNN and HLN, and she is the co-founder and co-editor of *Little Old Lady Comedy*. She hosts a comedy show on the first Thursday of every month at Tip Top Bar & Grill and every Tuesday at Baby Grand in Brooklyn. Cella is originally from Berkshire County, MA, where she grew up ski racing on a little hill where it was socially acceptable to ski in jeans (but she never did). Cella graduated from Tufts University and worked as a producer for CNN and HLN for several years before pursuing comedy.

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## **CALENDAR OF 2019 WINTER AND SPRING SEASON:**

**Comedy Garage: Andy Pitz:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) •  
Thursday, January 10 at 7:30pm • Tickets: \$5

**I'm Going to Graceland: Rev Tor & Friends Perform Paul Simon's Classic Album**  
With Special Guests Belle of The Fall as Simon & Garfunkel: at The Colonial Theatre •  
Friday, January 11 at 8pm • Tickets: \$25

**The Alchemystics:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) • Friday, January 18  
at 8pm • Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 day of show

**Comedy Garage: Comedian TBA:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) •  
Thursday, February 7 at 7:30pm • Tickets: \$5

**Lez Zeppelin:** at The Colonial Theatre • Saturday, February 9 at 8pm • Tickets: \$25

**Rev Tor's 8th Annual Dead of Winter Jam:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) •  
Friday, February 22 at 8pm • Tickets: \$10 advance, \$15 day of show

**Showtime with Shakespeare: A Magic Tree House Adventure** (Part of the 10x10  
Upstreet Arts Festival): at The Colonial Theatre • Saturday, February 23 at 2pm and  
Sunday, February 24 at 2pm • Tickets: \$10

**Moondance: The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Concert:** at The Colonial Theatre •  
Saturday, March 2 at 8pm • Tickets: \$25

**Comedy Garage: Comedian TBA:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) •  
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**Berkshire Theatre Group's Production of Disney's Aladdin JR.:** at The Colonial  
Theatre • Friday, April 26 at 7pm, Saturday, April 27 at 11am and 2pm and Sunday,  
April 28 at 2pm and 5pm • Tickets: Adult \$15, Children 16 and under \$10

**Encore! An Evening to Celebrate High School Musicals:** at The Colonial Theatre •  
Sunday, May 5 at 2pm • Tickets: Adult \$15, Student (16 and under) \$10

**Comedy Garage: Catherine Cohen:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) •  
Thursday, May 16 at 7:30pm • Tickets: \$5

**Comedy Garage: Mary Cella:** at The Garage (Colonial Theatre Lobby) •  
Thursday, June 6 at 7:30pm • Tickets: \$5

For more information about Berkshire Theatre Group and our upcoming season, please  
visit [www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org](http://www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org)

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### **About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County school children annually. BTG's celebrated stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community.

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