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BERKSHIRE THEATRE GROUP

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Please embargo until Thursday, December 13th at 5pm:

**Berkshire Theatre Group
In Association with Tony Award-winning Caiola Productions
Announces Summer Season Musical
at The Colonial Theatre**

**New Musical
Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story
Book by Gary Kupper, Larry Marshak, and Rose Caiola
Original Music and Lyrics by Gary Kupper
Directed by Randal Myler**

Pittsfield, MA – Berkshire Theatre Group (Kate Maguire, Artistic Director/CEO) in association with five-time Tony Award-winning Caiola Productions (*Once on this Island*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *The Color Purple*, *All The Way*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*) presents *Rock and Roll Man: The Alan Freed Story*, directed by Tony Award-nominee Randal Myler (*It Ain't Nothin' But The Blues*) at The Colonial Theatre as part of their 2019 Summer Season. The production is in development for a Broadway run and a national tour.

Kate Maguire says, “Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bill Haley, Fats Domino, Jerry Lee Lewis, LaVern Baker, The Everly Brothers and Screamin’ Jay are the artists that shaped rock and roll, and Alan Freed is the man who introduced their music to America, creating a wave that changed the musical landscape forever. Join us as they step onto our Colonial stage for a new musical that is sure to shake, rattle and roll Berkshire County! I can't begin to describe how excited we are to collaborate with this great team of Broadway producers and creators for *Rock and Roll Man* this coming summer.”

Tickets will go on sale in February 2019. 2019 Summer season passes are available now for purchase at \$120 for a three-show pass and \$240 for a six-show pass.

Caiola Productions is a five-time Tony Award and two-time Drama Desk Award award-winning theater and film production and investment company founded by winning brother and sister producing team Luigi Caiola and Rose Caiola. Their award-winning productions include: *Once on this Island* (Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical), *Dear Evan Hansen* (winner of six Tony Awards including Best Musical), *The Color Purple* (winner of two Tony Awards for Best Musical Revival and Best Leading Actress), *All The Way* starring Bryan Cranston (winner of two Tony Awards for Best Play and Best Leading Actor, Drama Desk Award Outstanding Play), *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* (winner of three Tony Awards for Best Revival of a Play, Best Director and Best Leading Actor).

Rock and Roll Man

The Alan Freed Story

Book by Gary Kupper, Larry Marshak, and Rose Caiola

Original music and lyrics by Gary Kupper

Directed by Randal Myler

at The Colonial Theatre

BTG's Pittsfield Campus, 111 South Street

Late June through Late July 2019

In the summer of 1954, in a small radio station in Cleveland, an unknown disc jockey heard the sound that would change America. And the rest is music history.

Rock and Roll Man is the new musical about the incredible rise and fall of Alan Freed, the man who coined the phrase rock and roll and brought its sound to the world. He discovered black artists—and got them record deals. He traveled the country—and got them heard from coast to coast. He spoke to the younger generation—and brought them to their feet. By the dawn of the '60s, he was the biggest name in music—until scandal made him the biggest target in America. Featuring original songs and some of the biggest hits of a decade, including “Why Do Fools Fall in Love,” “Tutti Frutti,” “Great Balls of Fire,” “Roll Over Beethoven,” “Ain’t That a Shame” and many more, *Rock and Roll Man* takes you behind the scenes and behind the music of one of the most influential—and controversial—figures in pop music history.

To purchase season passes, visit www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org, contact the Colonial Ticket Office at 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.

For more information about Berkshire Theatre Group and our upcoming shows, please visit 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.