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For immediate release, please: Monday, July 20 at 10am

**Berkshire Theatre Group
Announces**

**An Intimate Performance with
Two-time Tony Award-winner
Brian Stokes Mitchell**

**to Benefit Berkshire Theatre Group
and a Portion of Sales to go to
The Actors Fund and
Black Theatre United**



Pittsfield, MA – Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG) and Kate Maguire (Artistic Director, CEO) are excited to announce **two-time Tony Award-winner Brian Stokes Mitchell** in an intimate performance and fundraiser to benefit Berkshire Theatre Group. In this very special one-night-only concert, Brian Stokes Mitchell will deliver an unforgettable performance to an audience of less than 100 people, outside under a tent at The Colonial Theatre on Labor Day Weekend, September 5 at 8pm.

Dubbed “the last leading man” by *The New York Times*, Tony Award-winner Brian Stokes Mitchell has enjoyed a career that spans Broadway, television, film, and concert appearances with the country’s finest conductors and orchestras. He received Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle awards for his star turn in *Kiss Me, Kate*. He also gave Tony-nominated performances in *Man of La Mancha*, August Wilson’s *King Hedley II*, and *Ragtime*. Other notable Broadway shows include: *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Jelly’s Last Jam*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Shuffle Along*. In 2016 he was awarded his second Tony Award, the prestigious Isabelle Stevenson Tony for his Charitable work with The Actors Fund. That same year Stokes was inducted into the Theatre Hall of Fame.

Maguire says, “Our Board of Trustees and staff are thrilled to welcome the extraordinary Brian Stokes Mitchell to our home on Labor Day Weekend. We have been diligent in our efforts to make sure our audiences can find their way to entertainment and theatrical experiences this summer. To know that this most incredible performer and star of our industry will be with us at this most remarkable time is truly a dream come true.”

Tickets go on sale Monday, July 20 at 10am and are \$500 to benefit Berkshire Theatre Group, with a portion of sales to go to The Actors Fund and Black Theatre United.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org, by calling (413) 997-4444, or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. The ticket office is open Monday–Saturday from 10am–2pm. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

Outside at The Colonial Theatre

**An Intimate Performance with Brian Stokes Mitchell
to Benefit Berkshire Theatre Group with a Portion of Sales to go to
The Actors Fund and Black Theatre United**

Outside Under the Tent
at The Colonial Theatre Parking Lot
BTG’s Pittsfield Campus, 111 South Street

Saturday, September 5 at 8pm

Tickets will go on sale Monday, July 20 at 10am
Tickets: \$500 (tax deductible rate \$300)

About:

In addition to winning Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle awards, Brian Stokes Mitchell is an extremely versatile and in-demand singer. Stokes has performed at venues spanning jazz, opera, pops, country, and musical theater worlds. He has worked with John Williams, Marvin Hamlisch, Gustavo Dudamel, Keith Lockhart, Michael Tilson Thomas, The Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Big Band, The Mormon Tabernacle choir and the Muppets. Stokes has made multiple appearances at Carnegie Hall beginning with his debut with the San Francisco Symphony through his televised performance in *South Pacific* opposite Reba McEntire to his sold-out solo concert, which he continues to perform throughout the U.S. He has been invited twice to perform at the White House (both times aired on PBS's "Great Performances") and has performed multiple times for Presidents Clinton and Obama.

Stokes has delved deeply into various music disciplines. In addition to singing he began piano studies at the age of 6. A self-professed autodidact, his musical curiosity led him to teach himself composing, arranging and orchestration, starting in his teens. He later studied Film scoring, orchestration, and conducting both privately and through UCLA and subsequently scored and conducted a number of *Trapper John, MD* episodes, a series on which he was also a regular cast member. His musical talent has extended to the present day as producer, arranger and orchestrator on his three solo albums, *Simply Broadway* and his latest release, *Plays With Music*. Stokes has appeared on more than 20 albums.

His extensive screen credits began with a guest starring role on *Roots: The Next Generations*, followed by a 7-year stint on *Trapper John, MD* and have continued with memorable appearances on everything from PBS' *Great Performances* to *The Fresh Prince*, *Frasier*, *Glee*, *Jumping the Broom* and his most recent recurring roles on *Madam Secretary*, *Mr. Robot*, *The Path*, *Billions*, *The Good Fight* and *Prodigal Son*. As a voice-over artist he has played dozens of characters on animated TV episodes including performing "Through Heaven's Eyes" in Dreamworks' *The Prince of Egypt*.

For fun he has been known to fly planes and jump out of them (usually not at the same time), and he can ride a bicycle on a high wire.

Stokes has enjoyed working with numerous charitable organizations from the March of Dimes to the USO. He is on the board of Americans For the Arts and is serving his 16th term as Chairman of the Board of the Actors Fund.

ABOUT THE ACTORS FUND

Founded in 1882, The Actors Fund serves all professionals—and not just actors—in film, theater, television, music, opera, radio and dance through programs that address our community's unique and essential needs.

Employment in any division of the performing arts and entertainment industry is unpredictable. Work is erratic, security is fleeting and health insurance is often just a dream. For all of these reasons and many more, The Actors Fund is an indispensable and deeply significant part of the entire entertainment community.

As a national organization with offices in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago, we directly serve thousands of performing arts and entertainment professionals across the country every year, in person and via our online resources. Our programs are wide in scope, responsive in nature and produce significant results.

ABOUT BLACK THEATRE UNITED

“As members of the Black theatre community, we stand together to help protect Black people, Black talent and Black lives of all shapes and orientations in theatre and communities across the country. Our voices are united to empower our community through activism in the pursuit of justice and equality for the betterment of all humanity. We will not be silent. We will be seen. We will be heard. We are here. Join us.”

This call to action is just the beginning. It was the latest manifestations of police brutality that galvanized Black Theatre United into being. With roots reaching into all 50 of the United States this coalition can harness invaluable political scope and influence. To elevate a cause or to overturn policies that target black people in any one state or community, the group will draw on members with local connections to use their visibility and influence for good in theater and on the national stage.

Passionate and committed, this founding group of actors, directors, musicians, writers, technicians, producers and stage management includes: Lisa Dawn Cave, Darius de Haas, Brandon Victor Dixon, Carin Ford, Capathia Jenkins, LaChanze, Kenny Leon, Norm Lewis, Audra McDonald, Michael McElroy, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Wendell Pierce, Billy Porter, Phylicia Rashad, Anna Deavere Smith, Allyson Tucker, Tamara Tunie, Lillias White, NaTasha Yvette Williams, Schele Williams and Vanessa Williams.

SAFETY MEASURES

BTG has outlined procedures and protocols in a manner that is consistent with current Actor's Equity Association and state and local mandated health and safety guidelines. Temperature scans will be done for patrons at their point of entry. Free-standing, no contact, self scanning stations for tickets will be placed at the point of entry, spaced at least 6 feet from the temperature scan. Free-standing hand sanitizer stations will be placed at various locations throughout the space. Patrons will be required to wear masks and if they do not come with one we will provide one for them. One way traffic patterns will be enforced with arrows and 6 foot markers on the floor as well as lines down the center of hallways, to and from the tent, restrooms and concessions. The restrooms will have entrance and exits that are separate and one way. Every other stall, urinal and sink will be marked not usable. A doctor/nurse will be on

duty for all performances.

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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. In July 2020, Berkshire Theatre was the first company in the United States to earn approval from Actors' Equity Association to produce a musical (*Godspell*) in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.