



Arts of Southern Kentucky Receives Major Gift to Create New Broadway Company

Record Breaking \$1.75 million gift from Robert P. Ramsey launches Ramsey Theatre Company, SKyPAC's new professional resident ensemble

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Embargo until April 25, 2022

BOWLING GREEN, KY – Today, Arts of Southern Kentucky announced details of the largest single gift in Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC) and Arts of Southern Kentucky (ASK) history. Mr. Robert P. Ramsey has gifted \$1.75 million to the organization for the creation and operation of The Ramsey Theatre Company. The company will serve as the resident professional theatre ensemble at SKyPAC and will produce at least three Broadway shows per season. Education and BG On Stage Director, Elise Charny, will direct the company's first production.

Through the creation of The Ramsey Theatre Company, Arts of Southern Kentucky will have creative liberties to produce high-quality Broadway productions in a fiscally responsible manner for those living in the BRADD area. Principal roles will be cast through nation-wide auditions with supporting roles filled by other accomplished actors. Orchestra Kentucky will provide the orchestra for the productions. The group's first show will be *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

"Mr. Ramsey's generous gift will transform the arts in our community. In the past, our musical theatre offerings have been limited to touring shows. Out of those, few are available for one-night bookings, and often weekday evenings. Quality was often inconsistent as well," said Arts of Southern Kentucky President & CEO Jeff Reed. "Thanks to Robert, we can now select the shows we want, the nights we present them, and we can control quality of the finished product. Robert and his late wife, Willanna, loved to attend Broadway shows together. I'm confident that The Ramsey Theatre Company will be something of which Mrs. Ramsey would have been quite proud."

"The idea of consistent, high-quality Broadway productions being available for our community is what Willanna and I wanted for Bowling Green," said Mr. Ramsey. "I know that this theatre group is a step in the right direction and through great leadership with the ASK staff and support from the community it will succeed in bringing great shows to our area."

"I am beyond thankful to be a part of The Ramsey Theatre Company. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity thanks to the kindness and generosity of Mr. Ramsey. Someone better pinch me, because

Jeffrey A. Reed, President & CEO Arts of Southern Kentucky, Inc., Music Director Orchestra Kentucky
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my dreams are coming true,” said Education and BG On Stage Director Elise Charny. “With The Ramsey Theatre Company, we will be able to bring high-quality, professional theatrical performances to the SKyPAC stage. I am overjoyed at this opportunity to work with actors from all over to bring these stories to life.”

Subscriptions to the 2022-2023 Willanna K. Ramsey Memorial Broadway Series, which also includes one Ramsey Theatre Company production, may be purchased by calling the SKyPAC box office (270-904-1880), or visiting in person at 601 College Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky. Ticket packages start at just \$105 and include the three Broadway shows in the series (*Legally Blonde*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *Beauty and the Beast*) and one free concert (*The Golden Age of the Hollywood Musical*, *Rodgers & Hammerstein*, or *Irving Berlin: From Rags to Ritzes*). Thank you to our 2022-2023 sponsors: Robert P. Ramsey, Bell, Orr, Ayers & Moore, PSC, English Lucas Priest & Owsley, LLP, Houchens Insurance Group, and Auto-Owners Insurance.

Mr. Ramsey’s gift comes on the heels of a \$1,000,000 donation made in 2021 by Rita and Jim Scott to name the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall. The momentum created with the Scott’s generosity paved the way for future support like that of Mr. Ramsey and others.

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Arts of Southern Kentucky

In 2020, with the assistance of the Warren County Fiscal Court and Judge Michael O. Buchanon, Orchestra Kentucky assumed management of the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). The new organization, titled Arts of Southern Kentucky, is led administrative and artistically by Jeffrey Reed.

Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center - A premier entertainment center, SKyPAC is a multi-use facility located in downtown Bowling Green, KY. The facility includes the Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall, a 1,700-seat state-of-the-art auditorium, The Renshaw Education Center, which houses the Carol Wedge Studio Theater - a flexible 2,600 sq. ft. space for intimate productions and gatherings; several multi-functional rehearsal halls/classrooms; a children’s art gallery and a main gallery.

Ramsey Theatre Company

The Ramsey Theatre Company was formed through a generous gift from Robert P. Ramsey to produce professional-level musical theatre to serve the BRADD area. The Rita and Jim Scott Concert Hall at SKyPAC serves as its primary home. Principal roles are cast through nation-wide auditions with supporting roles filled by other accomplished actors. Orchestra Kentucky takes the place of honor in the Robin and David Ciochetty orchestra pit.