

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Broadway 'Kinky Boots' Award Winner Concludes Winter/Spring Cabaret Series

March 20, 2017 (Columbus, Ind.) – Tony- and Grammy-winning performer, **Billy Porter**, takes center stage as the final act in the 2017 Winter/Spring *Cabaret at The Commons* series on **Thursday, April 6, 2017** at 7:30 p.m. In his show, *Broadway & Soul*, the altogether irresistible *Kinky Boots* star will perform a heartfelt selection of songs, including his own, featuring boldly inventive mash-ups of Broadway, swing, disco, and blues. Presented by the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, the show is sponsored by Joe and Sher Cunningham with supporting partners: African American Fund of Bartholomew County, Lori Ellen Phillips, and Shepherd Insurance.



CABARET AT THE COMMONS

Who: Billy Porter

What: *Broadway & Soul* Cabaret Show

Where: The Commons

300 Washington Street

Columbus, IN 47201

When: Thursday, April 6, 2017

Happy Hour at 6:30 p.m.

Reserved Dinner served 6:45 to 7:15 p.m.

Cabaret Begins at 7:30 p.m.

Billy Porter is a Tony and Grammy Award-winning singer, composer, actor, playwright, and director from Pittsburgh, PA. He originated the role of 'Lola' in the Broadway hit *Kinky Boots*, which won him 2013 Tony, Grammy, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards. Other theatre credits include: *Shuffle Along* (2016, Broadway), *Little Shop of Horrors* (2003, Broadway), *Miss Saigon* (1991, Broadway), *Five Guys Named Moe.*, *Grease* (1994, Broadway), *Smokey Joe's Café* (1995, Broadway), *Dreamgirls* (2001, Broadway), *Angels in America*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Radiant Baby*, *Birdie Blue*, *Songs for a New World*, *Ghetto Superstar* (one-man show), *Topdog/Underdog*, and *King Lear*. His play, *While I Yet Live*, premiered in 2015 at Primary Stages. As a director, his credits include *Topdog/Underdog* and *The Colored Museum* (both for Huntington Theatre Company); Film/TV: "Law & Order: SVU," "So You Think You Can Dance" (as a guest judge), "The Broken Hearts Club," "Shake Rattle & Roll," "The Big C," *The Humbling* starring Al Pacino, and Baz Luhrmann's *The Get Down*. Porter's concerts credits include: the opening act for Rosie O'Donnell and Aretha Franklin, Carnegie Hall, John McDaniel and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, as well as The Buffalo Philharmonic, Peter Nero and The Philly Pops, soloist for President Bill Clinton, and various benefits throughout the United States.

As a recording artist, Porter's solo albums include his first CD, *Untitled*, on A&M records, *At the Corner of Broadway + Soul – LIVE* on Sh-K-Boom Records, and *Billy's Back on Broadway*, on Concord Records.

Cabaret tickets are categorized into three affordable options: V.I.P. (\$55), Preferred (\$35) and General Admission (\$20). Tickets can be purchased online at www.thecip.org or by calling the Philharmonic Box Office at 812-376-2638, x1. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a Happy Hour, open to all patrons. V.I.P. ticket-holders will receive an invitation to a post-cabaret Meet-and-Greet with Billy Porter in the upstairs lobby at The Commons.

First Class Catering will offer a full dinner option in addition to a lighter hors d'oeuvres menu. Meal reservations are \$18 per person and must be made in advance by calling the Philharmonic

*"Billy Porter's
performance created
the king of epiphany
that a great voice
can conjure out of
thin air."*

The New York Times

office at 812-376-2638, x1. The 3-course meal includes a salad, entrée and dessert. The deadline to reserve dinner is Monday, April 3. A full bar is provided by Joe Willy's Burger Bar.

Cabaret at The Commons is Columbus' premier nightlife destination, featuring a dynamic range of captivating artists in an up close and personal musical experience. This performance takes place in the Columbus Entertainment and Arts District. The show is sponsored by Joe and Sher Cunningham with supporting partners: African American Fund of Bartholomew County, Lori Ellen Phillips, and Shepherd Insurance. *The Cabaret at The Commons* series is supported by: Media, The Republic; Venue, City of Columbus; Talent, The Cabaret.

ABOUT COLUMBUS INDIANA PHILHARMONIC

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is proud to partner with The Cabaret in Indianapolis to further its mission to advocate a life-long interest and involvement in music. The Cabaret is the only arts organization in Indianapolis dedicated to the art of professional cabaret performance, thus a valuable resource in recruiting world-traveled, top-notch performers to the Cabaret at The Commons stage. With a full complement of concerts and music education programs, the Philharmonic is honored to be one of the arts organizations that contribute to the rich quality of life enjoyed by residents of Columbus and surrounding communities.

The Columbus Indiana Philharmonic is a public, not-for-profit corporation supported by private donations, the Columbus Area Arts Council, the Indiana Arts Commission, and the National Endowment for the Arts.