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Svenska Teatern, Norra esplanaden 2, Helsingfors
<http://www.svenskateatern.fi>

## Press Release 3.1.2018 – free for publication at 15.00

**The Swedish Theatre’s next big musical is something extra special**Mary Poppins flies to Helsinki

**The Swedish Theatre has set its sights high. From autumn, 2020, Mary Poppins will fly over the rooftops of London in a magical theatrical experience, staged in our own beautiful auditorium. We’re pulling out all the stops to bring you this well-loved family musical, that has charmed the whole world, for the first time in the Swedish language in Finland.**

The musical about the world’s first “supernanny” premiered in London, 2004, then subsequently on New York’s Broadway. With it’s unforgettable tunes and dazzling dance numbers, Mary Poppins has won 44 prestigious theatrical awards from all over the world. Its magical story has captured the hearts of generations.

*- I am extremely happy and proud that we have secured the rights to this wonderful musical. We’ll be offering our public a fantastic, magical adventure suitable for all ages*, says the artistic director of Svenska Teatern **Joachim Thibblin**, who has been in London to meet **Sir Cameron Mackintosh** to discuss the production.

*Mary Poppins*, the musical, is based on the books by **P.L. Travers** and the classic Walt Disney film of the same name. This family-friendly show delighted its Broadway audience with over 2500 performances and received nominations for nine Olivier Awards and seven Tony’s, including for “Best Musical”. In the past few days, the new film *Mary Poppins Returns* premiered in Finnish cinemas.

Mary Poppins is directed by **Markku Nenonen**, who is entrusted with creating a wholly new, so-called “non-replica” version of the original production. Currently, only the Swedish Theatre in Helsinki and a single theatre in Italy, can offer the family musical to their audiences. The first (non-English language) non-replica version was successfully produced by Gothenberg Opera in 2008, suggesting the potential for the Swedish Theatre to again attract large audiences from Sweden to Helsinki.

*- It’s lovely not to be bound by a pre-existing concept with everything decided beforehand,* says **Markku Nenonen**.

*We shall make our own unique production, but with a careful hand so the public will certainly recognize their own beloved Mary Poppins!*

**Cast:**

The Swedish Theatre has selected 150 actors, dancers and singers, from 500 initial applicants, to attend auditions during January, 2019. In due course we shall announce which 23 of these have secured rolls in Mary Poppins.

***Mary Poppins*** is a Musical based on the stories of **P.L. TRAVERS** and the Walt Disney Film

Original Music and Lyrics by **RICHARD M. SHERMAN** **and ROBERT B. SHERMAN**

Book by **JULIAN FELLOWES**

New Songs and Additional Music and Lyrics by **GEORGE STILES** and **ANTHONY DREWE**

Co‐created by **CAMERON MACKINTOSH**

Originally Produced by **CAMERON MACKINTOSH** and **THOMAS SCHUMACHER** for Disney

Produktionen presenteras på uppdrag av Music Theatre International (Europe)

**Premiere at The Swedish National Theatre in Helsinki**

**Big stage in september 2020.** Tickets for sale autumn 2019.

