**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



ST. LOUIS-AREA CAST ANNOUNCED FOR NATIONAL TOUR

OFMENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL®
COMING TO ST. LOUIS JANUARY 6 THROUGH FEBRUARY 12

*PLAYHOUSE @ WESTPORT PLAZA*

*Great for a girls’ night out! Tickets on sale NOW!*

**ST. LOUIS** – GFour Productions, winner of 44 Tony Awards and 54 Drama Desk Awards, proudly brings the international hit show ***Menopause The Musical****®* to the Playhouse @ Westport Plaza, 635 Westport Plaza, in St. Louis for weekly performances beginning Friday, January 6, 2017 and running through Sunday, February 12. The performances will feature a cast of actors native to the St. Louis area. Tickets may be purchased through MetroTix, including online at metrotix.com and by phone at 314-534-1111. Additionally, tickets will also be available at the Playhouse @ Westport Plaza box office one hour prior to show time. Greater discounts for groups of 10+ available by calling 314-616-4455. Save 50% on tickets with code MENO50.

**Performance schedule at Playhouse @ Westport Plaza, beginning Friday, January 6 through Sunday, February 12:**

* Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.
* Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
* Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
* Fridays at 8 p.m.
* Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.
* Sundays at 2 p.m.

 ***Menopause The Musical****®* is a groundbreaking celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived “The Change.” Now celebrating 14 years of female empowerment through hilarious musical comedy, ***Menopause The Musical****®* has evolved as a “grassroots” movement of women who deal with life adjustments after 40 by embracing each other and the road ahead.

Set in a department store, four women meet while shopping for a black lace bra at a lingerie sale. After noticing unmistakable similarities among one another, the cast jokes about their woeful hot flashes, mood swings, wrinkles, weight gain and much more. These women form a sisterhood and unique bond with the entire audience as they rejoice in celebrating that menopause is no longer “The Silent Passage.”

**The cast for the St. Louis performances includes the following St. Louis-area natives:**

**ROSEMARY WATTS** *(Iowa Housewife)* is delighted to once again be performing with her “family” back at their home, *The Playhouse at Westport*.  She was the original Iowa Housewife in MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL for eighteen months.  Mostly recently, she was in BEST OF ENEMIES at *Bluff City Theatre* in Hannibal, MO. Other shows include: I LOVE YOU, YOU’RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE (*City Theatre*, *Hot City Theatre*, and *The Playhouse at Westport*); FAMILY OF MANN (*TNT*); TABLE MANNERS (*Off the Cuff Productions*); LOVE TROUBLE and DREAMS OF BABY (*ShatterMask Theatre*); UNCOMMON WOMEN ... (*The Black Repertory Theatre*); and THE SANDERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS, SOUTH PACIFIC, and 1940's RADIO HOUR (*The* *Little Theatre on the Square*, Sullivan, IL).  She was part of the resident company of *Historyonics Theatre*for over eleven years.  For the past 30 years, she has loved sharing the stage in cabaret shows with her talented husband, Joe Dreyer.  Dedicated to Joe and my lovely daughter, Rosalind.  With big thanks to GFour!

**Laura Ackermann** (Earth Mother) Laura first joined the cast of MTM in 2006, where she met her dear friends, Rosemary, LeeAnne and Marty.  She and Judi were already old pals !  A native St. Louisan, Laura began her career in 1974 at The Muny Opera.  Since then, she has done 36 shows at The Muny, playing such roles as Auntie Em in The Wizard of Oz and The Bird Woman in Mary Poppins. Laura has performed or choreographed for the New Jewish Theater, Bluff City in Hannibal, The Ozark Actors Theater in Rolla and Stages St. Louis.  She recently did a two year stint as the Dance Director for The Show Me Arts Academy, founded by Marty Casey.  Laura is also the choreographer for Nipher Middle School in Kirkwood.  In the olden days, she was a member of the Broadway Cast of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas. Laura is hoping you'll leave tonight with a big smile on your face and a song in your heart !

**Marty K. Casey** (Professional Woman) was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Her career spans over 20 years, performing in the United States, Germany, and France. She has been a member of the Actor’s Equity Association since 2006. It was the role of the Professional Woman in Menopause The Musical that afforded her the opportunity to become a member. She last played the role in 2010. Since her last performance, Marty has appeared in several movies, “Four Way Stop,” “Retribution,” “The First Pick,” and “Parallel Chords.”  During the unrest of Ferguson, Missouri, Marty founded Show Me Arts Academy which is under the Show Me Arts Foundation and recently created a youth group, SPREADING THE LOVE Singers. Her community contribution has landed her two national awards, Advocate of the Year from Mathews-Dickey Boys & Girls Club and Community Service Award from JUGS (Justice, Unity, Generosity and Service) and recognition from singer, Beyonce’ on her #BeyGood website.

**Lee Anne Mathews** (*Soap Star*) Lee Anne is thrilled to be reunited with her Menopause family.  Before moving to St. Louis in 2006 to play the Soap Star here at Westport, Lee Anne traveled the world performing in venues from Toronto to Tokyo and from Alaska to Florida.  Locally, she has worked for many theatre companies as an actor, director and stage manager including the Muny, Shakespeare Festival of St. Louis, New Jewish Theatre, St. Louis Actors Studio, Upstream Theatre, and more.  She was recently nominated for a Tampa Bay Theatre Award for her performance as the Baker’s Wife in *Into the Woods*, at freeFall Theatre Company in Florida.  She has volunteered for worthwhile arts organizations such as Prison Performing Arts and the Show Me Arts Academy.  Lee Anne teaches theatre at Crossroads College Prep School in the city, and was awarded Maryville University Teacher of the Year in 2014.    Proud member of AEA.

**Judi Mann**(*Full Understudy*) is thrilled to be returning to the Westport Playhouse for her third run of MTM! An award-winning actress and writer, and graduate of A.M.D.A. in NYC, Judi briefly appeared Off Broadway, toured the country with Carol Channing in Hello Dolly, & Howard Keel in My Fair Lady & South Pacific.  She most recently appeared at Arrowrock Lyceum in a musical & a farce. Judi has appeared in or voiced numerous tv & radio commercials, and films, most recently, a horror feature, The Nameless. Ms. Mann is the proud Theater Dept. head of Show Me Arts Academy, a non-profit Arts organization which brings art opportunities to underserved St. Louis city youth. She is Mom to three grown kids & married to actor James Anthony.  Judi runs a small wedding business, Wonder Weddings, and has had the honor of marrying over 200 couples.  Thank YOU for supporting live LOCAL professional theater.

Inspired by a hot flash and a bottle of wine, ***Menopause The Musical***® is a celebration of women who find themselves at any stage of “The Change.” The laughter-filled 90-minute production gets audience members out of their seats and singing along to parodies from classic pop songs of the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s.

***Menopause The Musical®***, now in its fourteenth year of production, is recognized as the longest-running scripted production in Las Vegas and continues to entertain nightly at Harrah’s Las Vegas. The hilarious musical has entertained audiences across the country in more than 450 U.S. cities, nearly 300 international cities and a total of 15 countries. For more information, visit [www.MenopauseTheMusical.com](http://www.MenopauseTheMusical.com).

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**About the Playhouse @ Westport Plaza**

The Playhouse @ Westport Plaza is located at 635 Westport Plaza in Maryland Heights, Missouri and is a venue filling a niche for a variety of Broadway and Off-Broadway entertainment that would otherwise not find its way to the St. Louis area. Programming at the venue is offered at affordable ticket pricing so that anyone can have dinner at one of the many restaurants in the area as well as see a great show. For additional information on upcoming events, please visit [**www.playhouseatwestport.com**](http://www.playhouseatwestport.com).

**About GFour Productions**

**GFOUR PRODUCTIONS** (*Producer*) GFour Productions is the producer and owner of the international smash-hit MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL®. Their recent successes include winning the 2013 Tony Award for their 50th anniversary production of Edward Albee’s WHO’S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF; co-financing the five-time Tony Award, five-time Drama Desk Award, and seven-time Olivier Award winner for Best Musical, MATILDA THE MUSICAL; producing the critically acclaimed revivals of THE GLASS MENAGERIE starring Cherry Jones and Zachary Quinto, and the history-making production of LADY DAY AT EMERSON’S BAR AND GRILL starring six-time Tony Award winner, Audra McDonald; and their most recent launch of the Pulitzer Prize winning play, DISGRACED, which The New York Times calls, “Terrific, turbulent, and roaring to life with currents of dramatic electricity!” This season they will be producing the new David Mamet play, CHINA DOLL, starring Al Pacino, and a glorious new revival of FIDDLER ON THE ROOF, directed by Tony Award winner, Bartlett Sher. GFour recently premiered the Spanish-language version of the hit, MENOPAUSIA EL MUSICAL, in Hollywood, CA, and have now begun the international launch of their ever-popular MENOPAUSE brand, bringing laughter to audiences around the world. They began producing in 1981 with NINE, winning the Tony Award that year for Best Musical. Among their favorite Broadway productions are MY ONE AND ONLY starring Tommy Tune, ZORBA THE GREEK starring Anthony Quinn, THE RINK starring Liza Minnelli, BABY, GRAND HOTEL, GRIND, BIG, TRUE WEST, the original and the revival of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES which won them Tony Awards for Best Musical in 1983 and Best Revival in 2004. Their combined shows have been nominated for 115 Tony Awards, winning 44 and 110 Drama Desk Awards, winning 56. For more information, please visit [GFourProductions.com](http://gfourproductions.com/).

#### TICKETS ON SALE NOW!Greater discounts for groups of 10+ available by calling 314-616-4455.Playhouse @ Westport Plaza | [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com) | 314-534-1111

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