

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TBD PICTURES IN ASSOCIATION WITH NATIONAL THEATER LIVE
ANNOUNCE THE NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE OF**

IAN McKELLEN ON STAGE
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ONE-MAN SHOW
STARRING SIR IAN McKELLEN

**DIRECTED BY
SEAN MATHAIS**

STREAMING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 3, 2021

**TO BENEFIT COMMUNITY & REGIONAL THEATERS
IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 CRISIS**

New York, NY (September 14, 2021) – Tony Award-winning producer **Hunter Arnold** (*Hadestown*, *Little Shop of Horrors*) is thrilled to announce that his company **TBD Pictures** will release the North American streaming premiere of **Sir Ian McKellen's** one man show "*Ian McKellen on Stage*" Friday, September 17 through October 3, 2021 via **On The Stage** streaming platform. Tickets can be purchased at www.ian80.com. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to community, amateur, educational and regional theaters affected by the Covid-19 crisis.

Experience Ian McKellen like you've never seen him before in this limited presentation of the greatest roles of his career. Captured live with stunning clarity, this must-watch streaming event will remind you why you fell in love with theater to begin with. Directed by **Sean Mathais**, *Ian McKellen on Stage* was conceived by McKellen in honor of his eightieth birthday and in tribute to his illustrious sixty-year career onstage.

Called "heartfelt hilarity from a crusader of the stage" and "a love letter to theatre" by Michael Billington of London's *The Guardian* *Ian on Stage* takes the viewer from Shakespeare to Pinter and even to Tolkein,

After touring 80 theaters in the UK with all proceeds, over 3 Million GBP, going to UK regional theaters, the production was filmed by National Theatre Live during its run on the West End at the Harold Pinter Theatre. The streaming production is now being released to benefit community, amateur, educational and regional theaters affected by the Covid-19 crisis.

Hunter Arnold says, "While we are very fortunate that theater is coming back, local institutions have a long way to go before they will recover from the economic impact of COVID-19. Sir McKellen was so focused on supporting local theaters with this project in the UK, we thought it was only fitting that that support continues across the pond here in North America. These theaters, the work they produce, and the artists and workers they support are a crucial part of our culture. It's up to each of us to do as much as we can to bring them back stronger than they were before this crisis."

Recommended for ages 12 and up. The show runs 2 hours and 32 minutes. Tickets are \$29.99 at www.ian80.com. Pre-order now for a \$10 discount.

BIOGRAPHIES

Ian McKellen (Performer, Adaptor) has starred on stage and screen for nearly sixty years, having made his professional debut in 1961. His career spans genres ranging from Shakespearean and modern theatre to popular fantasy and sci-fi. He has been awarded six Laurence Olivier Awards, a Tony Award, a Golden Globe Award, a Screen Actors Guild Award, a BIF Award, two Saturn Awards, four Drama Desk Awards, and two Critics Choice Awards, as well as receiving nominations for two Academy Awards, five Primetime Emmy Awards and four BAFTAs. He is famous worldwide for his film roles, including the titular King in *Richard III*, Magneto in the X-Men films, and Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* trilogies.

Sean Mathais (Director) is a British Theatre Director, Film Director and Writer. He has worked at the Royal National Theatre, the West End, the Kennedy Center, The Mark Taper Forum, Off-Broadway and many times on Broadway, as well as Paris, Sydney, Cape Town, Johannesburg, San Francisco and extensively in the UK. He has written a number of plays including the award-winning *A Prayer for Wings*, and the screenplay for the award-winning BBC film *The Lost Language of Cranes*.

Hunter Arnold (Producer) is a Tony and Olivier Award-winning Producer. Select Broadway & West End credits include: *Hadestown* (Tony Award); *The Inheritance* (Olivier Award and Tony nomination); *Once on This Island* (Tony Award); *Dear Evan Hansen* (Tony Award); *Kinky Boots* (Tony Award and Olivier Award); *Deaf West Theatre's Spring Awakening* (Tony nomination); *The Visit* (Tony nomination); *Mothers and Sons* (Tony nomination); *Moulin Rouge!* (Tony nomination); *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Tony nomination); *Tina—The Musical* (Tony nomination); *Betrayal* (Tony nomination); *Back to the Future*; *Anastasia*; *Pretty Woman*; *The Jungle*; *The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?*; *Disaster!*; *It's Only a Play*; *The Bridges of Madison County*. Off-Broadway: *Little Shop of Horrors* (Drama Desk Award and Drama League Award). Upcoming Broadway: *Chicken & Biscuits*; *Mrs. Doubtfire*; *Thoughts of a Colored Man*; *Plaza Suite*; *Caroline, or Change*; *Diana*; *Company*. Film: *A Christmas Carol*, starring Jefferson Mays and directed by Michael Arden; *Hello Again*; *Something Like Summer*. Arnold earned his bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurial Business from DePaul University and his Master's in Business Administration from TRIUM, a joint program representing NYU Stern School of Business, H.E.C. Paris, and the London School of Economics. He is a frequent lecturer and guest professor on entertainment trends and economics, Commercial Theater and working in the arts.