

Disney's Mary Poppins' opens Sept. 12 in Springfield

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Stage works inspired by classic movies bring music and comedy to two downtown theatrical venues, while a third offers a double dose of singer-songwriter expertise in the form of Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle. The week's musical bounty extends to Aurora, where nine country acts will perform over the course of 12 hours on Saturday.

"**Disney's Mary Poppins**," a stage version of the 1964 film starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke, kicks off **Springfield Little Theatre's** 80th season. Co-created by Cameron Mackintosh and written by Julian Fellowes of "Downton Abbey" fame, the show ran three years in London and twice as long on Broadway. Beloved Sherman Brothers' songs like "Chim Chim Cheree," "Feed the Birds" and

"A Spoonful of Sugar" are featured, along with new tunes by George Stiles and Anthony Drewe.

Topping director Chuck Rogers' cast of 30 is Broadway veteran Kim Crosby as super nanny Mary Poppins. Chip Holderman plays Bert the chimney sweep, while Andy Bryan and Kim Snyder take the parts of stodgy Mr. Banks and his suffragette wife Winifred. Madeline Popovich and Ford Mirowski are their lively children Jane and Michael. Choreography is by Josh Inmon and music direction by Susan Gravatt.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and Sept. 18-20, 25-27 and Oct. 2-4. Matinees are at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 14, 20-21, 28 and Oct. 4-5. For tickets (\$28, \$25, \$15), call the Landers Theatre at 869-1334.

"Saving Mr. Banks" gave moviegoers a behind-the-scenes look at the travails of bringing P.L. Travers' "Mary Poppins" stories to the screen. Another film classic, "Gone With the Wind," supplies the background for "**Moonlight and Magnolias**," opening Friday

at **Springfield Contemporary Theatre's Center Stage**, 431 S. Jefferson Ave. David Rice directs Ron Hutchinson's comic take on the struggle to finalize the epic Civil War script. Over a period of five days, legendary producer David O. Selznick, screenwriter Ben Hecht and director Victor Fleming butt heads as they attempt to fashion a workable scenario from Margaret Mitchell's thousand-page novel.

Jeff Carney, David DePriest and David Hart Waggoner portray the harried trio; Nanette Crighton is beleaguered secretary Miss Poppenghul. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and Sept. 19-20 and 26-27 and at 2 p.m. Sept. 14, 21 and 28. Tickets are \$20 opening weekend, then \$25, \$22; \$10-\$12 student rush. Call 831-8001.

Noted singer-songwriters **Shawn Colvin and Steve Earle** team up for "Songs and Stories, Together on Stage," a tour that lands at the **Gillioz Theatre** at 8 p.m. Tuesday. Both artists have won critical plaudits and multiple Grammy Awards over the years, including Song and Record of the Year honors in 1997 for Colvin ("Sunny Came Home") and album wins by Earle for "The Revolution Starts...Now" (2004), "Washington Square Serenade" (2007) and "Townes" (2009).

Their literary works include Colvin's 2012 memoir "Diamond in the Rough" and Earle's 2011 novel "I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive." Earle is also noted for acting roles in the HBO dramas "The Wire" and "Treme." For tickets (\$35-\$95), call 863-9491.

The 40-minute drive to **Aurora's Baldwin Park** brings you 12 hours of music, food and outdoor activities on Saturday. "3D: Denim, Diamonds & Divas" spotlights the distaff side of contemporary country music with performances by **Jamie O'Neal, Liz Moriondo, Laura Ashley, Kinsey Sadler, Elise, the Mustang Sally Band, the Swivel Sisters (Jennifer Reisch and Shannon Stine), Motion Playlist and Trick Pony (featuring Heidi Newfield and Keith Burns)**.

Proceeds benefit service organizations in Aurora and Lawrence County. General admission tickets are \$20-\$30; VIP tickets are \$80. For more information, call 417-366-0308.

For local folk and pop sounds, head to **Lindberg's**, 318 W. Commercial St., where up-and-coming chanteuse **Candy Lee** performs at 8 p.m. Friday. The Fayetteville-based singer/songwriter's current release is "Human Conditions." Call 868-8900 for tickets.

A few blocks away, **Big Momma's Coffee & Espresso Bar** at 217 E. Commercial St. offers two outings by **Moon City Improv**. Friday's 7 p.m. show is open to all ages, while the 9 p.m. edition is geared to ages 17 and older. General admission tickets are \$7 (\$5 for students).

Larry T. Collins writes about the performing arts for the News-Leader.