

## News Release

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### **Local Community Theatre Hosts Famous Rock Opera Composer**

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – The Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company is proud to announce that famous English composer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, will be attending their opening night production of “Evita” on May, 10. The community theatre’s production will be held at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, 203 W. Park Avenue, Champaign, Ill. “Evita” director, David Levenson, worked with Lloyd Webber on the original production of “Evita” in the 1970’s and is proud to support Levenson’s keeping the story of “Evita” alive, decades later.

“We’re looking forward to Lloyd Webber’s appearance at the opening night of ‘Evita’. It’s very exciting for the theatre community to gain support and recognition from the original composer of the music we have been pouring all of our time and energy into.” says Sheila Malone, president of the Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company, “We’re hoping Lloyd Weber’s support encourages the public to come out and see our production of ‘Evita’.”

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The Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company began in the early 1990's with only ten members. Those original members declared the CUTC as a non-profit organization with the goal of preserving the history of the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois while promoting the growth of community theater. The theatre's growth since its early days has not gone unnoticed and will continue to grow with the support from big names in the theatre community such as Lloyd Webber.

Not only will Lloyd Webber be attending the opening night performance of the CUTC's production of "Evita", but we will also be at the "backstage" reception immediately following the show that is open to everyone who has purchased a ticket. Lloyd Webber attended a dress rehearsal of the show and is impressed with the community theatre's portrayal of such a challenging play.

"I am absolutely astonished by the cast member's and musician's talent and hard work" says Andrew Lloyd Webber, composer for the original production of "Evita", "they're bringing new life to 'Evita', and I have no doubt that anyone who comes out to see it will have a good time, whether you're a fan of theatre or not."

For those interested in coming out to see CUTC's production of "Evita", the show's opening night is May 10, and it will run that weekend and the following, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night with 2:30 pm matinee shows on Saturday and Sunday. More information about the production and the Champaign-Urbana Theatre Company can be found on <http://www.cutc.org/>.