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THE MIND OF ANNE RICE. THE MUSIC OF ELTON JOHN & BERNIE TAUPIN.

WARNER BROS. THEATRE VENTURES

presents



OPENING ON BROADWAY TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006 AT THE PALACE THEATRE

PREVIEW PERFORMANCES BEGIN SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006

Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures (Gregg Maday, Executive Vice President) is proud to announce that their inaugural production for the Broadway stage, *LESTAT*, will begin previews at the Palace Theatre (1564 Broadway at 47th Street) on Saturday, March 25, 2006, at 8pm, and open on Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at 6:30pm. Inspired by Anne Rice's *The Vampire Chronicles*, *LESTAT* is the first theatrical score from the legendary songwriting team of Elton John and Bernie Taupin, has a book by Linda Woolverton, and is directed by Robert Jess Roth with musical staging by Matt West. Jonathan Butterell serves as creative consultant.

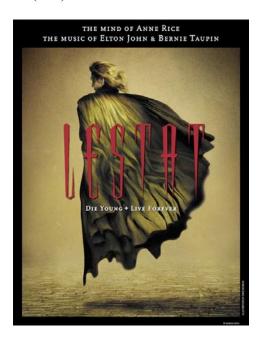
LESTAT comes directly to Broadway from its world premiere in San Francisco where it broke the box office record as the highest grossing world premiere musical in San Francisco history. During its pre-Broadway run at the Curran Theatre, **LESTAT** grossed \$4,315,293, breaking the record previously held by *Wicked*.

LESTAT, starring Hugh Panaro in the title role, Carolee Carmello as Gabrielle, Drew Sarich as Armand, Jim Stanek as Louis, Roderick Hill as Nicolas, Michael Genet as Marius and Allison Fischer as Claudia, has a cast of 21 that features Rachel Coloff, Nikki Renee Daniels, Joseph Dellger, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Sean MacLaughlin, Patrick Mellen, Chris Peluso, Dominique Plaisant, Megan Reinking, Sarah Solie, Amy Sparrow, Will Swenson, Steve Wilson and Tommar Wilson.

Lestat, Anne Rice's most celebrated and beloved literary character, is being brought to life on the stage with a score by Grammy and Academy Award winning composer **Elton John** and 2006 Golden Globe Award-winning lyricist **Bernie Taupin** in their first theatrical collaboration. **LESTAT** is the romantic and heartbreaking story of the extraordinary journey of one man who escapes the tyranny of his oppressive family only to have his life taken from him. Thrust into the seductive and sensual world of an immortal vampire, Lestat sets out on a road of adventures in a quest for everlasting love and companionship but is forced to reconcile his innate sense of good with his primal need to exist.

LESTAT has a scenic design by Derek McLane, costume design by Tony Award-winner Susan Hilferty, lighting design by Kenneth Posner, sound design by Jonathan Deans, visual concept design by Dave McKean, and hair design by Tom Watson. LESTAT has orchestrations by Steve Margoshes and Guy Babylon, with musical supervision by Guy Babylon, and musical direction by Brad Haak.

The playing schedule for *LESTAT* during previews is as follows: Monday through Saturday at 8pm, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm. Please note there will be no 2pm matinees on Wednesday, March 29, or Wednesday, April 26. There will be an added 2pm matinee on Friday, April 28. The regular playing schedule for *LESTAT* beginning Tuesday, May 2, 2006, is as follows: Tuesday at 7pm, Wednesday through Saturday at 8pm, with matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm, and Sunday at 3pm. Tickets range from \$35 to \$110, and can be purchased through Ticketmaster.com at (212) 307-4100.



For more information, please visit <u>www.lestat.com</u>.

For photos, please visit www.barlowhartman.com.