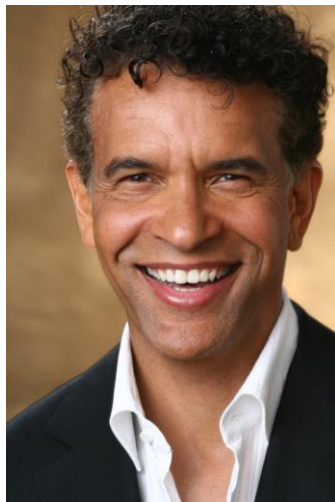




Brian Stokes Mitchell to Open the 2011-2012 Annenberg Theater Season



September 29, 2011 (Palm Springs, CA) – Brian Stokes Mitchell, dubbed “The Last Leading Man on Broadway” by the *New York Times*, will be the opening act for the Annenberg Theater's 2011-2012 season on Saturday, November 19 at 6 p.m. The concert, entitled "An Evening with Brian Stokes Mitchell" will feature Stokes and his band on the stage of the Annenberg Theater at the Palm Springs Art Museum. The annual "Opening Night" fundraising event is presented by the museum's Annenberg Theater Council (ATC). Tickets for this event are \$295 (\$265 for ATC members) and can be purchased through the Annenberg Theater Box office at 760.325.4490 or at annenbergtheater.org. A reception with dinner honoring Mr. Mitchell will follow immediately after the concert in the museum. This is a benefit performance for the Annenberg Theater. All proceeds will go to directly supporting the theatrical programming for the 2011-2012 season.

Other performers at the Annenberg Theater in the coming season include Christine Ebersole on December 2, 2011, Freda Payne on January 21, 2012, the Callaway Sisters on April 7, 2012 and The Phantom's Leading Ladies on April 14, 2011. In addition, the Annenberg will also host rental performances including *Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings* on November 25-27, 2011, *Sparkle*, a benefit for the Desert AIDS Project on December 7, 2011, the Desert Winds Freedom Band, on December 10, 2011, and the 36th Opera Showcase of the Desert tribute to Mario Lanza on December 21, 2011. The theater's popular Cabaret 88 series will return this season with five performances by Christiane Noll, Danny Gurwin, Gregg Edelman, Sally Mayes and James Snyder. All Cabaret 88 performances are already sold out.

About Brian Stokes Mitchell

Brian Stokes Mitchell has enjoyed a rich and varied career on Broadway, television and film, along with appearances in the great American concert halls. A gifted and talented singer, Mr. Mitchell headlined at Carnegie Hall in a concert presentation of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific* with Reba McEntire, and has performed twice at the Hollywood Bowl. His Broadway career includes performances in *Man of La Mancha* (he received a Tony nomination and a Helen Hayes Award); *Kiss Me Kate* (he received a Tony, Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards); *Ragtime* (he received a Tony nomination); August Wilson's *King Hedley II* (he received a Tony nomination); *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*; *Kiss of the Spider Woman*; *Jelly's Last Jam*; David Merrick's *Oh, Kay!* and *Mail*, which earned him a Theatre World award for outstanding Broadway Debut. In 1998 he joined the likes of Helen Hayes, Sir John Gielgud, Alec Guinness and James Earl Jones when he became the sole recipient of that year's Distinguished Performance Award from the Drama League, the nation's oldest theatrical honor, for his performance in *Ragtime*. Stokes is currently the eight-year Chairman of the Actor's Fund.

His long film and television career began with a seven year stint on *Trapper John, M.D.* Numerous film and TV appearances more recently include *One Last Thing* which debuted at

this year's Toronto Film Festival, recurring roles on *Crossing Jordan* and *Frasier*, PBS' *Great Performances*, DreamWorks' *The Prince of Egypt*, and his Presidential debut at the White House in *The Singer and the Song*. He is currently starring in the film *Jumping The Broom* playing opposite Angela Bassett.

To hear examples of Mr. Mitchell's incredible voice, visit the following links:

Man of La Mancha: "The Impossible Dream"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cxjGlgmSJ8o>

South Pacific: "This Nearly was Mine"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eQmxLr5IYLk&feature=related>

Ragtime: "On the Wheels of a Dream"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGJFx7ApMkc>

The Palm Springs Art Museum's main facility is located in downtown Palm Springs in a 150,000 square foot architecturally-significant building and features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Western and Native American, Mesoamerican and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages.

NOTE TO MEDIA: High resolution images of all performances are available upon request