



## **Press Release      Julia Andrews comes to Town**

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# **28<sup>th</sup> February 2005**

**On the 17<sup>th</sup> March there will be two Mary Poppins in London when Julie Andrews comes to see the hit stage musical at the Prince Edward Theatre.**

Cameron Mackintosh and Disney are delighted to announce a special charity Gala performance of London's latest smash hit musical MARY POPPINS on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The performance will be held in honour of Julie Andrews who will be flying to London especially for the occasion.

Julie Andrews will be seeing MARY POPPINS for the first time on stage. Forty years ago, when the Walt Disney film was premiered, she won a Best Actress Oscar for her performance as the world's most famous nanny and captured the hearts of audiences all over the world. Her visit coincides with a special anniversary release of the Walt Disney film on DVD.

The role of Mary Poppins has been triumphantly recreated on stage by Laura Michelle Kelly, who won Best Actress in a Musical at this week's Laurence Olivier Awards. She stars with Gavin Lee as Bert and David Haig and Linzi Hatley as Mr and Mrs Banks.

All proceeds from the performance will be donated, by Cameron Mackintosh, Disney and Delfont Mackintosh Theatres, to the children's charity ARK; Operation USA, of which Julie Andrews is a trustee; and to LAMDA.

ARK is a charity that aims to transform the lives of children around the world often 'when the cameras leave'. They focus on projects like orphans, education and HIV. The proceeds of the evening will help children in the tsunami region and other disaster areas.

In 1993 Cameron Mackintosh persuaded Julie to make a return to Broadway, after a 30-year absence, in Stephen Sondheim's PUTTING IT TOGETHER. In 1998 she came to London to host the all star Royal Gala HEY MR. PRODUCER at the Lyceum Theatre, a retrospective of Cameron Mackintosh's musical theatre career to date.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March Disney will be releasing a special anniversary DVD of the film of Mary Poppins.

The original cast recording from the stage show is to be released on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

All the tickets have been sold through the charities. If there any returns they will be available at the Prince Edward Theatre box office from 7<sup>th</sup> March.