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October 14, 2025

Media Contact: Motley Crew Media for Broadway at the Hobby Center

Nicole Shiro | 512.740.6665 | nicole.shiro@motleycrewmedia.com

Amy S. Layton | 512.695.0799 | amy.layton@motleycrewmedia.com

IMAGES AND INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

PUBLIC ON SALE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 10AM



**PERFORMANCES JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026
AT THE HOBBY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

**BOOK BY FOUR-TIME TONY AWARD® NOMINEE RICK ELICE
MUSIC AND LYRICS BY PIGPEN THEATRE CO.
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY SARA GRUEN
ORIGINAL DIRECTION BY TONY AWARD NOMINEE JESSICA STONE**

WHO: Memorial Hermann Broadway at the Hobby Center

WHAT: ***WATER FOR ELEPHANTS***

WHEN: January 27 – February 1, 2026

Tues – Fri at 7:30PM | Sat at 2:00 & 7:30PM | Sun at 1:30 & 7:00PM

WHERE: The Hobby Center | 800 Bagby Street | Houston, TX 77002

TICKETS: Start at \$55. Available online at TheHobbyCenter.org or BroadwayAtTheHobbyCenter.com, and in person at the Hobby Center Box Office (800 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002). Discounts available for groups of 10 or more. Call (888) 451-5986 or email Houston.groups@broadwayacrossamerica.com.

(Houston, TX) – **Memorial Hermann Broadway at the Hobby Center** is pleased to announce individual tickets for the North American tour of the critically acclaimed bestselling novel ***WATER FOR ELEPHANTS***, hailed as a Critic’s Pick by *The New York Times*, will go on sale Friday, October 17 at 10AM. Tickets will be available for performances January 27 – February 1, 2026.

After losing what matters most, a young man jumps a moving train unsure of where the road will take him and finds a new home with the remarkable crew of a traveling circus, and a life—and love—beyond his wildest dreams. Seen through the eyes of his older self, his adventure becomes a poignant reminder that if you choose the ride, life can begin again at any age.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS is based on the critically acclaimed and New York Times Bestselling novel by **Sara Gruen**. The Broadway musical has a book by four-time Tony Award® nominee **Rick Elice** (*Jersey Boys*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*), a soaring score by the acclaimed **PigPen Theatre Co.** (*The Tale of Despereaux*), with tour direction by **Ryan Emmons**, recreating the original direction by Tony Award nominee **Jessica Stone** (*Kimberly Akimbo*).

“STUNNING AND EMOTIONAL.” – *The New York Times*, *Critic’s Pick*

“SPELLBINDING ENTERTAINMENT.” – *Variety*

“★★★★ DAZZLING AND THRILLING.” – *Time Out New York*

“THE BEST NEW MUSICAL ON BROADWAY!” – *Theatermania*

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS features circus design by Tony Award nominee **Shana Carroll** (*The 7 Fingers*), choreography by Tony Award nominees **Jesse Robb** (*Miss Saigon*) and **Shana Carroll**, scenic design by Drama Desk Award winner **Takeshi Kata** (*Clyde’s*), costume design by **David I. Reynoso** (*Sleep No More*), lighting design by two-time Tony Award winner **Bradley King** (*Hadestown*), sound design by Tony Award nominee **Walter Trarbach** (*Spongebob Squarepants*), projections by two-time Tony Award nominee **David Bengali** (*Good Night, and Good Luck*), hair & makeup design by **Luc Verschueren/Campbell Young Associates** (*A Beautiful Noise*), puppet design by **Ray Wetmore & JR Goodman**, **Camille Labarre** (*Into the Woods*), puppet direction by **Joshua Holden**, music supervision and arrangements by Drama Desk Award winner **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** (*Some Like It Hot*) and **Benedict Braxton-Smith** (*Kristin Chenoweth: For the Girls*), orchestrations by Tony Award winner **Daryl Waters** (*New York, New York*), **Benedict Braxton-Smith** and **August Eriksmoen**, fight direction by **Cha Ramos** (*Jagged Little Pill*), associate circus designer by **Antoine Boissereau**, associate choreography by **Paige Parkhill**, and casting by **The TRC Company**, **Claire Burke, CSA & Frankie Ramirez, CSA**.

The **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** tour stage management team is led by production stage manager **Kathleen Carragee** and is supported by Stage Manager **Maris Keller** and Circus Stage Manager **Stan Barile**. The company management team is led by company manager **Heather Moss** with associate company manager **Taylor Parris**. The tour music director/conductor is **Sarah Wilhelm Pool**. **Mimi Intagliata** serves as the Executive Producer for the production.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS won **Drama Desk Awards** for **Outstanding Direction of a Musical** (Jessica Stone), **Outstanding Sound Design of a Musical** (Walter Trarbach), **Outstanding Fight Choreography** (Cha Ramos) and **Outstanding Puppetry** (Ray Wetmore, JR Goodman, & Camille Labarre), the **Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Director of a Musical** (Jessica Stone), and the **Chita Rivera Award for Outstanding Choreography** (Jesse Robb & Shana Carroll).

GHOSTLIGHT RECORDS released the **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS: Original Broadway Cast Recording**, which preserves the show’s soaring score by the acclaimed **PigPen Theatre Co.**, which is available on CD and all streaming and digital formats. The CD’s full-color booklet features production photography, complete lyrics, synopsis, and liner notes by book writer **Rick Elice**. The album is produced by **Mary-Mitchell Campbell** and **Ian Kagey**.

Broadway Licensing Global has secured worldwide licensing rights to the critically acclaimed Broadway musical **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS**. The flagship musical publisher for the world’s fastest growing theatrical licensing company, **Broadway Licensing Global**, includes **Dramatists Play Service** and **Playscripts**.

WATER FOR ELEPHANTS had its world premiere in Atlanta on **The Coca-Cola Stage** at **Alliance Theatre**, running from June 7, 2023, through July 9, 2023. The critically acclaimed production had *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* raving, “**WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** is a triumph! Truly dazzles.” **WATER FOR ELEPHANTS** premiered on **Broadway** at the **Imperial Theatre**, running from March 20, 2024, through December 8, 2024. The production was a *New York Times* Critic’s Pick, with chief *NYT* theater critic Jesse Green describing the show as “Huge”, “Heart-filling”, and “Emotionally vivid.”

For more information visit: waterforelephantsthemusical.com

Follow *Water for Elephants* at: @w4emusical #W4EMusical #ChooseTheRide #WaterForElephantsMusical

The Hobby Center for the Performing Arts serves as a connector, convener and incubator for all Houston audiences, artmakers and arts organizations. Opened in 2002, the campus houses two theaters including the 2,650-seat Sarofim Hall and the 500-seat Zilkha Hall. Delivering a best-in-class patron experience, the Hobby Center welcomes over 400,000 audience members annually to engage with high-quality arts programming including the Memorial Hermann Broadway at the Hobby Center series. The Hobby Center is also home to a full season of musical theatre produced by Principal Resident Company Theatre Under the Stars, as well as a variety of diverse performances from both Houston-based and touring artists and companies. Education and accessibility initiatives are central to the Hobby Center's impact in Houston through programs like the ExxonMobil Discovery Series that welcomes thousands of students to performances every season. Please visit [TheHobbyCenter.org](https://www.thehobbycenter.org). Follow the Hobby Center on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [X](#).

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