

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **U.S. NATIONAL TOUR** **OF THE SMASH HIT WEST END MUSICAL**



## **TO PLAY FORT MYERS MARCH 27-APRIL 1**

## **GRAMMY® AWARD NOMINEE AND R&B SUPERSTAR** **DEBORAH COX TO STAR**

## **TICKETS GO ON SALE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27**

(Monday, October 23) PFM is delighted to announce that the first U.S. National tour of the hit musical *THE BODYGUARD*, will play Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at FSW from March 27 to April 1. Tickets will go on sale Friday, October 27 at 10AM at the Box Office, online at [www.bbmannpah.com](http://www.bbmannpah.com) or call (239) 481-4849. The Fort Myers engagement is part of the 2017-2018 Fifth Third Bank Broadway Series.

Grammy® Award-nominated and multi-platinum R&B/pop recording artist and film/TV actress **Deborah Cox\*** stars as Rachel Marron. In the role of bodyguard Frank Farmer is television star **Judson Mills**.

Based on **Lawrence Kasdan's** 1992 Oscar nominated Warner Bros. film, and adapted by Academy Award-winner (*Birdman*) **Alexander Dinelaris**, *THE BODYGUARD* had its world premiere on December 5, 2012 at London's Adelphi Theatre. *THE BODYGUARD* was nominated for four Laurence Olivier Awards including Best New Musical and Best Set Design and won Best New Musical at the Whatsonstage Awards. The UK production of the musical recently completed a triumphant return run in London's West End after a sell-out 16-month UK and Ireland tour.

Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard, Frank Farmer, is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love. A romantic thriller, *THE BODYGUARD* features a host of irresistible classics including *So*

*Emotional, One Moment in Time, Saving All My Love, Run to You, I Have Nothing, I Wanna Dance with Somebody* and one of the biggest selling songs of all time – *I Will Always Love You*.

Direction is by **Thea Sharrock**. Set & costume design is by **Tim Hatley**, lighting design by **Mark Henderson**, sound design by **Richard Brooker** and video design by **Duncan McLean**. Choreography is by **Karen Bruce**, orchestrations by **Chris Egan**, musical supervision by **Richard Beadle** and production musical supervision by **Mike Dixon**. Musical director **Matthew Smedal** conducts the live orchestra. The U.S. National tour of *THE BODYGUARD* is produced by **Michael Harrison, David Ian** and **Nederlander Presentations, Inc.**

Rounding out the principal cast are **Alex Corrado** (*Gotham, Hannibal*) as Tony Scibelli, Rachel's personal security guard, **Charles Gray** (Broadway: *The Color Purple*, Tour: *The Lion King*) as manager Bill Devaney, **Jonathan Hadley** (Broadway: *Jersey Boys, A Class Act*) as publicist Sy Spector, **Jorge Paniagua** (Regional: *The Full Monty*, Oregon Shakespeare Festival) as the Stalker, **Jasmin Richardson** (Tour: *Memphis, Dreamgirls*) as Rachel's sister Nicki Marron, **Mark McCollough Thomas** (NYC: *Consent, Godforsaken*) as FBI agent Ray Court, and **Kevelin B. Jones III** (Idlewild Music Festival) and **Sebastian Maynard-Palmer** (Tour: *Kinky Boots*) alternating in the role of Rachel's son Fletcher. The ensemble includes Elyssa Jo Brown, Brendon Chan, Willie Dee, Megan Elyse Fulmer, Devinn Harris, Alejandra Matos, DeQuina Moore, Kevin Mylrea, Stefan Raulston, Sean Rozanski, Matthew Schmidt, Nicole Spencer, Lauren Tanner, and Naomi C. Walley.

*\*Deborah Cox is not scheduled to perform at the Saturday Matinee and Sunday Evening performances.*

[thebodyguardmusical.com](http://thebodyguardmusical.com)  
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**JAY MANUEL**  
BEAUTY is the official makeup sponsor for the US tour of *The Bodyguard* [www.jaymanuelbeauty.com](http://www.jaymanuelbeauty.com)

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**Performance Dates:**      **Tuesday, March 27 – 7:30PM\***  
   **Wednesday, March 28 – 7:30PM\***  
   **Thursday, March 28 – 7:30PM\***  
   **Friday, March 30 – 8:00PM\***  
   **Saturday, March 31 – 2:00\* & 8:00PM\***  
   *ASL Performance – Saturday, March 31 – 2:00PM\**  
**Sunday, April 1 – 1:00\* & 6:30PM\***

*Deborah Cox is not scheduled to perform at the Saturday matinee or Sunday evening performances.*

**Ticket Prices:**              **\$81\*   \$76\*   \$61\*   \$51\*   \$41\***

\*All shows, dates, times and ticket prices are subject to change.