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HIT MUSICAL *R.L. STINE'S GOOSEBUMPS: PHANTOM OF THE AUDITORIUM* OPENS FIRST STAGE 2025-2026 SEASON

Pre-show Halloween parties to feature family-friendly fun and treats

MILWAUKEE, Wis (August 27, 2025)—First Stage will open its 2025-2026 season with the return of the hit musical [*R.L. Stine's Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium*](#), October 11 – November 2 at the Marcus Center's Todd Wehr Theater. Adding to the fun will be pre-show Halloween parties—featuring hands-on activities, eerie games, and candy—before every performance!

Originally co-commissioned by First Stage and Oregon Children's Theater in 2016, *R.L. Stine's Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium* has since been staged throughout the country. The studio cast recording featuring multiple Broadway stars has had over 20 million streams globally.

Based on the world's bestselling children's horror book series by R.L. Stine, the story follows horror fans Brooke and Zeke as they rehearse for roles in a mysterious middle school production called *The Phantom*. When strange messages appear and a masked menace starts to disrupt rehearsals, they begin to wonder: what if there is a ghost haunting their school, determined to stop the show!

"We're thrilled to bring this global phenomenon back to Milwaukee," said First Stage Executive Artistic Director Jeff Frank. "This scary good musical is the perfect fit for families this Halloween season."

Directed by Frank, the performance features professional adult actors Zach Thomas Woods* and Karen Estrada* with music, lyrics, orchestrations, and arrangements by Danny Abosch, and book and lyrics by John MacLay. Alongside the professionals will be 16 amazing young actors working in two different 8-person casts that alternate performances. [Full cast and creative team listed here.](#)

This production is recommended for families with children ages 8-18 and thrill seekers of all ages. The show runs approximately 90 minutes, including a brief intermission. [Tickets can be purchased here.](#) Prices range from \$24 to \$45 for most shows. A "Pay What You Choose" performance will take place on Friday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m., as well as a [Sign Language Interpreted Performance](#) on Sunday, Nov. 2 at 3:30 p.m., and a [Sensory Friendly Performance](#) on Saturday, Oct. 18 at 3:30 p.m.

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Founded in 1987, First Stage is one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families, and a driving force behind the creation of the best and most innovative plays for family audiences, theater training programs for young people, and education initiatives for its schools and community. First Stage ensures that all programming is not only accessible to its community but that it is reflective of the community it serves.

First Stage produces plays that honor the young person's point of view, include diverse and traditionally underrepresented voices, and inspire meaningful conversations. First Stage has presented more than 70 world premiere productions that address important subject matters relevant to today's youth. The Theater Academy is one of the nation's largest high-impact theater training programs for young people (3-18 years old). Through a challenging curriculum taught by professional teaching artists, the Academy nurtures life skills through stage skills and includes the Next Steps Program that tailors Theater Academy classes to the needs of young people on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. As Wisconsin's leader in arts-integrated education in schools, First Stage's dynamic Theater in Education Programs cleverly blend theater activities with standard curriculum—allowing more than 10,000 students annually to learn traditional academic subjects through creativity and self-expression.

First Stage is a member of TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, Milwaukee Arts Partners and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). For more information, visit firststage.org

**Appearing through an Agreement between First Stage and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

R.L. Stine's GOOSEBUMPS: Phantom of the Auditorium is adapted for the stage with book & lyrics by John Maclay, music & lyrics by Danny Abosch, and orchestrations & arrangements by Danny Abosch. Originally Commissioned by Oregon Children's Theatre, Stan Foote, Artistic Director, and First Stage, Jeff Frank, Artistic Director.

Book, Lyrics, Songs, All Arrangements & All Orchestrations ©2016. 2017 Scholastic Entertainment Inc. All Rights Reserved.

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