



SWINGIN' AT THE SAVOY — The Ogunquit Playhouse gets ready to "Swing!" this summer, with the exciting Broadway musical playing on the Playhouse stage from August 8-20.

— Beach News Courtesy Photo

'Swing!' hits Ogunquit with Big Band summer sounds

SPECIAL TO THE BEACH NEWS

OGUNQUIT | The Ogunquit Playhouse, America's foremost summer theatre, presents "Swing!" the Broadway musical, from August 8-20. Nominated for six Tony awards, "Swing!" features the music of Big Band legends of the '30s and '40s, including Count Basie, Benny Goodman, and Duke Ellington.

"Two thirds rhythm and one third soul" is how Thomas "Fats" Waller, the famous jazz musician and composer, defined the uniquely American music and dance known as swing. Requiring only joyful enthusiasm and a ready dance partner, swing exploded out of pre-war Harlem, shattering ethnic and cultural barriers and sweeping the world with its uplifting exuberance. Swing brought Ameri-

ca out of the Depression and took the country through the war.

"The critics have called this production of 'Swing!' 'flawlessly executed,' 'exhilarating,' and 'exquisite!'" reports Ogunquit Playhouse Director of Marketing Tammy Heon. "'Swing!' is as much about a feeling and an energy as it is about dance steps or vocals. It's really about capturing and expressing joy. This production is full of joy — guaranteed to leave the audience with a smile on their face and song in their hearts."

To add to the fun, the Ogunquit Playhouse is working with DanceUSA to bring some of the best dance instructors in the area to give swing dance lessons each evening before the show. The free swing dance lessons will be held for patrons start-

ing at 6:45 p.m. on the front lawn and will run for one hour before each evening show.

"Swing!" received critical praise for its music, dance and style when it first opened on Broadway in December of 1999 and continues to earn accolades for each performance. This co-production with Maine State Music Theatre played to sold out audiences every night.

The Ogunquit Playhouse is located on Route 1 in Ogunquit. Showtimes for "Swing!" are evenings, Monday through Friday at 8 p.m. at Saturday at 8:30 p.m., with Wednesday and Thursday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets for "Swing!" are \$31-\$47 and are available by calling the Ogunquit Playhouse box office at (207) 646-5511 or online at www.ogunquit-playhouse.org.



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