

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Theatre New Jersey presents

Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live The Great Cheesy Movie Circus Tour

Saturday, October 26, 2019, 3pm & 7pm / \$29-\$55

New Brunswick, NJ (October 7, 2019)—The award-winning TV comedy ***Mystery Science Theater 3000*** (MST3K) is coming to New Brunswick in an all-new LIVE show featuring **Joel Hodgson**, original host and the creative vision behind the beloved TV and Netflix comedy series for more than three decades, in his final live tour. ***Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live: The Great Cheesy Movie Circus Tour*** will play at State Theatre New Jersey on **Saturday, October 26, 2019**, with two never-before-screened films: ***No Retreat, No Surrender*** at **3pm** and ***Circus of Horrors*** at **7pm**. *Tickets for the show range from \$29-\$55. A double-feature 30% discount is available when purchasing tickets to both shows, call Guest Services at 732-246-SHOW.*

Following the wildly successful *Watch Out for Snakes! Tour* in 2017 and *30th Anniversary Tour* in 2018, Hodgson will don the red jumpsuit one final time as Joel Robinson to host ***Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live: The Great Cheesy Movie Circus Tour*** alongside the world's greatest and only movie riffing robots, Tom Servo, Crow, and Gypsy. The show gives fans the chance to sit in the same theater with their favorite movie characters and promises all of the MST3K signatures and rapid-fire hilarity that have built MST3K's loyal following over more than 30 years: a cheesy B-movie, hilarious riffing, wisecracking robots, silly sketches, and Hodgson in the red jumpsuit as host Joel Robinson.

Premiering in 1988 on KTMA-TV in Minneapolis, MST3K has earned its place in history as one of the Top 100 TV Shows of all time (*Time*, *Rolling Stone*, *Entertainment Weekly*), receiving multiple Emmy® nominations and a Peabody Award along the way. Following a record-setting Kickstarter campaign, the series was revived in 2017 with all new episodes now streaming on Netflix.

Featured Films

No Retreat, No Surrender

A self-conscious teen becomes a martial arts master under the tutelage of Bruce Lee's ghost. Featuring fresh-faced Jean-Claude Van Damme as a brooding hit man and a Bruce Lee lookalike, who looks nothing like Bruce Lee.

Circus of Horrors

Garish 1960's British thriller showcasing colorful circus acts, plastic surgery, and animal attacks by stagehands in fur suits. Warning: Features pop hit "Look for a Star" over and over again.

About Mystery Science Theater 3000

For more than 30 years, the award-winning comedy television series *Mystery Science Theater 3000* (MST3K) has been known as one of the top cult TV shows of all time. The story of a human host and his robot sidekicks trapped aboard a satellite and forced to watch cheesy movies by their captors, MST3K has maintained its reputation thanks to its fervently devoted fan base, known as *MSTies*.

Created by Joel Hodgson, the first season of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* aired in 1988 on KTMA-TV in Minneapolis. Set on the Satellite of Love, the series follows a hapless host trapped by mad scientists on a satellite in space who is forced to watch some of the most outrageously unfortunate B-movies ever created. To keep sane, he's built two robot sidekicks and together they do a running commentary on the films, affectionately mocking their flaws with inspired wisecracks and acting as a lively movie theater peanut gallery.

MST3K's national broadcast life began in 1989 on the Comedy Channel (later to become Comedy Central), where it ran for seven seasons. The show's final three seasons aired on the Sci-Fi Channel. Series creator Hodgson originally played the stranded man, Joel Robinson. When he left in 1993, series head writer Mike Nelson replaced him as the new B-movie victim and continued the role for the rest of the show's run. The format proved to be popular, and during its 10 seasons and 197 episodes on Comedy Central and the Sci-Fi Channel, it attained a loyal fan base and critical acclaim, including a Peabody award and two Primetime Emmy® nominations.

In late 2015, Shout! Factory and creator Joel Hodgson formed a new partnership, known as Satellite of Love LLC, to acquire the global IP rights to MST3K with the aim of producing new episodes and managing and developing the IP in other areas. The highly successful MST3K Kickstarter campaign to #BringBackMST3K, spearheaded by Shout! Factory and Hodgson, surpassed its goal by funding the production of 14 new episodes and set the world record as the highest-funded film and video crowdfunding campaign in history. The new episodes of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* debuted as a Netflix original series on April 14, 2017. Later in 2017, Netflix renewed the series for another season.

About Joel Hodgson

Joel Hodgson started in show business as a stand-up comedian during college, headlining in comedy clubs in Minneapolis. After graduation in 1982, Hodgson moved to LA and became a regular at The Comedy Store on the Sunset Strip.

In 1983, Joe was booked for his first network television appearance on *Late Night with David Letterman* and HBO®'s *Young Comedians Special with John Candy*. The following year, Hodgson

became a series regular on both *Letterman* and NBC's *Saturday Night Live*. In 1987, Hodgson was invited by Jerry Seinfeld to co-write Seinfeld's first HBO® special, *Stand-Up Confidential*, where he began to take an interest in other aspects of production.

It was in 1988 that Hodgson created *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, the ground-breaking movie riffing series, which premiered on St. Paul's local UHF station, KTMA, in Minnesota.

In 1995, Hodgson was involved in creative development for The Jim Henson Company and Walt Disney Television. As a writer, Hodgson co-wrote the Disney feature *Honey We Shrunk Ourselves* with Nell Scovell, as well as Cartoon Network's *Space Ghost Coast to Coast*. Hodgson also was a magic consultant for the series *Sabrina the Teenage Witch* and for Penn and Teller's *Sin City Spectacular*.

In November of 2015, Hodgson created the #BringBackMST3K Kickstarter campaign, and along with the show's "backers," raised over six million dollars to fund new episodes for MST3K. The first new season after the Kickstarter was titled *MST3K: The Return* and featured an all-new cast as well as cameos by the original MST3K cast and writers. It launched on Netflix in April 2017 and received critical acclaim, including "100% Fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes. The second season of *MST3K*, entitled *MST3K: The Gauntlet*, was also met with critical praise, including another coveted Rotten Tomatoes "100% Fresh" review.

Currently, Hodgson is the Chief Creative Officer of his company, Alternaversal, which is responsible for creating the new IP for MST3K. This includes the #BringBackMST3K Kickstarter campaign, 20 feature-length episodes for Netflix, two national tours of *Mystery Science Theater 3000 Live*, and a six-comic mini-series on Dark Horse Comics.

For tickets, more information, or group discounts, call State Theatre Guest Services at 732-246-SHOW (7469), or visit us online at STNJ.org. State Theatre Guest Services, located at 15 Livingston Ave, New Brunswick NJ, is open Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm; Saturday from 1pm to 5pm; and at least three hours prior to curtain on performance dates unless otherwise specified. *Additional ticket and transaction fees may apply.*

About State Theatre New Jersey

The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment, and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through arts education. State Theatre New Jersey's programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund. United is the official airline of the State Theatre.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

Creating Extraordinary Experiences Through the Power of Live Performance

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PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Please contact Kelly Blithe at
732-247-7200, ext. 542 or by email at kblithe@stnj.org.
Information in this release is current as of October 7, 2019.

Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at STNJ.org.

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