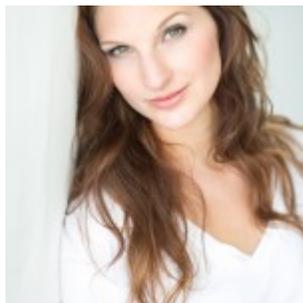


# [CATS Is Pouncing into PPAC](#)



Keri Rene Fuller

The new National Tour of the classic Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *CATS* will kick off at the Providence Performing Arts Center January 22 and will run through January 27.

*CATS* is based on [Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats](#) by [T. S. Eliot](#). The musical tells the story of a tribe of cats called the Jellicles and the night they make what is known as "the Jellicle choice" and decide which cat will ascend to the [Heaviside Layer](#) and come back to a new life.

Directed by [Trevor Nunn](#) and choreographed by [Gillian Lynne](#), the show first opened in London's West End in 1981 and then with the same creative team on [Broadway](#) in 1982. The London production ran for 21 years and the Broadway production ran for 18 years, both setting new records.

Keri Rene Fuller plays Grizabella, a former "glamour cat," who has lost her sparkle and now only wants to be accepted, but is ostracized by the Jellicles. Grizabella sings the show's most well-known ballad, "Memory."

"It's kind of a dream I never knew I had," Fuller said of being cast in the musical. "This production carries so much weight with musical theater people, with people who know (*CATS*), with people who don't know (the musical), so it's not a pressure to please, it's more of a pressure to do it justice because it's such a massive, amazing musical."

The Oklahoma City native has appeared on Broadway in the musical *Waitress* and has appeared in regional productions of *Murder Ballad*, *Les Misérables*, *Lizzie Borden*, and *Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

Fuller believes the enduring popularity of *CATS* is partially due to its themes of inclusion and belonging.

"Everybody knows what it feels like to not be accepted into a group you previously once (belonged to)," Fuller said. "For me, that is what rings so true and is so poignant today."

*CATS* will be performed at the Providence Performing Arts Center from January 22-27. 220 Weybosset St. For tickets, call 401-421-2787 or visit [ppacri.org](http://ppacri.org).