

TICKETS

Continued from Page 1B

Opera," for the longest run at the Peace Center. The performing arts venue is celebrating its 21st year.

"The Lion King" is the largest touring show on the road, with 49 cast members and almost 100 others involved in backstage support, said Jack Eldon, vice president of domestic operations for Disney Theatrical of North America.

During its Greenville run, the show is expected have an estimated \$15 million impact on the local economy.

"The Lion King" is a coming-of-age story about the lion cub Simba. The story was influenced by such diverse sources as the Biblical tales of Joseph and Moses and Shakespeare's "Hamlet."

"The Lion King" is the eighth-longest running musical in Broadway history. The score features the music of Elton John and lyrics by Tim Rice from "The Lion King" animated film, along with three new songs by John and Rice. Additional music is by Lebo M, Mark Mancina, Jay Rifkin, Julie Taymor and Hans Zimmer.

The result is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa.

The songs range from the Academy Award-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" and the popular "Circle of Life" to the whimsical "Hakuna Matata," hard-driving "Chow Down" and the haunting ballad "Shadowland."

"The Lion King" will be performed Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 7:30, Friday and Saturday evenings at 8, Sunday evenings at 6:30, Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1 p.m. There also will be a 2 p.m. matinee performance on Thursday, July 5, but there will be no show on July 4.

Tickets prices begin at \$32.50. Premium ticket packages, which include prime seat locations, a commemorative souvenir program and an exclusive merchandise item, are also available.

The North American touring production of "The Lion King" has been seen by more than 13.5 million theatergoers in 60 cities and grossed more than \$875 million.

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'Lion King' tickets go on sale Saturday

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The first people in line on Saturday to buy tickets for Disney's "The Lion King" will receive a free CD and T-shirt, according to the Peace Center.

Doors will open for box office sales at 7 a.m.

The 100 people at the front of the line will get the "Lion King" CD and T-shirt while many others in line will receive a "Lion King" T-shirt, as long as supplies last.

Online ticket sales at www.peacecenter.org will start at 10 a.m., also on Saturday.

Ticket sales by phone will begin at 11 a.m. by calling the box office at 864-467-3000.

The much-anticipated South Carolina stage premiere of "The Lion King" opens June 12 for 32 performances during its four-week run June 12 to July 8.

Based on the animated film, the stage production of "The Lion King" will tie the local record, set in 2003 by "The Phantom of the

See TICKETS, Page 5B