



Great casting call in Vienna: Disney's THE LION KING is looking for local talents for the production at the new theater in the Prater

VIENNA, September 28, 2026 – Just a few weeks ago, ATG Entertainment announced thrilling news for the Austrian cultural scene: Just in time for its 30th anniversary on stage, **Disney's THE LION KING** will celebrate its premiere in the fall of 2027 at the newly built Theater im Prater. Preparations for the production are already ongoing: With a major casting call, the international production team is specifically targeting the diverse arts scene and talented singers in Vienna and throughout Austria.

Focus on authentic personalities and vocal presence

Unlike traditional musical theater productions, the audition process for **Disney's THE LION KING** does not necessarily prioritize formal musical theater training. We are looking for expressive individuals with a strong stage presence who want to add their unique cultural identity and passion to the production.

To bring the artistic vision of this global success to life on stage in an authentic way, the casting team is specifically looking for artists with BIPoC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) as well as international or Southern European backgrounds for certain roles and ensemble positions. We are looking for performers in the genres of R&B, soul, pop, vocals, and dance whose charisma will help shape the show's unique character.

"For Disney's THE LION KING, we're looking for the best artists – in Austria and around the world. What makes this production so extraordinary, is our successful tradition of working with naturally talented individuals who may not have followed the classical path of professional training. That's why, in addition to the many professional performers, we're specifically looking for people without conventional training in singing or acting who want to share their pure passion with us. It is truly my heartfelt desire to encourage these as-yet-undiscovered talents – especially here in Austria – to apply and, hopefully, become part of this production", says **Thomas Schlenk**, Executive Producer of the production in Vienna.

R&B Instead of Music Theater Classics in the Audition Process

The musical focus highlights the production's unique approach: For the auditions, candidates are

asked to prepare R&B or pop songs instead of traditional musical theater songs. The goal is to give participants the opportunity to fully express their own vocal style, emotion, and personality.

*„The production of “Disney’s THE LION KING” has always thrived on the interplay of strong, authentic characters on stage“, explains **Susanne Ortner**, Casting Director at ATG Entertainment. „We’re not looking to fit people into a mold, but for authentic individuals with charisma, a powerful voice, and the courage to perform on stage. Austria offers enormous potential in terms of great talent – whether established artists or undiscovered voices from the R&B, soul, and pop scenes. We look forward to discovering this diversity during the casting process.“*

We are looking for actors and actresses to play the lead roles of Scar, Mufasa, Rafiki, Simba, Nala, Timon, Pumbaa, Zazu, as well as Shenzi, Banzai, and Ed. We are also looking for performers for the ensemble, swings, understudies, and dance ensemble.

The deadline for applications is October 21, 2026.

Professional musical theater training is not required: What matters most are talent, personality, and the ideal profile for the given role. We especially welcome applications from talented individuals who have not yet worked professionally on stage. If you are not registered with Castapp (<https://castapp.pro/>), you can easily submit your application directly via email to susanne.ortner@atgentertainment.de .

Regional Connectivity and International Impact

With this call, ATG Entertainment is deliberately focusing on integrating the local talent pool into Vienna’s first privately funded new theater construction project in over 100 years. The project is intended to enrich the city’s cultural scene and create new opportunities for regional artists to become part of an exceptional global production.

Disneys DER KÖNIG DER LÖWEN

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Disney's THE LION KING

<https://pressecenter.allegria.at/kunde/atg/disneys-der-koenig-der-loewen>

Theater im Prater

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Please direct your inquiries via email to koenigderloewen@allegria.at .

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About ATG Entertainment

ATG Entertainment is a global leading company in the live entertainment industry. Its portfolio of venues includes historic theaters, studio theaters, movie theaters, conference halls, and modern live music arenas. It owns, operates, or programs 71 of the world's most famous venues in the United Kingdom, the United States, and continental Europe, entertaining over 18 million spectators each year.

Through our in-house production companies and close collaboration with top producers and promoters, we present over 15,000 live performances each year, including **Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club**, **Stranger Things: The First Shadow**, **Moulin Rouge! The Musical**, **The Lion King**, **Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**, and **Starlight Express**, as well as popular music and comedy shows.

In Germany, the following venues are part of the group: the **Admiralspalast** in Berlin, the **Capitol Theater** in Düsseldorf, the **Musical Dome** in Cologne, the **Theater am Großmarkt** in Hamburg, and the **Starlight Express Theater** in Bochum.

In Austria, **ATG Entertainment** is currently expanding its portfolio to include the **Theater im Prater** in Vienna, which is currently under construction – with approximately 1,800 seats, it is the country's largest privately funded theater construction project in over 100 years.

www.atgentertainment.de

www.theaterimprater.at

About *The Lion King*

Approaching 30 landmark years on Broadway, *The Lion King* continues ascendant as one of the most popular stage musicals of all time. Since its premiere on November 13, 1997, 32 global productions have been seen by over 130 million people. Produced by Disney Theatrical Group, under the direction of **Andrew Flatt** and **Anne Quart**, *The Lion King* has made theatrical history with two productions worldwide running 20 or more years and three others running 25 or more years.

Performed over its lifetime in nine different languages (English, Japanese, German, Korean, French, Dutch, Spanish, Mandarin and Portuguese), there are currently nine productions of *The Lion King* around the world: Broadway, London, Paris, Hamburg, Madrid, Tokyo, Mexico City and on tour across North America and Australia. *The Lion King* has played over 100 cities in 24 countries on every continent except Antarctica. Its worldwide gross exceeds that of any film, Broadway show or other entertainment title in box office history.

The Lion King won six 1998 Tony Awards®: Best Musical, Best Scenic Design (**Richard Hudson**), Best Costume Design (**Julie Taymor**), Best Lighting Design (**Donald Holder**), Best Choreography (**Garth Fagan**) and Best Direction of a Musical (**Julie Taymor**). *The Lion King* has also earned more than 70 major arts awards including the 1998 NY Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the 1999 Grammy® for Best Musical Show Album, the 1999 Evening Standard Award for Theatrical Event of the Year and the 1999 Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Choreography and Best Costume Design.

Julie Taymor, who conceived and directed the production and is its costume designer and mask co-designer, was the first woman to win a Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical. She remains actively involved in the show, launching new productions and maintaining the flagship Broadway production.

The Broadway score features **Elton John** and **Tim Rice**'s songs from *The Lion King* animated film along with three new songs by John and Rice; additional music and lyrics by South African **Lebo M**, **Mark Mancina**, **Jay Rifkin**, **Julie Taymor** and **Hans Zimmer**; and music from "Rhythm of the Pride Lands," an album inspired by the original music in the film, written by Lebo M, Mark Mancina and Hans Zimmer. The resulting sound of *The Lion King* is a fusion of Western popular music and the distinctive sounds and rhythms of Africa, ranging from the Academy Award®-winning song "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" to Lebo M's rich choral numbers.

Elton John, Lebo M and Hans Zimmer all collaborated on the 2019 version of the film, executive produced by Julie Taymor and Thomas Schumacher, which has gone onto extraordinary worldwide success.

The book has been adapted by **Roger Allers**, who co-directed the animated *The Lion King* feature, and **Irene Mecchi**, who co-wrote the film's screenplay. The stage production was originally produced by **Peter Schneider** and **Thomas Schumacher**. Other members of the creative team include: **Michael Curry**, who designed the masks and puppets with Taymor, **Steve Canyon Kennedy** (sound design), **Michael Ward** (hair and makeup design), **David Kreppel** and **Sean Mayes** (music supervisors), **Anthony Lyn** (associate director), **Marey Griffith** (associate choreographer), **Lisa Dawn Cave** (production supervisor), **Michael Bolgar** (general manager), **Robert Elhai** (associate music

producer), **Michael Keller** (music coordinator), **Robert Elhai** and **David Metzger** (orchestrators), **Rick Sordelet** (fight director) and **ARC/Mark Brandon, CSA** (casting).

For more information worldwide, visit LionKing.com, www.facebook.com/thelionkingusa and www.instagram.com/thelionking.

About Disney Theatrical Group

DISNEY THEATRICAL GROUP (DTG), a division of The Walt Disney Studios led by Andrew Flatt and Anne Quart, brings the stories you love to life through stage productions, arena shows, and immersive experiences. Each year, DTG's productions and experiences reach nearly 40 million guests across 300 cities on five continents, with hundreds of millions of people entertained around the globe since the company's inception.

Since its stage debut in 1994 with *Beauty and the Beast*, Disney Theatrical Group has become one of the most successful theatre producers in the world, earning 20 Tony® Awards and more than 60 nominations for its 10 Broadway titles. Its New York productions include *The Lion King*, *Aladdin*, *Frozen*, *Newsies*, *Elton John & Tim Rice's Aida*, *TARZAN®*, *Mary Poppins* (co-produced with Cameron Mackintosh), *The Little Mermaid* and *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Additional stage ventures include the current North American tour of *Beauty and the Beast*, the Olivier Award-nominated *Shakespeare in Love*, *Hercules*, stage productions of Disney's *High School Musical*, *Der Glöckner von Notre Dame* in Berlin and *King David* in concert on Broadway.

Disney Theatrical Group has also collaborated with leading regional theatres across the United States to develop new musicals including *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* and *Freaky Friday*. Under the Buena Vista Theatrical banner, the company licenses titles from the 20th Century Studios film library for stage adaptation, including *Anastasia*; *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*; *The Devil Wears Prada* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*.

Next up: the eagerly anticipated stage adaptation of *The Greatest Showman*, which opens in London's West End in Spring 2027.

Disney Theatrical Group also oversees a growing global portfolio of live entertainment and immersive experiences that expand Disney storytelling beyond the traditional stage. These include *Disney On Ice*; *Mundo Pixar Experience*; *Disney Junior Live On Tour: Let's Play!*; *The Nightmare Before Christmas Light Trail*; *Avatar: Guardians of Eywa*; *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at Sphere and Secret Cinema's *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Immersive Adventure*. Through these experiences, DTG creates new ways for audiences around the world to engage with beloved stories and characters through live entertainment.