



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**DPAC Wraps-Up 2019 with Record-Breaking Attendance
 Finishes Year with Top-Five U.S. Theater Rankings for Ninth Consecutive Year**

DURHAM, N.C. – 2019 was a record-breaking year at DPAC with 522,515 guests attending 239 events, the highest attendance for a calendar year since the center’s opening in 2008. With these new attendance figures, DPAC continues to be ranked among the top-five theaters in America by three leading national magazines that cover live entertainment events and venues.

In their recently released year-end published attendance and sales rankings, *Pollstar*, *Billboard* and *Venues Now* all placed DPAC among the top U.S. venues of its size and type. Among U.S. theaters, DPAC was ranked 3rd in *Venues Now*, 4th in *Pollstar*, and 5th in *Billboard*.

Pollstar 2019 Ticket Sales Top Ten U.S. Theatre Venues			Billboard Magazine 2019 Gross Sales Top Ten U.S. Venues under 5,000 Seats			Venues Now 2019 Gross Sales Top Ten U.S. Venues 2,001 to 5,000 seats		
	Venue	Capacity		Venue	Capacity		Venue	Capacity
1.	Radio City Music Hall – New York, NY	5,900	1.	The Colosseum at Caesars Palace – Las Vegas, NV	4,000	1.	Fox Theatre – Atlanta, GA	4,600
2.	Fox Theatre – Atlanta, GA	4,600	2.	Fox Theatre – Atlanta, GA	4,600	2.	Chicago Theatre – Chicago, IL	3,600
3.	Chicago Theatre – Chicago, IL	3,600	3.	Chicago Theatre – Chicago, IL	3,600	3.	DPAC – Durham, NC	2,704
4.	DPAC – Durham, NC	2,704	4.	Broward Center, Au-Rene Theater – Fort Lauderdale, FL	2,700	4.	Fox Theatre – Detroit, MI	4,800
5.	Park Theater at Park MGM – Las Vegas, NV	6,400	5.	DPAC – Durham, NC	2,704	5.	Broward Center, Au-Rene Theater – Fort Lauderdale, FL	2,660
6.	Fox Theatre – Detroit, MI	4,800	6.	Beacon Theatre – New York, NY	2,900	6.	Beacon Theatre – New York, NY	2,825

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7.	The Anthem – Washington, DC	6,000	7.	Orpheum Theatre – Minneapolis, MN	2,600	7.	Paramount Theatre – Seattle, WA	2,800
8.	Broward Center, Auerhahn Theater – Fort Lauderdale, FL	2,660	8.	The Theater at MGM National Harbor – Oxon Hill, MD	3,000	8.	House of Blues – Boston, MA	2,425
9.	Beacon Theatre – New York, NY	2,825	9.	Encore Theater at Wynn Hotel – Las Vegas, NV	2,800	9.	Ryman Auditorium – Nashville, TN	2,350
10.	Paramount Theatre – Seattle, WA	2,800	10.	DeVos Performance Hall – Grand Rapids, MI	2,400	10.	Providence Performing Arts Center – Providence, RI	3,100

Operated under the direction of Nederlander and Professional Facilities Management (PFM), DPAC has welcomed more than 4.7 million guests to 2,000+ Broadway, concert, comedy and special events in its eleven years of operation.

In addition to world-class events, DPAC also generates significant economic impact by attracting thousands of guests to Durham from throughout the surrounding region and across the U.S. each year. In its eleventh season, DPAC's total economic impact was \$127,155,331, with visitors to DPAC contributing to Durham's continued renaissance and vitality.

"We love playing a role in helping to bring so many new visitors to Durham to discover not only the great shows at DPAC, but also to see all that Durham has to offer," said Bob Klaus, General Manager at DPAC. "Though it's our top-five rankings that generate the headlines, what we're most proud of is our guest experience. The greatest reward is seeing the smiles of our guests and hearing from the thousands each year that give us such great reviews and share so many nice compliments about our event staff."

In 2019, Broadway musicals again top DPAC's list of best-selling events. DPAC's signature series, **SunTrust Broadway at DPAC**, brings the biggest hit Broadway tours from New York, London, and around the world each season to the Triangle. Disney's *Aladdin* led the list of Broadway blockbusters in 2019, followed by the winner of six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*. Broadway classics, *CATS* and *Miss Saigon*, along with the stunning new musical, *Anastasia*, completed the top five Broadway shows for 2019.

Top 5 Broadway Shows - 2019:

1. *Disney's Aladdin* (31 performances)
2. *Dear Evan Hansen* (8 performances)
3. *CATS* (8 performances)
4. *Miss Saigon* (8 performances)
5. *Anastasia* (8 performances)

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"We are so proud of the quality of the Broadway performances we hosted this year," said Rachel Traversari, Senior Director of Marketing. "Every season, as part of SunTrust Broadway at DPAC, we present the biggest new musicals, as well as returning fan-favorites in our Greatest Hits of Broadway series. Credit for these great shows no doubt goes to the leadership at Nederlander and PFM and their ability to ensure that Broadway's biggest national tours always have DPAC in their plans."

As the center for live entertainment in the region, DPAC not only offers hit Broadway shows, but also a vast array of concerts, comedy, and special events each year.

In 2019, DPAC hosted over 40 top-selling concerts in a wide variety of diverse musical genres. DPAC's pre-Broadway premiere of Harry Connick, Jr.'s – A Celebration of Cole Porter topped the list of 2019 concerts. DPAC's top five concerts also included Widespread Panic, as the group played a historic three sold-out shows in its first theater performances in the Triangle, as well as the return of Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band, guitar legend Joe Bonamassa, and R&B powerhouse Charlie Wilson.

Top 15 Concerts - 2019:

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|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Harry Connick, Jr. – A Celebration of Cole Porter (3 shows) | 5. Charlie Wilson | 11. Jackson Browne |
| 2. Widespread Panic (3 shows) | 6. The Last Waltz Tour 2019 | 12. Toni Braxton |
| 3. Ringo Starr and His All Starr Band | 7. John Prine | 13. The Piano Guys |
| 4. Joe Bonamassa | 8. Sylvan Esso Presents WITH (2 Shows) | 14. The Temptations and the Four Tops |
| | 9. The Doobie Brothers | 15. Gladys Knight |
| | 10. Chicago | |

In addition to its showcase of Broadway blockbusters and concert performances, DPAC also hosted some of the biggest comedians in the world plus a unique lineup of special events. American actress, comic, and writer Ali Wong led the list of top comedy events with two sold-out shows. Topping the list of DPAC's special events was Ira David Wood III's musical comedy adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, a Triangle holiday classic that has performed at DPAC since 2008.

Top 5 Comedy Shows - 2019:

1. Ali Wong (2 shows)
2. Carol Burnett
3. Tom Segura (2 shows)
4. Eddie Izzard
5. Jay Leno

Top 5 Special Events - 2019:

1. A Christmas Carol (6 shows)
2. Madea's Farewell Play Tour (3 shows)
3. Paw Patrol (5 shows)
4. A Magical Cirque Christmas (2 shows)
5. The Carolina Ballet's Nutcracker (3 shows)

"2019 was an exciting year at DPAC," said Brad Saks, DPAC's Director of Programming for Concerts, Comedy and Special Events. "Widespread Panic became the first band to play three consecutive nights at our venue, and the year culminated with two sold out shows by Durham's Sylvan Esso. Nestled in between these great concert weekends were a wide variety of amazing shows. It was definitely our most successful season ever for concerts, comedy and special events with something for everyone on DPAC's stage in 2019."

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In addition to the year-end publication rankings placing DPAC among the nation's top venues, *Venues Now* also ranked DPAC as the #3 venue of the past decade (2009 through 2019) for U.S. theaters with 2,001-5,000 seats.

Link to Venue Photos: <http://bit.ly/DPACVenue19>

Link to Top Broadway B-roll & Photos: <http://bit.ly/2019TopBroadway>

Link to Top Concerts Photos: <http://bit.ly/TopConcerts2019>

Link to Top Comedy/Special Events Photos: <http://bit.ly/TopComedyandSpecial2019>

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About DPAC

Since its opening in 2008, **DPAC** (Durham Performing Arts Center) has become the center for live entertainment in North Carolina. Recognized for its contemporary design, **DPAC** features 2,704 seats, intimate sightlines and state-of-the-art sound and video. Ranked annually among the top-five theaters in America by three leading national magazines that cover live entertainment events and venues, DPAC attracts over 500,000 guests per year.

With a mission of presenting one-of-a-kind live entertainment events, **DPAC** truly has “something for everyone,” hosting more than 200 performances a year, including spectacular touring Broadway productions, high-profile concert and comedy events, family shows and the heralded American Dance Festival. Owned by the City of Durham and operated under the direction of Nederlander and Professional Facilities Management (PFM), since 2011 **DPAC** has been listed as the #1 performing arts organization in the region by the *Triangle Business Journal*.

For more information please go to www.DPACnc.com.

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