

Sports & Entertainment

Emmy winner Sherri Shepherd to join Disney’s Aladdin on Broadway as the Genie in October

September 8, 2026 - Emmy-winning talk show host, comedian, actress, and best-selling author Sherri Shepherd will join the company of Aladdin on Broadway as the Genie for a limited run from Friday, October 16, 2026 through Sunday, January 3, 2027, marking a rare appearance on the Broadway stage.

“Joining Aladdin on Broadway is an absolute dream come true—and an incredible honor,” said Sherri Shepherd. “The Genie is such an iconic character, and I’m beyond excited to bring my own energy, humor, heart, and a little bit of magic to this role. I hope audiences see themselves in this Genie and leave the theater feeling so much joy and inspired to believe in the impossible. To step on that stage as the first woman to ever play the Genie is something I don’t take lightly. I’m ready to rub the lamp, unleash some magic, and have the time of my life on Broadway.”

“Throughout her career, Sherri has represented delight, wit, and loving good humor, making her the perfect entertainer to play the life force that is the Genie,” said Disney Theatrical Group’s Andrew Platt (Managing Director) and Anne Quart (Executive Producer). “We can’t wait to see what happens when Sherri’s authentic, brilliant comic energy meets the joyous escape of Aladdin. Audiences are going to adore her take on this iconic role.”

SHERRI SHEPHERD is a Daytime Emmy Award-winning talk



show host, comedian, actress, and New York Times best-selling author whose career spans more than three decades across television, film, Broadway, and stand-up comedy. She most recently hosted the nationally syndicated daytime talk show SHERRI for four seasons, bringing her signature warmth, humor, and relatable perspective to topical headlines, celebrity interviews, comedy, and uplifting stories. A multiple NAACP Image Award winner, Sherri also co-hosts the award-winning podcast Two Funny Mamas with Kym Whitley.

Before SHERRI, Shepherd spent seven years as a co-host of The View and has hosted Dish Na-

tion, The Newlywed Game, and Best Ever Trivia Show, among others. Her extensive television credits include 30 Rock, Friends, Sex Lives of College Girls, HARLEM, Mr. Iglesias, Trial & Error, Everybody Loves Raymond, The Jamie Foxx Show, and Less Than Perfect. Her film credits include Tyler Perry’s STRAW, Brian Banks, Precious, Ride Along 2, and Beauty Shop. Her upcoming Lifetime film, Angel in the Rubble, premieres September 12.

On Broadway, Shepherd made history as the first African American actress to portray the Evil Stepmother in Cinderella. Her

other theater credits include the Off-Broadway shows Love, Loss, and What I Wore; and Joy Behar’s My First Ex-Husband. She continues to tour nationwide as a stand-up comedian, frequently performing to sold-out audiences.

A New York Times best-selling author, Shepherd has written two books for adults, Plan D: How to Lose Weight and Beat Diabetes (Even If You Don’t Have It) and Permission Slips: Every Woman’s Guide to Giving Herself a Break. She expanded her work as an author with her debut children’s book, Sunshine Queens, which celebrates con-

“Joining Aladdin on Broadway is an absolute dream come true—and an incredible honor,” said Sherri Shepherd. “The Genie is such an iconic character, and I’m beyond excited to bring my own energy, humor, heart, and a little bit of magic to this role. I hope audiences see themselves in this Genie and leave the theater feeling so much joy and inspired to believe in the impossible. To step on that stage as the first woman to ever play the Genie is something I don’t take lightly. I’m ready to rub the lamp, unleash some magic, and have the time of my life on Broadway.”

fidence, self-love, and the power of young girls embracing their individuality. Shepherd is also expanding her literary career with her first romance novel, Life Is a K-Drama, co-written with Jayci Lee and set for release in April 2027.

Beyond entertainment, Shepherd is a passionate advocate for inclusivity, representation, and children with special needs, using her platform to champion meaningful causes and inspire audiences of all ages.

Visit SherriShepherd.com. For more information, visit AladdinTheMusical.com.

Mary Bragg releases ‘Secrets to Strangers’ from sports-Ent. 4

08) Way Back When
09) Stop Thinking
10) I Like It Here
11) The Game
12) Speaking Different Languages

Tour Dates:
09/19 - Nashville, TN - AmericanaFest
09/23 - Columbus, OH - Natalie’s Grandview*
09/24 - Chicago, IL - Thalia Hall*
09/25 - Peoria, IL - Dingeldine Music Center*
09/26 - St. Louis, MO - (ware)HOUSE Concerts
10/14 - Nashville, TN - Eastside Bowl
10/22 - Opelika, AL - The Sound Wall
11/22 - Los Altos, CA - House Concert
* w/ The Secret Sisters

Hailed as Nashville’s “Americana Queen” (Vice/Noisey), Mary Bragg has quietly become one of Music City’s most respected artists/songwriters/producers. The Swainsboro, GA native began to fully come into her own with her critically acclaimed 2017 record Lucky Strike, which was praised by NPR as a “sublime distilling of Southern grit.”

Follow Mary Bragg: Website | Facebook | X | Instagram | YouTube

Industry vets Bob Reeves and Liz Kiley join Melody Place indy record label from sports-Ent. 6

member, Kiley has built her career at the intersection of programming, marketing, operations, and artist-driven storytelling. This balance has earned her various recognitions and industry awards.

“The combined wisdom of Bob Reeves and Liz Kiley provides Melody Place with a treasure trove of context, leadership, and vision. They’ve each reached pinnacles that others spend their entire careers striving for, and

“The combined wisdom of Bob Reeves and Liz Kiley provides Melody Place with a treasure trove of context, leadership, and vision. They’ve each reached pinnacles that others spend their entire careers striving for, and I’m thrilled and humbled that they’ve joined us on our journey to put art and the artists first,” said Sandy McGraw, President and GM.

I’m thrilled and humbled that they’ve joined us on our journey to put art and the artists first,” said Sandy McGraw, President and GM.

Reeves and Kiley join the boutique label and music publishing company featuring frontline artists Sara Evans, Pia Toscano, Katharine McPhee, Broadway-starlet Jasmine Amy Rogers, Braden Hull, and Jackie Evancho. The label co-produced the hit Broadway musical, BOOP!, alongside 16-time GRAMMY Award winner David Foster and released its Original Cast Recording. They also just released an 18-track duets tribute album, Dan Seals & Friends: The Last Duet, in partnership with the Dan Seals Estate.

Melody Place continues to break the mold and solidify its reputation in Nashville, with much

more music on the way.

About Melody Place
Melody Place is a boutique Nashville based record label and music publishing company founded in 2018 by Chairman Leigh Shockey. Known for its curated roster and artist first philosophy, Melody Place has quickly become one of the most distinctive independent labels in the industry.

Led by President/General Manager Sanborn McGraw and industry veteran Chief Operating Officer Tony Gottlieb, the label is expanding its footprint across multiple genres and developing artists with long term global appeal.

The current roster includes award winning country star Sara Evans, Tony-nominated Broadway breakout Jasmine Amy Rogers, acclaimed vocalists Katharine McPhee, Pia Toscano, and Jackie Evancho, and rising Country artist Braden Hull. Melody Place also represents the estate of “England” Dan Seals. Beyond recorded music, Melody Place co produced the Broadway hit Boop! The Musical, in a strategic partnership with legendary musician David Foster. The production earned three Tony nominations, three Outer Critics Circle Awards, and received 11 Drama Desk Award nominations. Boop! The Musical has begun touring internationally and kicks off in the US this Fall, further showcasing the company’s creative reach. With features and recognition from Billboard, Broadway World, Country Now, GRAMMY.com, MusicRow, People, The New York Times, Variety, and more, Melody Place continues to solidify its reputation as one of Nashville’s most forward thinking independent labels.

For more information, visit melodyplace.com

A Family Affair

PLAYWRIGHT
MILONY JENKINS

DIRECTED BY
BISHOP ANTONIO LAWSON

A TRUE BELIEVER'S PRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 18TH-20TH

THE EVERGREEN THEATRE
1705 POPLAR AVE.
MEMPHIS, TN

SEE SHOWTIMES AND GET YOUR TICKETS AT
WWW.TBPRODUCTIONS.NET