

PALACE THEATER

SHOW INTEL

Season 2024–2025 | Issue 2: The Addams Family



The Addams Family

A MUSICAL COMEDY

Watch the trailer for
The Addams Family



ABOUT THE SHOW

Charles Addams' kooky characters have long been a staple of popular culture, through cartoons, television, film, and theater. In this comical feast of a show that embraces the wackiness in every family, Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart, young man from a respectable family. A man her parents have never met. And if that weren't upsetting enough, she confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before — keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents, prompting everyone to question their previously held assumptions about love, loyalty, and family.

FUN FACTS

- *The Addams Family* musical was written by Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice. The two had previously collaborated on the musical *Jersey Boys*. Andrew Lippa (*The Wild Party*, *Big Fish*) composed the music and wrote the lyrics for the show.
- **Brickman, Elice, and Lippa used the original single-panel Charles Addams cartoons as their inspiration, rather than the television and film adaptations.**
- Rick Elice also wrote the book for the *The Cher Show*, which will be at the Palace 2/28 & 3/1!
- *The Addams Family* opened on Broadway in 2010.
- It won several awards (Drama Desk Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Drama League Award) and earned two Tony Award nominations (Best Original Score and Best Performance by a Featured Actor).
- Charles Addams did not name his characters in the cartoons; their names were assigned by Addams and producers for the 1960s television show.

CLICK FOR TICKETS TO
THE ADDAMS FAMILY
OR CALL 203.346.2000



Hadestown — Original West End Company photo provided by show

CHARLES ADDAMS



Charles Samuel Addams (1912-1988) began cartooning in high school, but it wasn't until 1933 that his first cartoon appeared in *The New Yorker*. At the time, he was working for *True Detective Magazine*, retouching pictures of corpses to make the images less "gory" for publication.

His "Addams Family" series of single-panel cartoons ran from 1938 through the 1950s. **He drew more than 1,300 cartoons during his career, including about 150 Addams Family panels, appearing in *The New Yorker* and a host of other publications. Many of his cartoons feature elements of the macabre and horror, combined with dark humor.** A second cartoon series, "Out of This World," ran from 1955-1957. He continued contributing cartoons to *The New Yorker* until his death in 1988.

Addams' was a popular figure in NY society, but also relished his reputation as an eccentric. His gothic mansion was fittingly named "The Swamp," and decorated with spiders, webs, armor, and an embalming table. In 1961, Charles Addams was the first non-novelist to receive a special Edgar Award for his entire body of work.

FROM CARTOON TO SCREEN TO STAGE

In the early 1960s, television producer David Levy spotted a copy of one of Charles Addams's books, featuring the still-unnamed ghoulish family cartoon characters. Levy approached Addams about adapting his work, and *The Addams Family* TV show premiered in 1964. Addams worked with the scriptwriters, helping set the tone and naming some of the characters. The series was successful, despite only running for two seasons, and expanded the popularity of Addams' work.

Addams' spooky, quirky, but endearing characters are rediscovered with each generation. A 1991 film (also called *The Addams Family*) generated new fans, and was followed by several sequels. There were also animated series in the 1970s and 1990s, and a television reboot, *The New Addams Family* (1998-1999). *Wednesday* (2022) is the 3rd most-watched English-language show on Netflix of all time.

The musical adaptation of *The Addams Family* marked the first time that Addams' cartoons were licensed for a stage production. After a 2009 Chicago tryout, a 2010-2011 Broadway run, several international productions, US/UK tours, and a 2024 West End Concert, **THE ADDAMS FAMILY** is ready to launch its newest tour in Waterbury!



CONNECTICUT CONNECTION!

Renee Kathleen Koher (Morticia Addams), attended the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, where she received her BFA in Musical Theater. In Connecticut, she performed at Hartford Stage Company (*Christmas Carol*) and UConn's Connecticut Repertory Theatre.

Another BFA Hartt School of Music graduate is **Dalton Bertolone (Ancestor)**. He has also performed locally at Connecticut Repertory Theater, as well as Goodspeed Opera House, and Playhouse on Park in West Hartford.

Welcome back to CT, Renee and Dalton!



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