

TONY AWARD WINNING STAR “STEPPING OUT” IN NAPLES



Tony Award-winning star of *A Chorus Line*, Donna McKechnie, who is regarded internationally as one of Broadway’s foremost dancing and singing stars, will be featured in TheatreZone’s upcoming production of “*Stepping Out*” from January 8th - 18th. TheatreZone’s Artistic Director, Mark Danni, is thrilled to have McKechnie lead the cast in the hilarious comedy about eight women and two men trying to conquer their inhibitions and an overabundance of left feet in a seedy dance studio.

Donna McKechnie has performed extensively around the world and on Broadway her credits including: *How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Promises Promises*, *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum* (national tour); *Company* and *State Fair* for which she received the Fred Astaire Award for Best Female Dancer for the 1995-1996 season. Local equity actress and professional dancer, Dawn Lebrecht, who’s also in the “Stepping Out” cast, claims McKechnie is her “absolute idol” in the musical theater world. “She is the ultimate triple threat” says Lebrecht, “she’s the best, a clear standout over everybody. I don’t know what I’m going to do when I come face-to-face with her in our first rehearsal.”

Moving between Broadway and television, McKechnie counted herself lucky when she became a dancer on “Hullabaloo,” a weekly pop music show. She was often paired with Michael Bennett, another dancer and an aspiring choreographer. As he began working on *Chorus Line*, Bennett told McKechnie it was to be a showcase for her. McKechnie was able to capture her own deepest feelings about being a dancer and about her passion to perform. *A Chorus Line* hit Broadway in 1975 breaking all records and winning every award, including a Pulitzer Prize. It brought McKechnie a Tony for best actress in a musical.

“*Stepping Out*” will be performed at the intimate 250 seat G & L Theatre, on the campus of The Community School of Naples. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 888-ZONE-FLA or (1-888-966-3352) or online at www.theatrezone-florida.com.