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**Celebrate Taste of Chicago and Eli's Cheesecake's 38th Birthdays
with cast members from the *Waitress* musical
and a giant 1,000 lb. birthday Eli's Cheesecake, topped with a giant cherry pie!**

What could top an Eli's 1,000 lb. birthday cheesecake? Turning the top layer into a giant cherry pie, in honor of this year's celebrity cake cutters: **cast members from the national tour of *Waitress***, a delicious musical making its Chicago debut at Broadway In Chicago's Cadillac Palace Theatre July 3-July 22, 2018.

The fun begins on **Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Taste of Chicago**...the very place where Eli Schulman introduced his first Eli's Cheesecake to the world, and where **Eli's remains the only original vendor at Taste**. Eli's has sold over 5 million slices of rich and creamy cheesecake at Taste over the past 37 years.

At **Noon**, under the tent at Buckingham Fountain, Grant Park, (look for the sign "The Big Cake Is Here!"), the public is invited to watch the giant birthday cheesecake be lifted off the truck by a forklift, see Eli's pastry chefs put the final touches on the cake, and play cheesecake trivia games. At **12:30 pm** the Cake Cutting Ceremony will begin, followed by a round of Happy Birthday led by *Waitress* cast members. The cake will then be served free to the public.

Cows will be working overtime to produce the 450 pounds of cream cheese needed to prepare Eli's 38th Birthday Cheesecake. Other ingredients for the mind-boggling grocery list include: 70 pounds of sugar, 50 pounds of sour cream, 65 pounds of eggs, 2 pounds of vanilla, 63 pounds of Eli's Shortbread Cookie Crust, 25 pounds of bittersweet chocolate chips, 100 pounds of old fashioned buttercream icing, 25 pounds of graham crackers, plus 100 pounds of cookie dough and 25 pounds of cherry glaze, used to make the baseball-sized cherries to top the layers.

Eli's Cheesecake Booth, located near the corner of Jackson and Columbus will serve: Original Plain Cheesecake with Strawberries (7 tickets), Turtle Cheesecake (9 tickets), Cookie Cheesecake Smoosh Made with Oreo[®] Topped w/ Vanilla Ice Cream & Chocolate Sauce (10 tickets), Chocolate Chip Crunch Dipper[®] (7 tickets), Taste Portion of Original Plain Cheesecake or Lemon Mixed Berry Cheesecake (4 tickets).

Additional information:

1) Supporting the show's theme, Eli's will bake up boxes of two mini pies each: one strawberry, one blueberry, to be sold during the run of the Chicago show.

2) Broadway in Chicago presents the Chicago engagement of *WAITRESS*, July 3-22, 2018 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre. Inspired by Adrienne Shelly's beloved film, *WAITRESS* tells the story of Jenna – a waitress and expert pie maker, Jenna dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town's new doctor may offer her a chance at a fresh start, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness. But Jenna must summon the strength and courage to rebuild her own life. Brought to life by a groundbreaking all-female creative team, this irresistible new hit features original music and lyrics by 6-time Grammy® nominee Sara Bareilles (“Brave,” “Love Song”), a book by acclaimed screenwriter Jessie Nelson (*I Am Sam*) and direction by Tony Award® winner Diane Paulus (*Hair*, *Pippin*, *Finding Neverland*). “It’s an empowering musical of the highest order!” raves the Chicago Tribune. For more information, visit www.broadwayinchicago.com/show/waitress-2018

2) When restaurateur Eli Schulman created cheesecake as the signature dessert for his legendary steakhouse, Eli's The Place For Steak, little did he know that by breaking all the traditional baking rules, he would invent “Chicago style” cheesecake, richer and creamier than its NY counterpart, with a shortbread cookie crust instead of a graham one. Now referred to as a Chicago icon, Eli's has grown from a local favorite to creating 2,000 lb. cheesecakes for both Bill Clinton's and Barack Obama's Inaugural celebrations in Washington DC., turning out over 20,000 cheesecakes and other delicious desserts daily at Eli's Cheesecake World, the 62,000 sq. ft. bakery, café and retail store on Chicago's northwest side.