

Get on the Bus!

Northwest Children's Theater & School Announces
The 2009-2010 Season of Plays!

NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

NW Neighborhood
Cultural Center
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*Our mission—to educate,
entertain and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Education Director
Carolyn Newsom

Volunteer Director
Diane Carlson

Northwest Children's Theater & School is pleased to announce a new "feather" in its cap! The company has received the rights to develop and produce a musical stage adaptation of the popular Mo Willem's children's book, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* as part of the 2009-2010 season of plays.

Mo Willems, who cut his teeth as a member of the creative staff at *Sesame Street*, has spent his career creating worlds of wonder for the under-five set. In this adaptation, NWCT will stay true to the delightful simplicity of Willem's story, which offers a glimpse of the world through the perspective of the city's humblest of citizens—a pigeon.

The script and score for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* are being developed by the same creative team as NWCT's 2009 *Alice in Wonderland*. With a Latin big-band score by nationally-renowned jazz composer Ezra Weiss, the book is being written by NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy with inspiration from the extraordinary talents of NWCT Artist-in-Residence, John Ellingson, who portrays The Pigeon himself.

NWCT creates new works that are fresh and exciting to young audiences, including another NWCT world premiere—an industrial musical version of *Pinochio*. In this adaptation, the classic title character is modeled not as a wooden puppet, but as a robotic mechanical creation wrought by Gepetto, portrayed as a mad tinkerer. With a score and production values that would be at home in a Jules Verne novel, this unique production is being scored by award-winning Portland composer Rodolfo Ortega, with the book by Milo Mowery.

OCT 2-25, 2009

WINNIE-THE-POOH

*from the stories of A.A. Milne, composed by
Allan Jay Friedman, adapted by Kristin Sergel*

Journey into the Hundred Aker Wood with Christopher Robin and his friends Pooh, Eeyore, Piglet, Rabbit, Owl, Kanga and Roo. Beloved adventures come alive in this gentle adaptation about the magic of childhood imaginations, with daydreaming clouds, blustery days, and a party for everyone's favorite silly old bear.

Where: NW Neighborhood Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street, Portland, OR 97209

Tickets: 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

Access: Audio-described performances available for the blind

Info: For season packages, 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

DEC 11, 2009 - JAN 3, 2010

NARNIA

*from the stories of C.S. Lewis, book by Jules Tasca,
music by Thomas Tierney, lyrics by Ted Drachman*

Deep inside the wardrobe sleeps a land of never-ending winter ruled by a cruel witch. Led by the noble Aslan, four brave siblings are drawn into an epic battle between good and evil in this inspiring holiday adventure for the whole family!

JAN 29 - FEB 21, 2010

PINOCCHIO

adapted by Milo Mowery, composed by Rodolfo Ortega

From a pile of shiny scrap metal comes the buzz, clink and whirl of the original toy story! This industrial musical is the tale of Gepetto's brand-new mechanical boy who learns, through much trial and many errors, what it means to be human. **NWCT World Premiere!**

MAR 20 - APR 4, 2010

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS!

*from the book by Mo Willems,
adapted by Sarah Jane Hardy and John Ellingson,
composed by Ezra Weiss*

Finally, a play you can say "no" to! When a bus driver takes a break, a wheeling-and-dealing pigeon begs to take his place! The popular book "takes flight" as audiences get on the bus and move to a Latin groove in this original musical about a little bird with BIG dreams. **NWCT World Premiere!**

APR 30 - MAY 23, 2010

MADELINE AND THE GYPSIES

*from the book by Ludwig Bemelmans, adapted by
Barry Kornhauser, composed by Michael Koerner*

"In an old house in Paris that is covered in vines live twelve little girls in two straight lines." Until the circus comes to town! Adventures abound when the daring Madeline and her friend Pepito join a gypsy circus in a big top extravaganza. *Ooh, la la!*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date
May 28, 2009
Kill Date
May, 24, 2010

Media Contact

To set up interviews
or discuss other
possibilities for feature
stories, please contact:

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NWCT
is supported by
The Standard
The Collins Foundation
Oregon Arts Commission
Regional Arts &
Cultural Council