

# The Devil and Daniel Webster

by Stephen Vincent Benét, adapted by Robert Schenkkan

**“Never underestimate the power of persuasion!”**

## NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

NW Neighborhood  
Cultural Center  
1819 NW Everett Street  
Suite 216  
Portland, OR 97209-2189

phone: 503-222-2190  
fax: 503-222-4130  
www.nwcts.org

*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

2007-08 Members of:  
\*NWCT Interns NW  
\*\*NWCT KidsPro NW

When a run of bad luck means the loss of his true love, 19th-century farmer Jabez Stone is tricked into selling his soul to the Devil. The document grants him a happy life with his beloved, Abigail, but only for seven years; years that are overshadowed with fear of the day the Devil comes to collect.

On the eve of his reckoning, Jabez confesses his deed and seeks Abigail's help to save his soul. But who can possibly break a deal with the Devil?

Enter Daniel Webster, the famous historical figure and New Hampshire statesman, who agrees to defend Jabez pleading his case to a 'jury' made up of some of American history's most vile villains. But can Daniel convince the notorious Lizzie Borden, traitor Benedict Arnold, or ruthless Blackbeard that a price cannot be placed on a man's soul?

"This story reflects an America at its most idealistic," says NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy, who also directs. "Daniel argues for Jabez, but also for humanity. Beyond the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Daniel argues, and proves, that the truth is the most powerful tool against evil."

While Faustian in its themes, parents should be aware that good does, in fact, triumph against evil. Through Jabez's misdeeds, young audiences learn about consequences, and that no reward is worth sacrificing themselves.

With the American constitution as its backdrop, wars of words and sleights-of-hand blur the line between history and fiction with NWCT fixture Erik James (*Escape from Happiness*) as the garrulous Daniel Webster, and local magician Richard Garfield

(*One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) as a dangerously charming Devil.

Also starring is Nick Sherbo (*The Lesser Magoo; Romeo and Juliet*) as Jabez Stone and Maya Malan-Gonzalez (*Romeo and Juliet; Frida—Un Retablo*) as his love Abigail Stevens. Andi Sturtevant\* (*All in the Timing*) is a fiddle-playing Devil's familiar, Spark, and rounding out the ensemble are Roger Monroe, Samuel Hedine\*, Andrew Kafoury, Bryan Kinder\*\*, Maia Powloski\*, Dimitri Cacouris\*, Lila Neiswanger\*, Zane Sparling, and Otniel Henig\*.

Based on Benét's short story of the same name, this skillful stage adaptation is Pulitzer Prize winner Robert Schenkkan (*The Kentucky Cycle*) plays on a set by Paul Brown, mystically illuminated by Jeff Forbes. Coiling the play into its New England roots are costumes crafted by Mary Rochon (*Disney's Beauty and the Beast*) and an unsettling soundscape by Drammy Award-winning Rodolfo Oretaga, creates a suitably gothic America, circa 1849.

*The Devil and Daniel Webster* plays February 1-24, and is presented through special arrangement with Plays for Young Audiences. The show is sponsored by a who's-who of the Portland law scene, including esteemed firms Bullivant Houser Bailey, Williams-Kastner, Stoel Rives and Kafoury McDougal. The 2007-08 season is sponsored by The Collins Foundation, K103, and the Regional Arts and Culture Council.

Join NWCT for special events! Grandparents Day is Saturday, February 2 with \$2 off tickets, and Family Date Night offers devilishly delicious dinner catered by Elephant's Deli Friday, February 8.

**When:** February 1-24, 2008  
Fridays & Saturdays 7 p.m. • Saturdays & Sundays 2 p.m

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

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

**Age Range:** Recommended for ages 10 and up

**Prices:** \$15-20 adults, \$10-16 youth (14 & under), group & season subscriber discounts

**Info:** 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**Release Date**  
December 13, 2007

**Kill Date**  
February 25, 2008

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**theater location:**

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**high resolution photos online at:** <http://nwcts.org/html/press.html>

**#2, 6, 15, 16, 25, 28**

Nick Sherbo (Jabez Stone) and Maya Malan-Gonzalez (Abigail Stevens) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

**#30, 42**

Nick Sherbo (Jabez Stone) and Richard Garfield (Devil) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

**#45**

Erik James (Daniel Webster) and Richard Garfield (Devil) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

**#50, 60, 63**

Andi Sturtevant (Spark), Richard Garfield (Devil), Erik James (Daniel Webster), Nick Sherbo (Jabez Stone) and Maya Malan-Gonzalez (Abigail Stevens) in Northwest Children's Theater and School's production of *The Devil and Daniel Webster*.

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