

NWCT to Host Open House at the Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center

**NORTHWEST
CHILDRENS
THEATER and
SCHOOL**

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

phone: 503-222-4480
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

What: An OPEN HOUSE at Northwest Children’s Theater & School

- Building tours
- Theater workshops
- Face painting
- Raffles & contests
- Arts & crafts
- Refreshments
- Balloon art
- See a mainstage rehearsal!

When: Sunday, November 8, 2009, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

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

Parking: FREE parking on
NW 19th & Flanders

Who: Oregon & SW Washington
children and families

Cost: FREE

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



Photo: © David Kinder

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Release Date
October 21, 2009
Kill Date
November 9, 2009

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

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Sucha Production, Inc.
503-528-1370
mb@suchaproduction.com

People at Northwest Children’s Theater and School have a lot to smile about. Since signing a master lease on the theaters’ historic building this summer, NWCT has been a whirlwind of activity. Walls have been painted and new fixtures installed. Public areas have been decorated. Underused areas have been repurposed and scrubbed to a shine. These improvements are the beginning steps to realizing the long-standing dream of turning the historic building into an arts center for children. And now, spit-polished and smelling great, NWCT wants to share that dream with the community.

“The investment of time and energy from our supporters has been extraordinary,” says NWCT founder and Managing Director Judy Kafoury. “Over 100 volunteers of all ages and

levels of involvement with the theater came to paint, clean and ‘schlep.’ It was inspiring to see just how many lives we touch. They have a deep commitment to this theater.” She adds, “Now that the season has opened, all our patrons get to enjoy these wonderful improvements and become invested in the plans we have for the future.”

That momentum is evident everywhere. Looking at the fifteen-foot high walls in the now royal purple lobby it’s remarkable just how many volunteers were needed to revitalize the space. “Our supporters were just as eager as we were to start these improvements,” says Carolyn Newsom, another NWCT founder and the company’s Education Director. “For so many families, this is a second home. Now it’s a home they can be proud of.” *continued next page*

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It's also becoming a home for other nonprofits that specialize in arts for children. In addition to expanding and improving its own spaces, NWCT has developed a network of offices, studios, and rehearsal and performance spaces available for permanent or part-time rental to arts organizations. "This building is full of space for other organizations," says Kafoury. "It's like an ActivSpace for the arts."

The company itself has expanded its programming into formerly empty spaces as well. In addition to the 450-seat auditorium, one room has been turned into a charming storybook theater and classroom space for children ages six and under. In the coming months NWCT will unveil a brand-new dance studio, and a flexible black box performance

space. All of this is made possible by dedicated volunteers, and underwritten by private donations made specifically for those projects.

A Renaissance School of Arts and Sciences, NWCT's newest partner will be on hand as well, with classroom tours and meet-and-greets with key staff. A Renaissance School is a private K-5 elementary school in its inaugural year at Northwest Children's Theater and School. For more information:

visit www.renaissanceschoolportland.org.

Members of the media are encouraged to attend welcoming announcements at 2:30 p.m. in the NWCT auditorium. For questions in advance of the event, please contact NWCT media liaison Marri-Beth Serritella at Sucha Production, Inc. 503-528-1370 or mb@suchaproduction.com.

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