

Winnie-the-Pooh

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

“Am I glad to see you! It’s more friendly with two.”

NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

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

phone: 503-222-4480
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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

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 comic and touching adaptation about the magic of childhood imaginations, with daydreaming clouds, blustery days, and a birthday party for everyone’s favorite silly old bear.

When Kanga moves into the Hundred Aker Wood, she is shocked by the soiled state of its inhabitants. So she undertakes to bathe Piglet to make him a suitable playmate for Roo. Pooh, who has PROMISED to watch out for Piglet, becomes distracted and floats away holding a balloon, leaving a distraught Piglet to contend with Kanga and her dreaded bathtub! Themes like the value of friendship, fear of the unknown and forgiveness are explored through memorable storylines and iconic dialogue set to music with charming songs like “Isn’t it Funny How a Bear Likes Honey?” and “Sing Ho! for the Life of a Bear”.

Winnie-the-Pooh features adult actors in the roles of Pooh (John Ellingson) and Kanga (Shannon Jones), and features young professional actors as Owl (Annie Leonard), Piglet (Celeste Spangler), Rabbit (Charlotte Spangler), Eeyore (Ryan Stathos) and Roo (Natalie Hovee). Other young actors (Mac Larsen, Sophie MacKay, Conner Reed, and Kate Schifferdecker) are cast as a chorus of animals from the Hundred Aker Wood. Pianist Tracy Ross is both accompanist and narrator, providing playful

musical and story interaction with the characters on stage, true to Milne’s printed dialogue between the narrator and Christopher Robin (Barrett William Kent) in the books themselves.

NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy has assembled an award-winning team to lead young audience members through Milne’s beloved stories. Directed by nationally-renowned musician and musical theater practitioner Ezra Weiss, Milne’s iconic characters will be outfitted by NWCT’s Resident Costumer Mary Rochon, and will play on a forest-inspired set by Jeff Seats. Lights are by Jeff Forbes, with sound design by Rodolfo Ortega.

“One thing parents of young children should know about this play is that it’s FUNNY!” says Hardy. “Milne’s characters play as highly comedic on stage, and it’s a very age-appropriate, approachable kind of comedy, the sort of muddles and musings that make Pooh and the rest so appealing to this age group. Children and adults alike all relate to Pooh, and in this adaptation they can laugh with him, worry with him, cheer for him, and celebrate with him.”

Winnie-the-Pooh plays October 2-25, 2009, Fridays at 7 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at noon and 3 p.m. Most enjoyed by ages 4 & up.

Winnie-the-Pooh is sponsored by The Standard, The Collins Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council/Work for Art, and Oregon Arts Commission. Over 3,000 preschool and elementary school children will join Christopher Robin and his friends through 12 student matinees.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date
September 21, 2009
Kill Date
October 25, 2009

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

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

When: October 2-25, 2009
Fri. 7 p.m. • Sat. & Sun. Noon & 3 p.m.

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

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

Age Range: Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up

Prices: \$18-22 adults, \$13-18 youth (14 & under)

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PHOTO CAPTIONS

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John Ellingson (Pooh) and Celeste Spangler (Piglet) in Northwest Children’s Theater and School’s production of *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

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John Ellingson (Pooh) and Barrett William Kent (Christopher Robin) in Northwest Children’s Theater and School’s production of *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

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John Ellingson (Pooh), Barrett William Kent (Christopher Robin) and Celeste Spangler (Piglet) in Northwest Children’s Theater and School’s production of *Winnie-the-Pooh*.

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