

Press Release: August 31, 2018

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S

We are in a Play!



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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

Associate Artistic Director
John Ellingson

Education Director
Leigh Mallonee

NW Children's Theater 26th Season Kicks Off with *Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*

Meet "bestus friends" Gerald the Elephant and Piggie the Pig. Together, they tackle friendship's big questions: What happens when two friends want to play with ONE toy? What DO you wear to a fancy party? And will ANYONE say "Banana?" NWCT's 26th Season kicks off with the return of these beloved children's book characters, based on the popular book series by Mo Willems.

Perfect for first-time theater-goers, this upbeat musical explores the ups and downs of friendship through the eyes of Gerald and Piggie (portrayed by John Ellingson and Joellen Sweeney, both returning from the original production). On a day when anything is possible, Dog (Elo Paulorinne) drops by with an invitation to a party from The Squirrelles (Audrey Campbell, Celia Castillo-Torres, and Libby Rouffy). But what does one wear to a party? Is it a fancy party? A pool party? A costume party? Gerald knows – Gerald knows parties.

The characters of author Mo Willems are no strangers to the NWCT stage. This revival builds upon the smash hit successes of both the 2015 production and 2009's *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy will bring the world of *Elephant & Piggie* to life atop a playful set designed by award-winning scenic designer John Ellingson. The storyline weaves in and out of eight of Willems' books, including *Elephants Cannot Dance*, *I Love My New Toy*, and *Should I Share My Ice Cream?*, set to music by Deborah Wicks La Puma with music direction by Ezra Weiss.

Elephant & Piggie features the first of four NWCT Sensory Friendly Performances this season. Featuring shorter run-times, no intermission, reduced or removed lighting and sound cues, and the constant presence of house lights,


these performances are specially designed for children on the autism spectrum or with other sensory sensitivities. These performances are accompanied by a unique Social Story to help guide families through the entire theater experience from parking lot to the final bows. NWCT's 2018-19 Season will offer Sensory Friendly Performances for all productions this season, free of charge. Each production will also feature Audio Described and Sign Language Interpreted performances.

Elephant & Piggie is produced in part through the support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art, Kafoury McDougal, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, World of Smiles Dentistry, the Oregon Arts Commission, and NWCT's Donor families. More than 4,000 school children will play along with Gerald and Piggie during twelve student matinee performances.


SAT & SUN 11 am & 2 pm

SEPT. 22, 23, 29, 30

OCT. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21

 **SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW**
SEPT. 30 @ 2pm

 **ASL INTERPRETED SHOW**
OCT. 6 @ 11am

 **AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOW**
OCT. 6 @ 2pm

TICKETS & INFORMATION
503-222-2190
NWCTS.ORG

2018-19 SEASON
SUBSCRIBER DISCOUNTS!

Release Date
August 31, 2018

End Date
Oct. 21, 2018

Media Contact
To set up interviews
or discuss other
possibilities for stories,
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