



# TENALI

## THE ROYAL TRICKSTER

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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

**Release Date**  
March 29, 2019

**End Date**  
May 12, 2019

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

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Sucha Production  
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## Tenali is On the Case at Northwest Children's Theater!

By Avantika Shankar  
Created in Collaboration with Anita Menon

The creative team behind NWCT's award-winning *Chitra: The Girl Prince* and *The Jungle Book* brings you the story of Tenali, royal minister and irrepressible trickster. When the King's beloved peacock crown mysteriously disappears, it's up to Tenali to uncover the culprit and restore order to the kingdom, all while staying one step ahead of his enemies in the king's court. NWCT is proud to partner with director/choreographer Anita Menon on this hilarious whodunit filled with charm, wit, and breathtaking dance sequences.


A poet and counselor in the court of King Krishnadevaraya, Tenali Ramakrishna (or Tenali) has been the subject of many different stories, poems, films, and TV shows over the years. In this NWCT original, Tenali (Ajai Tripathi) finds himself swept up in palace intrigue when Krishnadevaraya's (Samson Syharath) prized crown mysteriously disappears. With everyone in court a suspect, Tenali must match wits with rival ministers, courtiers, and palace guards and find the crown before it's too late. With a hilarious original script from playwright Avantika Shankar, dazzling choreography by Anita Menon, and live onstage Carnatic music, this play is the perfect introduction to a beloved character.


*Tenali* marks the third collaboration between NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy and Anita Menon, who also co-directed 2018's *Chitra: The Girl Prince* and 2015's *The Jungle Book*. Those shows were met with enthusiastic audiences and sold-out performances. They also garnered several awards, including the "Best Costume Design" Drammy for Suvarna Menon and Mary Eggers, both of whom have returned to create the epic costume design of *Tenali*.


All four productions in the 26th Season include a Sensory Friendly Performance. 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. NWCT's 2018-19 Season offers four Sensory Friendly Performances free of charge. Sign-interpreted and Audio-described performances will be offered for all productions as well.

*Tenali: The Royal Trickster* 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 help Tenali solve the mystery during twelve student matinee performances.

**SAT & SUN Noon & 4 pm**  
**APRIL 20, 21, 27, 28**  
**MAY 4, 5, 11, 12**

 **SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW**  
**APRIL 28 @ 4 pm**

 **ASL INTERPRETED SHOW**  
**MAY 4 @ Noon**

 **AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOW**  
**MAY 4 @ 4 pm**

**TICKETS & INFORMATION**  
**503-222-2190**  
**NWCTS.ORG**