



How I Became a Pirate

Set Sail on the High Seas with Northwest Children's Theater

Book, Music & Lyrics by Janet Yates Vogt & Mark Friedman

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*Our mission—
to educate, entertain
and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

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Avast ye mateys! Captain Braid Beard and his motley crew need some help as they search for the perfect spot to bury their treasure. Based on the book by Melinda Long, *How I Became a Pirate* kicks off NWCT's 27th Season with a swashbuckling slapstick for the whole family.

Jeremy Jacob (Riley Holmes) is digging in the sand when Captain Braid Beard (Heath Koerschgen) and his mates recruit the young beachgoer to join their crew aboard the Jolly Roger. Adventure awaits as Jeremy learns the ins and outs of pirate life, from throwing food to singing sea chanteys.

Director Andrés Alcalá will be working in concert with associate artistic director John Ellingson, and costume designer Nancy Christy to create projection art and costumes inspired by David Shannon's book illustrations. Alcalá, a self-proclaimed lover of all-things-pirate, is thrilled to be working with an extremely talented cast for this production, including a few members of NWCT's Interns NW, a program he co-directs.

"This show is special to me for several reasons," proclaims Alcalá. "The story has a beautiful innocence. In my eyes, Jeremy's powerful imagination transports them aboard this pirate ship."

Alcalá has appeared on the NWCT mainstage numerous times, a favorite role being Captain Hook in *Peter Pan*. He previously won a Portland Area Musical Theatre Award for his projection work on NWCT's *Snow White* and Drammy Awards for his work as director of *Shakespeare's R&J* at Triangle Productions and *The Yellow Boat* at Inside Out Theater Collective.

This is Koerschgen's NWCT debut, but he is no stranger to Portland theater, having performed with Artists Rep, Portland Center Stage, Lakewood Theatre, and many others. Last year, he took home the Drammy for outstanding lead actor in a play in *Jason and the Argonauts* at Oregon Children's Theatre. This is Holmes' fourth

appearance on the NWCT Main Stage. Previous roles include a bandit in *Chitra: The Girl Prince* and Gray in *Robin Hood*.

How I Became a Pirate features the first of four NWCT sensory friendly performances this season. With 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 will offer sensory friendly performances for all productions in the 2019-20 season, free of charge. Each production will also include audio described and American Sign Language interpreted performances.


How I Became a Pirate is produced in part through the support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Kafoury McDougal, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, the Oregon Arts Commission, and NWCT's donor families. More than 4,000 school children will set sail on this high seas adventure during eight student matinee performances.


SAT & SUN 11 am & 2 pm

SEPT. 21, 22, 28, 29

OCT. 5, 6, 12, 13

 **SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW**
SEPT. 29 @ 2 pm

 **ASL INTERPRETED SHOW**
OCT. 5 @ 11 am

 **AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOW**
OCT. 5 @ 2 pm

TICKETS & INFORMATION
503-222-2190
NWCTS.ORG

Release Date

August 20, 2019

End Date

October 13, 2019

Media Contact

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

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