Press Release: March 3, 2020

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S

(We are in a Play!)

Written by Mo Willems, Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Northwest Children's Theater Brings *Elephant & Piggie* to the Sherwood Center for the Arts!

The Beloved Play Tours Throughout Oregon this Spring

nw children's theater & school

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

Phone: 503-222-2190 Fax: 503-222-4130 nwcts.org

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

Donor & Patron Relations Director

Education Director Leigh Mallonee

> Release Date March 3, 2020 End Date

End Date
April 11, 2020

Media Contact

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

Rachael Brown NWCT Marketing Manager rachael@nwcts.org If you have kids, chances are you've read Mo Willems' Elephant & Piggie books. NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy brings the world of Elephant & Piggie to life in this upbeat musical that weaves through eight of his most popular books, including Elephants Cannot Dance, I Love My New Toy, and Should I Share My Ice Cream? The tour is modeled on NWCT's 2018 production, which enjoyed sold-out houses and rave reviews.

Perfect for first-time theatergoers, Elephant & Piggie's We are in a Play! explores the ups and downs of friendship through the eyes of "bestus friends" Gerald the Elephant and Piggie (portrayed by John Ellingson and Ashley Coates, both returning from last year's production at the Oregon Zoo). Together, they tackle friendship's big questions: What DO you wear to a fancy party? What happens when two friends want to play with ONE toy? And will ANYONE say "Banana?" Dog, Penguin, and the Squirelles (portrayed by NWCT's youth performers) join in on the fun.

Elephant & Piggie kicks off its tour in Portland on the NWCT Mainstage in March, before traveling to theaters in Hillsboro and Sherwood in April; and Salem and Gresham in May.

"We are really excited to embark on our firstever multiple-city tour, bringing the magic of live theater to new communities and audiences!" exclaims Hardy. "This is a wonderful activity for families to do together—all of our shows have something special in them for the parents as well. Plus, there is nothing like seeing a child's face light up as they see their favorite characters come to life on stage."

Following each public show, audience members will also get the opportunity to meet the cast, take photos with the characters, and collect autographs in their playbills.

Northwest Children's Theater & School has touched the lives of more than 1 million children & adults in their 27-year history, through award-winning shows for the whole family, & theater education for youth. "We are thrilled to have Northwest Children's Theater come to Sherwood," says Chanda Hall, manager of the Sherwood Center for the Arts. "They are an award-winning theater company, known for their delightful performances and stellar design. Having them perform in our home space creates more access to the arts for Sherwood families."

In addition to weekend public shows, more than 800 students from the Sherwood area will catch *Elephant* & *Piggie* on stage during two weekday, school matinee performances. These shows conclude with a talk-back led by a cast member. Students in the audience can ask questions to learn more about the story, actors, and creative process, and even get a behind-the-scenes glimpse of theater tricks and special effects.

Elephant & Piggie's We are in a Play! is produced in part through the support of the Oregon Cultural Trust; Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt; and NWCT's donor families.

5-CITY TOUR
PORTLAND
HILLSBORO
SHERWOOD
SALEM
GRESHAM

Visit NWCTS.ORG for Other Tour Show Times SHOW TIMES: APRIL 11 at 11 am & 2 pm

VENUE:

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SHERWOOD CENTER FOR THE ARTS 22689 SW Pine Street Sherwood, OR 97140

TICKETS & INFO: 503-222-2190 NWCTS.ORG

Since 2015 the Sherwood Center for the Arts has served as the centerpiece of Sherwood arts & culture—a hub for cultural activity, arts education, & a resource for local artists, arts organizations, & arts patrons to expand the City's cultural experience.