



Press Release: March 12, 2024

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

**Founding Executive
Director**
Judy Kafoury

Managing Director
Nick Fenster

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy



Wake up from hibernation with Northwest Children's Theater's *A Year with Frog and Toad*, a delightful musical that will have the whole family tapping their toes!

Arnold Lobel's beloved characters leap from page to stage in this young audience's version of the Tony-award nominated Broadway hit. Join best friends Frog and Toad as they hop, sing, and dance through a year of adventure. As the seasons change from spring to fall, the cheerful Frog (portrayed by Alex Gray) and the more timid Toad (Brandy Schnaars) plant a garden, go swimming, fly kites, bake cookies, and more! An array of birds, squirrels, and snails (portrayed by members of Catalyst, NWCT's Youth Company) join in on the fun.

"*A Year with Frog and Toad* is a classic story of true friendship that literally stands the test of time – or should I say seasons," says Shalanda Sims, the show's director. "It's an exploration of acceptance, respect, and trust no matter our differences or appearances."

This is Sims' first time directing an NWCT show, but she is no stranger to creating theater for families. She is the founder and executive director of World Stage Theatre, a multi-cultural, multi-generational arts organization with a focus on history, literature, music, traditional, and original works. In 2022, World Stage and NWCT partnered to present *Vanport: The Musical*, and the collaboration has been strong ever since.

"What excites me most about directing *Frog and Toad* with NWCT is the friendship we ourselves have been able to develop and cultivate the last few years. Our missions align when it comes to working with youth and adults and creating a family atmosphere for audiences!" Sims expresses.

"The creative team working on *Frog and Toad* is stellar, and the group of actors in the show are very talented," she continues. "This fun, feel-good show features beautiful music, vocals, and dancing. The show reminds us all how

Based on the books by Arnold Lobel
Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale
Music by Robert Reale
Directed by Shalanda Sims

important good friendships are and how powerful and uplifting they can be."

NWCT offers a sensory friendly performance of *A Year with Frog and Toad*, free of charge. Featuring shorter run times, 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.

In addition to weekend public shows, nearly 2,500 students will catch *Frog and Toad* on stage during 10 weekday, school matinee performances.


A Year with Frog and Toad is produced in part through the support of the Regional Arts and Culture Council, Kafoury McDougal: Lawyers for the People, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and NWCT's donor families; plus media sponsors PDX Parent, NW Kids, and The Oregonian/Oregon Live.


VENUE >> NWCT's HOME: **THE JUDY**


The Judy Kafoury Center for Youth Arts
1000 SW Broadway, Suite T-100
Portland, OR 97205

APRIL 6-28, 2024
11 am & 2:30 pm

 **SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW**
April 14 at 11 am

 **ASL INTERPRETED SHOW**
April 20 at 2:30 pm

 **AUDIO DESCRIBED SHOW**
April 21 at 2:30 pm

 **MASK REQUIRED SHOW**
April 27 at 2:30 pm

Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up

TICKETS \$25-\$35
\$5 Arts for All tickets are available for Oregon Trail/SNAP Card holders
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Release Date
March 12, 2024

End Date
April 28, 2024

Media Contact
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