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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

**Release Date**  
April 3, 2025

**End Date**  
May 18, 2025

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

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Press Release: April 3, 2025

Northwest Children's Theater  
PRESENTS

# MAD HATTER'S *Tea Party*

A Magical, Interactive,  
Live Theatrical Performance

Created & Conceived by  
John Ellingson  
Directed by Sarah Jane Hardy

Join the Mad Hatter and step through the looking glass with Northwest Children's Theater's premier production of *Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, an interactive and magical show filled with music and delight for the whole family. Playing at The Judy in downtown Portland from May 3-18, this unforgettable production is the perfect introductory experience for new, young theatergoers and experienced theater-lovers alike.

*Mad Hatter's Tea Party* is created and conceived by NWCT Associate Artistic Director John Ellingson, who stars as the Mad Hatter. Ellingson brings together his many talents as a singer, magician, clown and puppeteer to create this one-of-a-kind production. Ellingson's knack for breaking the fourth wall will be on full display as he leaps from the stage and brings this interactive show into the audience.

"Everyone needs to laugh, and my greatest joy as a performer is to make people laugh," says Ellingson. "I'm very excited to play the Mad Hatter and to create a show that will delight the whole family."

Upon entering The Judy, audiences will be ushered into The Black Box Theater and take their seats at whimsical tables surrounding the stage. As the party kicks off, the show begins to come to life around the guests, enveloping party-goers in the story. Audiences are very much encouraged to arrive in costumes and tea party attire so that young guests can truly be a part of the magic in this immersive space.

To make this show even more scrumptious, guests will enjoy a variety of delicious treats and beverages at their tables. Youth tickets include tea, Mad Hatter's punch, tea cakes, sandwiches and other whimsical sweet treats. Adult tickets include tea and Caffè Umbria coffee to enjoy as they relax and watch the show unfold.

Families can also look forward to a meet and greet photo opportunity at the end of the performance.

NWCT Artistic Director, Sarah Jane Hardy, directs the show and reflects on her long-time collaboration with Ellingson. "John and I have enjoyed a long and fruitful creative partnership at NWCT. We've never quite created a show like this one before, in which the audience is truly integrated into the show. I'm very excited for families to experience the magic of this production."

*Mad Hatter's Tea Party* performances take place on Saturdays at 12:30pm and 3:00pm, and Sundays at 10:00am and 12:30pm. This lively and interactive performance is designed to create lasting memories for families and will have both children and adults laughing, singing, and perhaps even learning a little magic along the way.

*Mad Hatter's Tea Party* is produced in part through the support of the Oregon Arts Commission, Kafoury McDougal: Lawyers for the People, and NWCT's donor families.

VENUE >> NWCT's HOME:

THE JUDY

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

**May 3-18, 2025**

**Saturdays at 12:30pm & 3pm**  
**Sundays at 10am & 12:30pm**

Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up

**TICKETS \$20-\$25**  
[NWCTS.ORG](http://nwcts.org) • **503-222-2190**

**\$5 Arts for All tickets are available for  
Oregon Trail/SNAP Card holders.**  
Please see [nwcts.org/faqs](http://nwcts.org/faqs) for details.