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nwcts.org

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
August 27, 2025

End Date
October 5, 2025

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

Ashley Coates
NWCT Marketing
Support
ashley@nwcts.org

Press Release: August 27, 2025



The Original Fairytale by Portland-Based Playwright Returns, This Time to The Judy

Northwest Children's Theater (NWCT) and Corrib Theatre team up for the co-production of ***From a Hole in the Ground*** by Portland-based playwright, poet, and actor Ken Yoshikawa. Commissioned and originally produced by Corrib Theatre in January 2025, *From a Hole in the Ground* is an original fairytale inspired by Irish folklore.

In this whimsical story, two mischievous Irish fairies must convince a young girl to help them restore the balance of nature when a generational curse threatens to halt the turning of the seasons. The fairies confront a ghostly revenant, a shape-shifting Púca, a river goddess, pesky human beings, and even death itself to complete their quest.

NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy saw Corrib's production earlier this year and immediately reached out to ask about the possibility of staging it at The Judy. "I thought it was one of the most magical and engaging pieces of theater I've seen in Portland. The audience was multi-generational, with the youngsters enjoying the show as much as their parents and grandparents. I am delighted that the Corrib team agreed to co-produce it here for NWCT audiences."

Ken Yoshikawa is a playwright, poet, and actor from Portland who revels in the magic

of storytelling. In his theatre career he has appeared at Northwest Children's Theater, Artists Repertory Theatre, Portland Center Stage, Oregon Adventure Theatre, and Portland Playhouse.

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the most magical and engaging
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— NWCT Artistic Director,
Sarah Jane Hardy,

"It's such an honor to bring *From a Hole in the Ground* to The Judy," says Yoshikawa. "Audiences have really connected with the play, and I'm excited to see how kids respond. It feels like a big step forward in my playwriting career."

Yoshikawa says that while the play was originally written for adult audiences, only minor revisions were needed to make it appropriate for a youth audience. "Some of the language has been adjusted, but the spirit of the play, and the themes—including mortality—are still intact. Kids can understand and process a lot more than we might think, and this play can act as a conversation starter for harder subjects."

Returning for the remount are the three original actors: Claire Aldridge, Olivia Mathews, and

continued on next page



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PRODUCED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CORRIB THEATRE

From a Hole in the Ground

By Ken Yoshikawa

Sept. 27-Oct. 5

The Original Fairytale by Portland-Based Playwright Returns, This Time to The Judy

continued from previous page

Joellen Sweeney. The multi-talented group of performers each play multiple roles and work flawlessly as an ensemble to create an entire world from a small collection of imaginative scenic and prop elements. Mathews and Sweeney were recently included in ArtsWatch's list of seven young artists who are making a difference in the Portland theater scene.

From a Hole in the Ground is presented in The Ball Black Box at The Judy in downtown Portland. Performances run September 27-October 5 on Saturdays and Sundays at 11am and 3pm.

An ASL-interpreted performance will take place on Saturday, October 4 at 3pm.

In addition to weekend public shows, more than 400 students will see *From a Hole in the Ground* during 6 weekday school matinee performances.

From a Hole in the Ground is produced in part through the support of the Oregon Arts Commission, Kafoury McDougal: Lawyers for the People, and NWCT's donor families; plus media sponsors PDX Parent and NW Kids.

Tickets are on sale now at nwcts.org. Audiences can get youth pricing on adult tickets—a 24% savings—with the code YOUTHPRICE25 when they purchase by August 31.

VENUE >> NWCT's HOME:

THE JUDY

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

Sept. 27 - Oct. 5, 2025
Saturdays & Sundays
11 am & 3 pm

Most enjoyed by ages 8 and up



ASL INTERPRETED SHOW
Sat. Oct. 4 at 3pm

TICKETS \$25-\$35
NWCTS.ORG • [503-222-2190](tel:503-222-2190)

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Oregon Trail/SNAP Card holders. Please
[see nwcts.org/faqs](http://nwcts.org/faqs) for details.**