

Northwest Children's Theater presents the return of



**MAD
HATTER'S**
Tea Party

1000 SW Broadway
T-100
Portland, OR 97205

Created & conceived by John Ellingson
Directed by Sarah Jane Hardy

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

**The Magical, Interactive, Live Theatrical Performance is
Back at The Judy by Popular Demand!**

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



Northwest Children's Theater announces the return of *Mad Hatter's Tea Party*, a magical interactive performance created and conceived by John Ellingson and directed by Sarah Jane Hardy. Back by popular demand after last year's completely sold-out and hugely successful run, this beloved production returns to The Judy May 9–24 to delight audiences once again.

Join the Mad Hatter and the White Rabbit as you step through the looking glass for an interactive tea party filled with songs, surprises, magic and madness. 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 the show into the audience.

"Everyone needs to laugh, and my greatest joy as a performer is to make people laugh," says Ellingson. "Families had so much fun at this show last year that we just had to bring it back. There's nothing else like it in Portland."

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 tea party kicks off, the show begins to come to life around the audience, enveloping party-goers in the story. Guests are encouraged to arrive in costumes and tea party attire so that they can truly be a part of this immersive show.

To make the experience even more scrumptious, guests will enjoy a variety of delicious treats and

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Release Date

March 18, 2026

End Date

May 24, 2026

Media Contact

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

Ashley Coates
NWCT Marketing
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Press Release: March 18, 2026

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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.

Managing Director
Nick Fenster

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 created a show quite like this one before, in which the audience is truly integrated into the show. It's a very special and enjoyable experience for families."

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

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 performances take place on Saturdays and Sundays at 10am, 12:30pm and 3pm.

Mad Hatter's Tea Party is produced in part through the support of the Oregon Arts Commission, Kafoury McDougal: Lawyers for the People, PDX Parent, NW Kids 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 9-24, 2026

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

Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up

TICKETS \$20-\$25

NWCTS.ORG • [503-222-2190](tel:503-222-2190)

\$5 Arts for All tickets are available for Oregon Trail/SNAP Card holders. Please see nwcts.org/faqs for details.

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