



1000 SW Broadway
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Portland, OR 97205

Phone: 503-222-2190
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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

Press Release: July 6, 2026



Northwest Children's Theater Announces 2026/27 Mainstage Season

Two World Premieres, a Holiday Spectacular...and a Pigeon

PORTLAND, Ore. — Northwest Children's Theater (NWCT) announces its lineup of 2026/27 Mainstage productions. The lineup includes four productions taking place on The Schnitzer Stage at The Judy Kafoury Center for Youth Arts (The Judy), NWCT's home in downtown Portland. This will be the company's fourth season at The Judy.

"The 2026/27 season has so much to offer families of all ages," says NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy. "We have two world premieres, each by local playwrights; a spectacular Broadway-style song and dance musical for the holidays; and a visit from one of the most beloved characters in children's literature today."

World Premiere Musical

The Golem's Gift

October 3-11, 2026

The season kicks off with the world premiere of a new musical, *The Golem's Gift*, with book and lyrics by Benny Zelkowitz and music by Ezra Weiss. Inspired by Jewish folklore, *The Golem's Gift* is an original fable about a man made of clay who is determined to repair the world. Overwhelmed by this impossible task, the Golem cannot imagine how his optimism and imagination will affect everyone he meets. In a world that feels increasingly divided, this new musical speaks to young people who feel a responsibility to make things better. Through acts of kindness and the ripple effect of small change, *The Golem's Gift* transforms the idea of healing the world into something inspiring rather than overwhelming, achievable rather than impossible. But, as the story tells, it will take everyone.

Holiday Musical Spectacular

Cinderella

November 28, 2026-January 3, 2027

Dance your way through the holidays with NWCT's original tap musical extravaganza. Young Cinderella knows she's destined for the stage. But with jealous relatives standing between her and the spotlight, she will need courage, passion, and a little magic to make it into the spotlight. This is the third time that NWCT will produce this magical musical and the show's first production at The Judy. Written and composed by Ezra Weiss, *Cinderella* is the perfect holiday experience for the whole family and will keep your toes tapping until the stroke of midnight.

Based on the Award-Winning Book Series

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!

February 6-28, 2027

It's not easy being the Pigeon—you never get to do ANYTHING! But when the Bus Driver has a crisis that threatens to make her passengers late (gasp!), maybe that wily bird CAN do something. Based on the award-winning book series by Mo Willems, this hilarious and playful musical is one for families of all ages to enjoy. "We love the world of Mo Willems," says Hardy. "This show is written by the same team behind *Elephant & Piggie: We Are in a Play!*, which continues to be our most popular production of all time. We can't wait for families to experience this equally heartwarming and memorable show."

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Release Date

July 6, 2026

End Date

April 25, 2027

Media Contact

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

Ashley Coates
NWCT Marketing
Support
ashley@nwcts.org



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World Premiere Play

Ways to Make Sunshine

April 3-25, 2027

Closing out the 2026/27 Mainstage season is the world premiere of *Ways to Make Sunshine*, based on the book by Renée Watson. Ryan Hart has a lot on her mind—school, self-image, and especially family. When her family faces financial setbacks and a forced move, Ryan relies on her sunny disposition, creativity, and close-knit family to find joy through unexpected changes. Based on Renée Watson's celebrated book and set in Portland, Ore., *Ways to Make Sunshine* is a heartwarming story about finding a way forward with grace and wit, and plenty of sunshine. This production is co-produced by NWCT and World Stage Theatre (WST) and is co-written by Watson and playwright, Shalanda Sims.

Tickets are on sale now for the 2026/27 Mainstage season at nwcts.org. Use the code **SUMMERSALE** for 20% off all tickets to these Mainstage shows when you purchase by August 31. Tickets purchased with this discount code may be transferred in the future to another performance date within the same production.

NWCT offers ASL-interpreted and sensory-friendly performances and participates in \$5 Arts for All tickets for Oregon Trail/SNAP Card holders. Arts for All tickets may be reserved beginning two weeks in advance of each production and must be purchased over the phone or in person at the Box Office.

School matinee performances will be offered for all four Mainstage shows (dates and times will be announced later this summer), and dates and times will be announced later this summer. Visit nwcts.org/field-trip for more information and to book your school.

Beyond the 2026/27 Mainstage season, families can look forward to additional year-round shows and events from NWCT, such as the return of the much beloved **Halloween Ball**. Dates will be announced and tickets will go on sale throughout the year for this additional programming.

In addition to productions, NWCT will continue to offer four terms of weekend theater classes in NE, SE and downtown Portland, as well as after-school outreach classes at many schools in the area. Theater camps are offered during school breaks in the fall, winter and spring in NE, SE and downtown Portland. Summer Camps are held in five locations around Portland, Beaverton and Sherwood. Classes and camps are offered for ages 4-14. Visit nwcts.org for class and camp information and to register throughout the year.

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
NWCT'S 2026/27 SEASON-AT-A-GLANCE**



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2026/27 Season-at-a-Glance



WORLD PREMIERE MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by Benny Zelkowitz
Music by Ezra Weiss

October 3-11, 2026

Weekends 2pm & 7pm

ASL INTERPRETED SHOW
Sun. Oct. 4 at 2 pm

TICKETS: \$25 Youth • \$35 Adult
Most enjoyed by ages 8 and up



A HOLIDAY MUSICAL SPECTACULAR

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Ezra Weiss

November 28, 2026-January 3, 2027

Weekends 11am & 2:30pm
Select Weekday Performances on
December 22, 23, 29 & 30 at 11am

SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW
Sun. Nov. 29 at 2:30 pm

ASL INTERPRETED SHOW
Sun. Dec. 6 at 2:30 pm

TICKETS: \$30 Youth • \$40 Adult
Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up



BASED ON THE AWARD-WINNING BOOK SERIES

Script by Mo Willems, Mr. Warburton
Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

Based on the book Don't Let the
Pigeon Drive the Bus! by Mo Willems

February 6-28, 2027

Weekends 11am & 2pm

ASL INTERPRETED SHOW
Sun. Feb. 7 at 11 am

SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW
Sun. Feb. 7 at 2 pm

TICKETS: \$25 Youth • \$35 Adult
All ages welcome



A NEW PLAY WITH MUSIC

By Shalanda Sims and Renée Watson
Based on the book by Renée Watson
Co-produced with World Stage Theatre

April 3-25, 2027

Weekends 11am & 2pm

ASL INTERPRETED SHOW
Sun. April 4 at 11 am

SENSORY FRIENDLY SHOW
Sun. April 4 at 2 pm

TICKETS: \$25 Youth • \$35 Adult
Most enjoyed by ages 4 and up

All shows are on The Schnitzer Stage

VENUE: NWCT'S Home, THE JUDY: 1000 SW Broadway, T-100 • Portland, OR 97205

TICKETS [NWCTS.ORG](https://nwcts.org) • **BOX OFFICE VOICE MAIL:** [503-222-2190](tel:503-222-2190)

SCHOOL MATINEES INFO: [NWCTS.ORG/FIELD-TRIP](https://nwcts.org/field-trip)

\$5 Arts for All tickets are available for Oregon Trail/SNAP card holders.

Please see nwcts.org/faqs for details.