

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 19, 2012 MEDIA CONTACT: Amanda Russell

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## ADVENTURE THEATRE MTC ANNOUNCES ITS 61<sup>ST</sup> SEASON

6 WORKS WILL BE PRODUCED IN 2012-2013: INCLUDES 2 PRODUCTIONS ADAPTED BY, OR IN PART BY, ADVENTURE THEATRE MTC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL J. BOBBITT

AND 3 WORLD PREMIERES

GLEN ECHO, MD – <u>Adventure Theatre MTC</u>, ATMTC, the twice recipient of the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences 2011 and 2012, is proud to announce its 61<sup>st</sup> Season. This year ATMTC brings to life 6 main stage productions featuring two world premieres. The 61<sup>ST</sup> Season represents an exciting line-up of engaging works and world-class artistry as ATMTC continues to cultivate new generations of artists and audiences through superior theatrical experiences.

The new season kicks off with the world premiere of the Theater for Young Audiences version of **Big. The** Musical, adapted for the stage by Jeff Frank (First Stage Milwaukee) and Michael J. Bobbitt, directed by Michael J. Bobbitt. Previous adaptations by Michael J. Bobbitt included the popular Mirandy and Brother Wind and the sell-out Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Over the holiday season, ATMTC is excited to present A LITTLE HOUSE CHRISTMAS, based on Laura Ingalls Wilder's classic books, adapted by James DeVita, and directed by Serge Seiden. Then A.A. Milne's lovable bear helps to ring in the new year with le Clanché du Rand's adaptation of WINNIE THE POOH, directed by Jerry Whiddon. Next ATMTC ups the ante with two back-to-back world premieres. First, the music of ska, rocksteady, and reggae icon Bob Marley is brought to life in THREE LITTLE BIRDS, a theatrical experience based on the story by Cedella Marley and directed by Nick Olcott, and adapted for the stage by Michael J. Bobbitt. Next up comes the world premiere of BIG NATE, THE MUSICAL based on the comic strip and books by Lincoln Pierce, directed by Michael Baron, recipient of the Helen Hayes Award for Oustanding Direction, Resident Musical for his work in Adventure Theatre MTC's 2011 production of A Year With Frog & Toad, and featuring Nate, of course, the drummer for the greatest garage band in the history of the galaxy. Finally, ATMTC concludes the season with a little mischief and a very big hat. Based on Dr. Seuss's book and directed by Karin Abromaitis, CAT IN THE HAT, originally produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain, is ATMTC's last show of the 2012-2013 Season.

This season Adventure Theatre MTC is offering its annual Flex Pass! Save 20% off the season ticket price and customer fees when you purchase a book of 10 tickets.

For more information about Adventure Theatre MTC, call 301-634-2270 or visit <a href="www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org">www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org</a>.

# 2012-2013 61<sup>ST</sup> SEASON

Theater for Young Audiences World Premiere

### **BIG, THE MUSICAL - TYA**

Based on the motion picture 'Big,' written by Gary Ross & Anne Spielberg; produced by Twentieth Century Fox

TYA Adaptation by Jeff Frank, First Stage & Michael J. Bobbitt, Adventure Theatre MTC September 21 – October 28, 2012
Book by John Weidman
Music by David Shire
Lyrics by Richard Maltby, Jr.
Directed by Michael J. Bobbitt
Ages 5 and up

The 1987 hit movie bursts onstage in this vibrant, funny and touching musical. When frustrated adolescent Josh Baskin wishes he were "big" and wakes up the next morning a 30-year-old man, he discovers there's much more to being an adult than he's bargained for-and learns we must all grow up at our own pace, in our own time. Come see this new version created specifically for Young Audiences.

#### A LITTLE HOUSE CHRISTMAS

November 17, 2012 – December 31, 2012 Based on the books by Laura Ingalls Wilder Adapted by James DeVita Directed by Serge Seiden All Ages

The Ingalls are hosting some of their friends and relatives for a pre-Christmas dinner when a sudden storm threatens to cut off access to the town from which most of the guests have come. It ends on Christmas Day, when Mr. Edwards arrives after going to town to find Santa Claus who was unable to visit because of the storm. Celebrate the holidays with this heartwarming adventure that shows that the simple things make living worthwhile as Mary and Laura learn the true meaning of Christmas.

#### **WINNIE THE POOH**

January 19 – February 24, 2013
Based on the book by A.A. Milne
Adapted for the stage by le Clanché du Rand
Directed by Jerry Whiddon
All Ages

Winnie the Pooh is Christopher Robin's fat little bear of Very Little Brain, who would like to drift peacefully through life, humming tunes and stopping frequently to eat "a little something." Follow Pooh and Piglet on a Heffalump hunt, watch Rabbit scheme to rid the forest of Kanga's dreaded bathtub, and help Eeyore

search for his tail. Pooh's intentions are always the best, but his passion for honey and condensed milk keeps getting him into trouble.

#### A World Premiere

#### THREE LITTLE BIRDS

March 15 – April 14, 2013
Based on the story by Cedella Marley
Music & Lyrics by Bob Marley
Adapted for the stage by Michael J. Bobbitt
Additional music & lyrics by John L. Cornellius, II
Directed by Nick Olcott
Ages 4 and up

Ah...yasso nice! Three little birds sing their sweet songs to Ziggy, a very shy child who is happy to see the world from the T.V. in his room. But his tricky friend, Nansi wants him to get out and enjoy the Island of Jamaica. But, Ziggy is afraid of hurricane, mongoose and evil spirits. Their worldly adventure is enlivened by the fantastic songs of renowned Reggae artist, Bob Marley. Roots, Rock, Reggae!

#### A World Premiere

#### **BIG NATE, THE MUSICAL**

May 3 – June 2, 2013
Based on the comic strip and books by Lincoln Peirce
Book by Jason Loewith
Lyrics by Chris Youstra & Jason Loewith
Music by Chris Youstra
Directed by Michael Baron
All 5 and up

Nate Wright, a detention-riddled sixth grader (and drummer for the greatest garage band in the history of the galaxy, Enslave the Mollusk!) hopes to woo beautiful Jenny away from her boyfriend Artur by winning "The Nicholodeon", the first prize in his school's Battle of the Bands. But when Artur and Jenny team up with Nate's arch-rival Gina to form the sap-pop band, Rainbows and Ponies, he's gotta take his game to an all-star level. What will he do?

#### **CAT IN THE HAT**

June 21 – September 2, 2013
Based on the book by Dr. Seuss
Play Originally Produced by the National Theatre of Great Britain
Adapted and Originally Directed by Katie Mitchell
Directed by Karin Abromaitis
All ages

From the moment his tall, red-and-white-striped hat appears around the door, Sally and her brother know that the cat in the hat is the funniest, most mischievous cat they have ever met. With the trickiest of tricks and craziest of ideas, he is certainly fun to play with. And he turns a rainy afternoon into an amazing adventure. But what will mom find when she gets home...?

Tickets for the 2012 – 2013 will be available for sale online and over the phone beginning June 14, 2012. Flex Passes, (book of 10) tickets for the 2012 -2013 season, will be available for sale online and over the phone beginning June 14, 2012. Flex Pass Purchasers save 20% on total ticket price and fees when they purchase and can use their tickets for any show in the 2012-2013 season.

For more information about purchasing tickets, purchasing Flex Passes, ticketing policies, and/or Adventure Theatre MTC in general, call 301-634-2270 or visit us online at <a href="https://www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org">www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org</a>.

#### ABOUT ADVENTURE THEATRE MTC

Adventure Theatre (founded in 1951) and Musical Theater Center (founded in 1986) merged into one organization in 2012. The combined entity, known as Adventure Theatre MTC, seeks to *cultivate new generations of artists and audiences by creating memorable theatrical productions and by providing young people the highest quality musical theater training*. Adventure Theatre MTC offers a wide variety of activities including live performances of classic and contemporary classic children's stories, theater classes and camps (which complement in-school learning), workshops, birthday parties, and community engagement projects. The ATMTC Academy offerings complement the <a href="Maryland Voluntary Curriculum">Maryland Voluntary Curriculum</a> and National Standards, providing a challenging outlet for students to develop the skills necessary to be successful performers - including self-discipline, teamwork, problem solving, and self-confidence.

Adventure Theatre MTC reaches approximately 75,000 people annually from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and beyond. ATMTC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported in part through the generous support of the <u>Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County</u>, the <u>Maryland State Arts Council</u> and the <u>National Endowment for the Arts</u>.

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