



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 27, 2011

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**ADVENTURE THEATRE'S 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONTINUES WITH ITS WORLD PREMIERE**  
**KEN LUDWIG'S 'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**  
*Olivier Award Winning author of Broadway's Crazy For You and Lend Me A Tenor*  
*DIRECTED BY JERRY WHIDDON*  
*FEATURING PROFOUND DC ACTOR GARY SLOAN*

GLEN ECHO, MD – [Adventure Theatre](http://www.adventuretheatre.org), recent Helen Hayes Recipient and the longest-running children's theatre in the Washington, D.C. area, continues its **2011-2012 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season** with Ken Ludwig's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Directed by Jerry Whiddon and based on the poem by Clemente Clark Moore, Ken Ludwig's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* brings to the stage a world-premiere production by the award-winning author of Broadway's *Lend Me a Tenor*, *Crazy For You* and *Moon Over Buffalo*, and runs November 18, 2011- January 2, 2012. Tickets are \$17 each and can be purchased through the box office by calling 301-634-2270 or online at [www.adventuretheatre.org](http://www.adventuretheatre.org). The **press performance** will be **Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 2pm**.

"'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." *But wait!* A mouse is stirring - because Santa missed his house last year. Before you can say 'Merry Christmas!', we're off on the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf and a spunky little girl who just won't take 'no' for an answer. Don't miss this joyful tribute to the holiday season from three-time Tony nominee and Olivier Award winning playwright Ken Ludwig.

Ken Ludwig says of his experience writing a show specifically for children, "I'm thrilled to be working with Michael Bobbitt, Jerry Whiddon and the team at Adventure Theatre. This is my first play for children and I've enjoyed the chance to do something completely different. And since I took my own kids to children's plays for years and years, it's terrific to be involved in one."

Director Jerry Whiddon who directed the 2009 Helen Hayes Award Recipient, Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences play *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* was chosen to bring to life Ken Ludwig's words for the world premiere.

Michael J. Bobbitt, Producing Artistic Director at Adventure Theatre has always emphasized the need for new material in children's theatre, "It has been a joy to work with Ken on the world premiere of this show. We are always looking for new and exciting stories to present to today's youth, and Ken Ludwig's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* will be no exception in the talented hands of Jerry Whiddon, the cast and crew. This exciting holiday romp will be a fantastic experience for D.C. area families."

Adventure Theatre's community engagement program, Share the Adventure, is continuing with its annual hat and mittens drive to benefit A Wider Circle in Bethesda, MD. Donations of new winter outerwear may be dropped off in Adventure Theatre's lobby during the run of Ken Ludwig's *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Visit [www.adventuretheatre.org](http://www.adventuretheatre.org) for more information on its Share the Adventure program.

Tickets can be purchased through the box office by calling 301-634-2270 or online at [www.adventuretheatre.org](http://www.adventuretheatre.org). Tickets are \$17 each. Group and field trip rates are also available. Children under the age of 1 are free. All performances will take place at Adventure Theatre, 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, MD, 20812 in the historic Glen Echo Park. The **press performance** will be on **Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 2pm**.

For more information on Adventure Theatre's [2011-2012 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season](http://www.adventuretheatre.org), visit [www.adventuretheatre.org](http://www.adventuretheatre.org).

### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

[KEN LUDWIG](http://www.kenludwig.com) is an internationally acclaimed playwright whose many hits on Broadway, in London's West End and throughout the world have made his name synonymous with modern comedy. He has had six shows on Broadway and six in the West End, and he has won the Laurence Olivier Award, England's highest theatre honor, as well as three Tony Award nominations and two Helen Hayes Awards. His work has been commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company and has been performed in thirty countries in over twenty languages. His musical *Crazy For You* ran for over four years on Broadway and in London. After a hit revival at The Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park this summer, *Crazy For You* transferred to the West End for an open-ended run. *Lend Me A Tenor*, originally produced by Andrew Lloyd Webber and recently revived on Broadway with an all-star cast, was called "one of the two great farces by a living writer" by The New York Times. Other plays and musicals include *Moon Over Buffalo* (Broadway & London's Old Vic, starring Carol Burnett, Lynn Redgrave, Joan Collins & Frank Langella); *Twentieth Century* (Broadway, starring Alec Baldwin & Anne Heche); *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (Broadway); *Treasure Island* (London, Theatre Royal, Haymarket; 2009 AATE Distinguished Play Award for Best Adaptation); *Shakespeare in Hollywood* (commissioned by The Royal Shakespeare Company, Helen Hayes Award as Best Play); *Leading Ladies*; *Be My Baby* (starring Hal Holbrook and Dixie Carter); *The Beaux' Stratagem* (adaptation with Thornton Wilder at the request of the Wilder Estate); *The Three Musketeers* (Bristol Old Vic); *An American in Paris*; *Sullivan & Gilbert*; *The Fox on the Fairway*; *The Game's Afoot*, *Midsummer/Jersey*, and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. His work has appeared in *The Yale Review*, and he has just completed a book for Crown Publishing entitled *How To Teach Your Children Shakespeare*. He studied music at Harvard with Leonard Bernstein and theatre history at Cambridge University in England. For more information, please visit [www.kenludwig.com](http://www.kenludwig.com).

### **ABOUT ADVENTURE THEATRE**

Founded in 1951, Adventure Theatre is the longest-running children's theater in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Our mission is *to cultivate new generations of audiences and artists by creating memorable theater experiences in an intimate and interactive environment*. Adventure Theatre 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 Theatre reaches over 50,000 children and families annually from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and beyond. Adventure Theatre is supported in part through the generous support of the [Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County](http://www.artsandhumanitiescouncil.org), the [Maryland State Arts Council](http://www.marylandarts.org) and the [National Endowment for the Arts](http://www.ned.gov).

## **Ken Ludwig's "TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS" FACT SHEET**

**November 18, 2011- January 2, 2012**

Based on the poem by Clement Clarke Moore

Directed by Jerry Whiddon

Featuring D.C. Actor Gary Sloan

Ages 4 and up

### **CAST**

Uncle Brierly/Sir Guy.....	Gary Sloan
Amos .....	Rex Daugherty
Calliope .....	Rachel Zampelli
Emily.....	Emily Levey
Mulch/Santa.....	Alex Perez

### **PRODUCTION CREW**

Director .....	Jerry Whiddon
Playwright .....	Ken Ludwig
Asst. Director.....	Jason Schlafstein
Music Director.....	Wayne Chadwick
Movement Coach.....	Karen Abromatis
Set Designer .....	Luciana Stecconi
Costume Designer .....	Chelsey Schuller
Lighting Designer.....	Andrew Griffin
Sound Designer .....	Brandon Roe
Properties Designer .....	Dre Moore
Stage Manager .....	Mallory Shear
Asst. Stage Manager .....	Julie Roedersheimer
Scenic Artist .....	Sasha Goldstein
Master Electrician .....	Sarah MacKowski

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Production Run Dates** – November 18, 2011- January 2, 2012

**Pajama Party**– Friday, November 18, 2011

**Press Opening** – Sunday, November 20, 2011 at 2pm

**Book Club Performance** – Saturday, November 26, 2011 at 2pm

**Sensory/Autism Friendly Performance**- Saturday, December 31, 2011 at 2pm

**American Sign Language Performance** – Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 2pm

### **Sundays**

November 20, 27 .....

11am & 2pm

December 4, 11, 18, 25.....

11am & 2pm

### **Mondays**

January 2 ..... 11am & 2pm

**Tuesdays**

December 6, 13, 20..... 10:30am

December 27..... 11am & 2pm

**Wednesdays**

December 7, 14, 21..... 10:30am

December 28..... 11am & 2pm

**Thursdays**

December 8, 15, 22..... 10:30am

December 29..... 11am & 2pm

**Fridays**

December 9, 16..... 10:30am

December 23..... 7pm

December 30..... 11am & 2pm

**Saturdays**

November 19 ..... 11am & 2pm

November 26 ..... 11am, 2pm & 4:30pm

December 3, 10, 17 ..... 11am, 2pm & 4:30pm

December 24..... 12pm

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