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THE NEVERENDING STORY

Michael Ende’s Fantastic Tale of the Triumph of Imagination

(Seattle, WA) – Seattle Children’s Theatre is excited to announce the opening of The Neverending Story Friday December 7, 2007. The play, adapted from the novel by Michael Ende and featuring new original music from the rock band Heart, runs through January 27, 2008 in SCT’s Charlotte Martin Theatre.

The play opens with young Bastian, a bookish boy tormented by school bullies. But when an old bookseller gives Bastian a most amazing book, he finds refuge in the story on its pages. Fantastica is in grave danger. The Nothing engulfs everything in its path, and the Childlike Empress sends the unlikely hero Atreyu, a boy of Bastian’s age, on a quest to find the one who can save them all. Atreyu’s adventure takes him to the far corners of Fantastica, through the Swamp of Sadness, the cave of a giant spider, and the maze of the Southern Oracle, aided by the happy Luck Dragon, Falkor. But it is with Bastian’s belief in the story that Fantastica has found its true savior. Imagination will live on, and the story begins again…

“Winter is a time of wonder, belief, and fantasy; a time when we all try to share a little more of ourselves with each other,” says SCT Artistic Director Linda Hartzell. “And what better gift than a spectacular adventure through incredible places, peopled by astonishing creatures? Here we learn that everyone can be the hero of the story.”
The SCT production incorporates fantastic sets and inventive puppetry to bring the world of Fantastica to life. Puppet master Douglas Paasch, who also designed the puppets for SCT’s current run of The Big Friendly Giant, was tasked with fleshing out Fantastica’s tiniest and giant-est inhabitants, and set designer Carey Wong, whose work recently graced SCT stages in The Sorcerer’s Apprentice and Sleeping Beauty, with rendering Fantastica’s wondrous landscapes.

The Neverending Story also brings together a veteran cast, with all but one cast member previously appearing at SCT, and three, Hans Altwies, Sarah Harlett and Timothy Hyland, appearing in seven or more productions each. The cast also includes Gabriel Baron, Emily Chisholm, Lisa Estridge, Brad Farwell, Chad Jennings and Michael Place, with David Goldstein, Betsy Schwartz and Matt Wolfe understudying.

SCT collaborated with Ann and Nancy Wilson of the rock band Heart to develop original music for The Neverending Story, including the song “Don’t You Fall.”

The Neverending Story was written by Michael Ende, adapted for the stage by David S. Craig and directed by David Bennett.

Seattle Children’s Theatre is located at 201 Thomas Street, under the Space Needle at Seattle Center. Tickets for The Neverending Story range in price from $17 to $33 and may be purchased by calling the SCT ticket office at (206) 441-3322 or by visiting www.sct.org. The Neverending Story is recommended for ages 8 and older.

Seattle Children’s Theatre would like to thank season sponsors Microsoft and Boeing, show sponsors Wizards of the Coast, Encore Media Group and Continental Airline Inc., and season affiliate Target for their generous support.

Seattle Children’s Theatre celebrates its 33rd season in 2007-2008 and performs September through June in the Charlotte Martin and Eve Alvord Theatres at Seattle Center. Since its inception, SCT has gained acclaim as a leading producer of theatre, educational programs and new scripts for young people. SCT has presented over 180 plays, 97 of which were world premieres, and entertained over 4 million children.
Seattle Children’s Theatre

THE
NEVERENDING
STORY

By Michael Ende
Adapted by David S. Craig and directed by David Bennett

WHAT: Seattle Children’s Theatre (SCT) brings Michael Ende’s spectacular The Neverending Story to Seattle for the holiday season.

WHERE: Seattle Children’s Theatre’s Charlotte Martin Theatre
201 Thomas Street, Seattle (Seattle Center)

WHEN: Opening Night – December 7, 2007 at 7pm
Public Performances – December 8, 2007 through January 27, 2008
(weekdays at 7pm, weekends at 5:30pm, matinees at 2pm – please check the website or call the SCT Ticket Office for availability)
Target Family Matinee – December 15, 2007 at 2pm
ASL-interpreted Performance – January 12, 2008 at 2pm
Family Date Night Dinner – January 11, 2008
(dinner at 5:30pm, performance at 7pm)

TICKETS: Tickets range in price from $17 to $33 and may be purchased by calling SCT’s Ticket Office at (206) 441-3322 or by visiting www.sct.org.
The Neverending Story is recommended for ages 8 and older.

INFO: In a land devoured by The Nothing, only one boy can save everything. All he must do is believe in Fantastica, believe in imagination, and believe in himself. The Neverending Story was originally written as a children’s book and published in Germany in 1979. The story was later made into a well-known hit movie of the same title in 1984 with several sequels. Now this wonderful tale of fantasy and imagination comes to life on SCT’s own Charlotte Martin stage in this world premiere production. Ann and Nancy Wilson of the rock band Heart contribute two new, original songs to SCT’s production.