

Seattle Children's Theatre

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Harold and the Purple Crayon Premieres at Seattle Children's Theatre

(Seattle, WA) – A world premiere created by Seattle locals will kick-off SCT's 2011-2012 season with an innovative stage adaptation of *Harold and the Purple Crayon* (book by **Don Darryl Rivera**, music by **Auston James** and lyrics by **Rob Burgess**.) Based on the original books by Crockett Johnson, *Harold and the Purple Crayon* opens Friday, September 23, 2011 (with a public preview Thursday, September 22, 2011) and runs through October 30, 2011 in SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre with direction by **Rita Giomi**.

Initiated by dressing room conversation between the creators, this world premiere delivers a sophisticated interpretation of imagination. With a burst of inspiration, Harold launches a magical exploration and simply draws where he wants to go. After sketching himself into adventurous situations, Harold quickly problem-solves: he draws an apple tree when he's hungry and a rocket ship when he finds himself falling through the sky. With spirited song and creativity, Harold travels from under the sea to outer space, making many friends along the way.

"Harold is a child's icon for playfulness. Bringing him to stage with animation, puppetry and music bridges the book-theatre connection for young children," says SCT Artistic Director Linda Hartzell. "This will inspire our earliest readers while the nostalgia of the story will intrigue older youth. All audiences will be excited by the dynamic special effects."

Don Darryl Rivera (last seen at SCT in *Lyle the Crocodile*) takes center stage as Harold, while other SCT favorites, **Khanh Doan** (*Lyle the Crocodile*) and **Caety Sagoian** (*Lyle the Crocodile*) round out the ensemble. The adventures Harold creates in his mind become real, so

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the story-telling is done through song lyrics, creative scenery and production techniques that demonstrate new flights of imagination. Through moving scenery, puppets, special lighting, and animation, the production team, led by Set Designer **Matt Smucker**, Costume Designer **Melanie Burgess**, Lighting Designer **L.B. Morse**, Sound Designer **Chris R. Walker**, Animator **Stefan Gruber** and Puppet Designer **Annett Mateo**, form Harold's dreams into reality.

Harold and the Purple Crayon will be presented in SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre from September 23, 2011 through October 30, 2011. Seattle Children's Theatre is located at 201 Thomas Street, under the Space Needle at Seattle Center. Tickets for *Harold and the Purple Crayon* are \$18 to \$36 and may be purchased by calling the SCT Ticket Office at (206) 441-3322 or by visiting www.sct.org. *Harold and the Purple Crayon* is recommended for all ages.

Seattle Children's Theatre would like to thank show sponsor **4Culture** and season sponsor **Microsoft** for their generous support.

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Seattle Children's Theatre, which celebrates its 37th season in 2011-2012, 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 professional theatre, educational programs and new scripts for young people. By the end of its 2010-2011 season, SCT had presented over 220 plays, 108 of which were world premieres, and entertained over 4 million children.

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HAROLD and the PURPLE CRAYON

Book by Don Darryl Rivera, Music by Auston James, Lyrics by Rob Burgess,
Based on the books by Crockett Johnson
Directed by Rita Giomi

- WHAT:** A popular children's book comes to life on stage with music, moving scenery, puppets, special lighting, and animation.
- WHERE:** Seattle Children's Theatre's Charlotte Martin Theatre
201 Thomas Street, Seattle (Seattle Center)
- WHEN:** Public Preview – September 22, 2011 at 7pm
Opening Night Performance – September 23, 2011 at 7pm
Public Performances – September 23, 2011 through October 30, 2011
(weekdays at 7pm, weekends at 5:30pm, matinees at 2pm - please check the website or call the SCT Ticket Office for schedule)
ASL-interpreted Performance – October 15, 2011 at 2pm
- TICKETS:** Tickets are \$18-\$36 and may be purchased by calling SCT's Ticket Office at (206) 441-3322 or by visiting www.sct.org. Discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by calling the Group Sales Office at 206-859-4054. *Harold and the Purple Crayon* is recommended for all ages.
- INFO:** Anything is possible with a crayon and a big imagination. Through a burst of inspiration, Harold launches a magical exploration and simply draws where he wants to go. After sketching himself into adventurous situations, Harold quickly problem-solves: he draws an apple tree when he's hungry and a rocket ship when he finds himself falling through the sky. With spirited song and creativity, Harold travels from under the sea to outer space, making many friends along the way.