

Seattle Children's Theatre

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A Big Story About Little People: SCT presents *The Borrowers*

(Seattle, WA) – Seattle Children's Theatre is excited to announce their upcoming production of *The Borrowers*, based on the beloved children's books by **Mary Norton** and adapted for the stage by **Charles Way**. *The Borrowers* opens in SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre on Friday, October 1, 2010 (with a public preview September 30, 2010) and runs through October 31, 2010. SCT Artistic Associate **Rita Gioni** directs.

The Borrowers covers events in the first two books in Norton's series (*The Borrowers* and *The Borrowers Afield*). Under the floorboards, Arrietty Clock lives a quiet little life with her parents. Why, they just "borrow" whatever they may need from the humans above... until the boy who lives upstairs sees Mr. Clock. "And that's how the whole world changes shape." Forced to flee the house to save themselves, the Clocks begin the journey of a lifetime out in the wide, and ever so large, world. As they struggle to survive they make new friends and learn that, maybe, the world isn't such a scary place after all.

About the play, SCT Artistic Director **Linda Hartzell** says, "Full of suspense and humor, this classic story of tiny people living in a giant world shows us the tug-of-war every family goes through as children grow up and yearn for independence and their parents want to protect and shelter them. This really is a snapshot of family life, though the circumstances, and stature, are truly extraordinary."

The intersection of the little, borrowed world of the Clock Family and our own presents interesting opportunities for the production staff. "Scale is the biggest challenge in this play," says SCT Properties Shop Manager **Edie Whitsett**. "So, this is where I have to use my imagination." Postage stamps as wall art, spools of thread as stools and a gigantic, 8-foot-tall bird puppet are just a few of the pieces that will help bring the diminutive world of the Clocks to life. Several characters will be represented by puppets and actors at different times as they navigate the world of both humans and Borrowers.

The cast of *The Borrowers* includes some new faces and returning favorites. Longtime SCT veterans **Emily Chisholm** (*Peter Pan* and *In the Northern Lands: Nordic Myths*) and **Marianne Owen** (last seen at SCT in *I Was a Rat!* and *A Tale of Two Cities*) are joined by SCT newcomers **Ian Bell**, **Rio Codda**, **Chris Ensweiler** and **Zoanne LeRoy**.

The cast is supported by an excellent production team, including Set Designer **Carey Wong**, Costume Designer **Deane Middleton**, Lighting Designer **Rick Paulsen**, SCT Resident Sound Designer **Chris R. Walker**, Puppet Designer **Annett Mateo**, Fight Choreographer **Geoffrey Alm**, Puppet Coach **Don Darryl Rivera** and Dialect Coach **Gin Hammond**.

The Borrowers will be presented in SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre from September 30 through October 31, 2010. Seattle Children's Theatre is located at 201 Thomas Street, under the Space Needle at Seattle Center. Tickets for *The Borrowers* are \$17 to \$37 and may be purchased by calling the SCT Ticket Office at (206) 441-3322 or by visiting www.sct.org. *The Borrowers* is recommended for ages 8 and up.

Seattle Children's Theatre would like to thank season sponsors **Microsoft** and **Target** and show sponsor **Bank of America** for their generous support.

Seattle Children's Theatre, which celebrates its 36th season in 2010-2011, 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 2009-2010 season, SCT had presented over 200 plays, 103 of which were world premieres, and entertained over 4 million children.

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The **BORROWERS**

By Mary Norton • Adapted for the stage by Charles Way
Directed by Rita Giomi

- WHAT:** From the classic books by Mary Norton of little people who live under the floorboards.
- WHERE:** Seattle Children's Theatre's Charlotte Martin Theatre
201 Thomas Street, Seattle (Seattle Center)
- WHEN:** Public Preview – September 30, 2010 at 7pm
Opening Night Performance – October 1, 2010 at 7pm
Public Performances – October 2 through October 31, 2010
(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 23, 2010 at 2:00 pm
- TICKETS:** Tickets are \$17-\$37 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. *The Borrowers* is recommended for ages 8 and up.
- INFO:** *The Borrowers* covers events in the first two books in Norton's series (*The Borrowers* and *The Borrowers Afield*). Under the floorboards, Arrietty Clock lives a quiet little life with her parents. Why, they just "borrow" whatever they may need from the humans above... until the boy who lives upstairs sees Mr. Clock. "And that's how the whole world changes shape." Forced to flee the house to save themselves, the Clocks begin the journey of a lifetime out in the wide, and ever so large, world. As they struggle to survive they make new friends and learn that, maybe, the world isn't such a scary place after all.