

Seattle Children's Theatre

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A Laugh Out Loud, Tony Award Nominated Broadway Musical for the Holidays: *A Year with Frog and Toad*

(Seattle, WA) – Back by popular demand, Seattle Children's Theatre is thrilled to present the beloved classic, *A Year with Frog and Toad*, for the holiday season. With music by **Robert Reale**, book and lyrics by **Willie Reale**, and based on the original books by **Arnold Lobel**, *A Year with Frog and Toad* opens November 18, 2011 (with a public preview November 17, 2011) in SCT's Charlotte Martin Theatre and runs through January 15, 2012. SCT's Artistic Associate **Rita Giomi** directs.

A Year with Frog and Toad is an imaginative musical production incorporating many themes. Friendship, trust, cooperation, loyalty and individuality follow the characters through a year of adventures in this lively Broadway musical for the whole family. Ordinary events become delightfully humorous escapades as a sled ride instills a range of emotions from trepidation to comic terror, and a snail trudges through snow with the most elongated mail delivery. Frog and Toad's friendship triumphs through challenges and delivers a timeless and heart-warming message.

SCT's Artistic Director Linda Hartzell believes these messages are important themes for young children today. "This show teaches how to empathize with others, practice random acts of kindness, face our fears and celebrate the diversity in personalities," she explains. "It's also a toe-tapping, laugh out loud celebration!"

Originally commissioned by Arnold Lobel's daughter, Adrienne, the musical was presented on Broadway in 2003 by Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel, Michael Gardner, Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman, and earned three Tony Award nominations for "Best Musical", "Best Book of a Musical" and "Best Original Score". SCT's all ages holiday production stars **Auston James** as Frog and **MJ Sieber** as Toad, both last seen in SCT's *Lyle the Crocodile*. Rounding

out the cast is **Christian Duhamel** (*Perô*), **Jennifer Sue Johnson** (*Perô*) and **Vickielee Wohlbach** (*Go, Dog. Go!*).

The cast is supported by an outstanding production team led by Choreographer **Marianne Roberts**, Music Director **Mark Rabe**, Set Designer **Edie Whitsett**, Costume Designer **Deborah Trout**, Lighting Designer **Geoff Korf**, and Sound Designer **Chris R. Walker**.

The sets in this production will be enhanced from the version SCT did in 2004/2005. “I took on the challenge of re-thinking a past design and imagining it differently,” says Set Designer **Edie Whitsett**. “We made everything a stronger complement to the seasons.” Accordingly, Costume Designer **Deborah Trout**’s biggest decision for the costumes was how much of an “animal look” should be portrayed. “Arnold Lobel’s sweet drawings show animals wearing human clothes. Our play has human actors playing animal characters, but with very human personalities,” says Trout. “We wanted something different, so we decided to suggest animal-ness without creating actual animals.”

A Year with Frog and Toad will be presented in SCT’s Charlotte Martin Theatre from November 17, 2011 through January 15, 2012. Seattle Children’s Theatre is located at 201 Thomas Street, under the Space Needle at Seattle Center. Tickets for *A Year with Frog and Toad* are \$20 to \$36 and may be purchased by calling the SCT Ticket Office at 206.441.3322 or by visiting www.sct.org. *A Year with Frog and Toad* is a holiday musical recommended for the whole family.

Seattle Children’s Theatre would like to thank show sponsor **US Bank** 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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FROG TOAD and

Music by Robert Reale • Book and Lyrics by Willie Reale
Based on the books by Arnold Lobel
Originally presented on Broadway by Bob Boyett, Adrienne Lobel,
Michael Gardner, Lawrence Horowitz and Roy Furman
Presented through special permission with MTI
Directed by Rita Giomi

- WHAT:** A laugh out loud, holiday Broadway musical for the whole family!
- WHERE:** Seattle Children's Theatre's Charlotte Martin Theatre
201 Thomas Street, Seattle (Seattle Center)
- WHEN:** Public Preview - November 17, 2011 at 7pm
Opening Night Performance - November 18, 2011 at 7pm
Public Performances - November 18, 2011 through January 15, 2012
(Thursday-Friday at 7pm, Saturdays at 5:30pm with matinees at 2pm, Sunday matinees at 11am
and 2:30pm - please check the website or call the SCT Ticket Office for schedule)
ASL-interpreted Performance - December 10, 2011 at 2:00 pm
- TICKETS:** Tickets are \$20-\$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.
- WHO:** *A Year with Frog and Toad* is an all ages holiday musical recommended for the whole
family.
- INFO:** Eternally optimistic Frog and perpetually conservative Toad adventure through the seasons in this
Broadway musical. The friends plant flowers, swim, enjoy Christmas Eve and simply celebrate the
little things in life. Ordinary events become delightfully humorous escapades as a sled ride instills
the range of emotions from trepidation to comic terror and a snail trudges through snow with the
most elongated mail delivery. This friendship triumphs through challenges and sends a heart-
warming holiday message to the whole family.