

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

May 1, 2024

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**SCT Press Room**



**SEATTLE CHILDREN'S THEATRE CELEBRATES HISTORIC 50<sup>th</sup> SEASON AND ANNOUNCES  
NEW SHOWS FOR 2024-2025!**

(Seattle, Wash.) Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) announces their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season! The 24-25 season will feature six shows focusing on epic journeys through the past, the present, and possible future. Strong themes lead this season with emphasis on the cycles of life, cultural and regional diversity, stories all around us, and tales centering youth and female representation. This season features presented works, community partnerships, and a digital production.

"From the healing salts of Hawaii to the stoops of Harlem, our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season blends original works with contemporary adaptations that invite dreamers of all ages to remember, reflect, and imagine" – SCT Artistic Director, Idris Goodwin

Starting the season strong, the wildly popular world of **Dav Pilkey** returns to the SCT Stage with **Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical**.

Cat Kid and Molly Pollywog have started an epic club to teach 21 rambunctious baby frogs how to make their own comics! The much-awaited sequel to last season's *Dog Man: The Musical*, this show is fast moving, colorful, and fun for the whole family! Will the club survive? Will the frogs ever get along? And will creativity finally save the day? All will be answered in this madcap musical based on Dav Pilkey's irreverently hilarious book series.

Next up, SCT is excited to welcome back **Paige Hernandez** along with her inspired one-woman dance party tour de force, **Havana Hop**. A children's tale of culture and confidence, this piece was originally commissioned for Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning, then developed by Playhouse Square before visiting SCT in 2023. While in residence, SCT is excited to partner with The Seattle Opera for a special one only concert performance of Paige's Libretto *Stomping Grounds*.

More information will be available as SCT's 24-25 season approaches.

Come meet young Yeila who visits her grandmother in Cuba to add a salsa flavor to her own hip-hop style! The audience gets to dance along in this dynamic participation play where one actress creates three generations of lively women. Journey with Yeila as she discovers her multi-cultural heritage.

**Paige Hernandez** is a multidisciplinary creative, critically acclaimed as a performer, director, choreographer, and playwright. Originally from Baltimore, Paige has taught arts education throughout the USA to all ages in several art disciplines. She has collaborated with the Lincoln Center and has been commissioned by several companies including the National New Play Network, the Smithsonian, The Kennedy Center, La Jolla Playhouse, and the Glimmerglass Festival. With her company, B-FLY ENTERTAINMENT, Paige continues to develop and tour original work internationally.

**SCT's The Snow Queen**, a remarkable adaptation of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen story by NYC-based playwright Matt Opatrny, will round out the holiday season in November and December.

When their friend Kai is taken by the Snow Queen, who lives in a world of ice and snow, Gerda is determined to embark on an unforgettable adventure where flowers sing, animals talk, and riddles yearn to be revealed. This script was readied for a staged reading during 2023 as part of a collaboration between **SCT**, **Western Washington University**, and **National Nordic Museum**. The workshop was well-attended, and the show quickly became a top contender for SCT's 24-25 season.

Helmed by Associate Artistic Director, **Johamy Morales**, the show features an adapted script from its original New York premiere and has had additional changes made for the upcoming season. Morales has been SCT's Associate Artistic Director since 2023, after years of dedication in other roles at the theatre. She is excited to be involved as Director for *The Snow Queen* after most recently Directing *Luchadora!* at SCT in 2024. She is a 20-year veteran of Theatre for Young Audiences and is dedicated to producing new works, community engagement, and social justice through the arts.

Starting 2025 off is a partnership with the **From-Home Fest** to present Eric Coble's ***The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus***. SCT invites audiences to join them for a **digital production** of *The Girl Who Swallowed A Cactus*, **performed live on Zoom** by Tia Shearer Bassett.

School is out for the summer, the weather is hot and the boredom is heavy. But 8-year-old Sheila and her pack of pals aren't going to let the summer heat wear them down. A unique twist on traditional storytelling, where a bit of moonlight brings a menagerie of found objects to life, this original play shows the power of memory and imagination.

**Tia Shearer Bassett** is a freelance actor and theatre-maker with over 20 years' experience performing for all ages, specializing in multi-character roles. Shearer Bassett is a proud company member of **Only Make Believe**, performing in children's both hospitals and special education programs.

Continuing strong, we visit Harlem with Gloria Bond Cunie's spirited adaptation, ***The Hula Hoopin' Queen***, during February 2025. "Around and around the hoops went that day. Circles connecting a community." Three Harlem girls vie for the crown of Hula Hoopin' Queen, encouraged and mentored by the community elders. A sweet, funny, and energetic slice of life reminder of the essential loops that bind our communities.

For the final show of the 24-25 season, SCT introduces young audiences and families to native Hawaiian traditions around the cultivation of pa'akai (salt) with ***The Pa'akai We Bring***. Proudly presenting the Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY), this one-of-a-kind performance has toured and wowed audiences coast to coast. SCT is thrilled to share with the Pacific Northwest. Traditionally, pa'akai has many uses: as food, as medicine, as a sacrament, and as a treasured gift. The piece follows multiple generations of salt farmers on Kauai, mixing ancient stories, hula, live music, original songs, and plenty of audience participation into a tasty potluck of performance, joyously served up with aloha!

Founded in 1955, **Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY)** is one of the oldest and most respected children's theatres in the country. HTY produces professional theatre and drama education programs that make a difference in the lives of young people, families, and educators in the state of Hawai'i. Originally from the island of Maui, Creator and Director, **Moses Goods** has traveled nationally and internationally performing his original work to a wide range of audiences. His body of work ranges

from full-length plays to theatrical storytelling pieces, most of which are strongly rooted in Native Hawaiian culture.

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**SCT expresses gratitude for a \$652,000 grant over the next two years from the **Paul G. Allen Family Foundation** to fund the One&Five program.**

As the world emerged from the pandemic with a heightened awareness of the inequities facing young people everywhere, SCT established the **One&Five** initiative providing free tickets to Seattle Public School 1st and 5th grade students, to expand access to more students and invite classrooms to return to see live theatre. A field trip to SCT is many young people's first live arts experience, which has been proven to translate to expanded perspectives, greater learning, and increased hope for the future

During their 2022-23 Season, SCT's One&Five program provided free tickets to 2,987 students at 30 Seattle Public Schools, which is 37% of the eligible students enrolled last school year.

Paul G. Allen Family Foundation's generous grant allows SCT to expand this program for the next two seasons. With this funding, we will be able to reach more SPS first and fifth grade students by paying for bus transportation, further removing barriers to access. SCT is also excited to offer One&Five participants free Dramatic Connections workshops, which are in-school experiences that foster curiosity and deepen students' understanding of what they see on SCT's stage during their field trip.

"We've set a goal to reach every First and Fifth Grader in the Seattle Public School system so that more children may experience the benefits of an SCT performance,"  
said Lynne Conrad Marvett, SCT's Director of Development.

**With their 24-25 Season, Seattle Children's Theatre celebrates its 50 Year Anniversary!**

Founded in 1975, Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) came about during a period when the theatre scene for young people was virtually nonexistent. With the support of local teachers and graduate students, The Woodland Park Zoo (known at the time as "Woodland Park Children's Zoo") joined forces with the City of Seattle's fundraising arm, PONCHO (Patrons of Northwest Civic, Cultural and Charitable Organizations), to build the Poncho Theatre, located on the grounds of the Zoo. After some success, the group changed its name to Seattle Children's Theatre and moved to the current location on Seattle Center.

Over the past half-decade, Seattle Children's Theatre has grown to be one of the premiere Theatre for Youth (TYA) facilities in the country. By the end of 2024, SCT had produced over 280 plays, over 120 of which were world premieres, and the theatre has entertained, inspired, and educated over 4 million children.

SCT's Education Department has also been used as a model for theatres nationwide and continues to inspire and influence the TYA field. Education programs include camps and classes that occur at SCT, externally with our partners, in school classrooms, and within the larger Seattle community. SCT is a leading generator of new works, providing youth of all ages access to professional theater and theatre education. Under new initiatives, SCT for All provides low cost and free tickets to young people and families.

The 2024-2025 season is supported by generous contributions from season sponsors Microsoft, ArtsFund, and The Shubert Foundation, which will help the organization serve 130,000 annually and provide more than 60,000 free or significantly reduced tickets to children in the Puget Sound area.

Going forward, SCT continues to fulfill their goals of reaching as many youth in Seattle (and beyond) as possible, sending sincere gratitude to every child, audience member, actor, volunteer, production crew member, and good human who's contributed to this ongoing story. With this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, SCT is honored to celebrate five decades of good humans made here.

## **SCT's 24-25 Season**

### **Cat Kid Comic Club: The Musical**

**A TheaterWorksUSA Production**

Book and Lyrics by Kevin Del Aguila

Music by Brad Alexander

**9/26/24–10/27/24**

**Run time:** Approx. 60 Minutes, no intermission

**Recommended for ages 6+**

**Location:** Charolette Martin Theatre

**Themes:** Censorship, Mentorship, the power of the imagination, communities creating together

### **Havana Hop**

Written and Performed by Paige Hernandez

Directed by Danielle Drakes

**10/16/24–11/16/24**

**Run time:** Approx. 60 minutes with no intermission

**Recommended for ages 2+**

**Location:** Eve Alvord Theatre

**Themes:** Hip-Hop Culture, Cuban Culture, Multi-generational Relationships, Overcoming Fear, Building Confidence, Bi-lingual Storytelling (English/Spanish)

### **SCT's The Snow Queen**

Adapted by Matt Opatrny, based on *The Snow Queen* by Hans Christian Andersen

Directed by Johamy Morales

**11/27/24–1/5/25**

**Run time:** Approx. 80 minutes, no intermission

**Recommended for ages 6+**

**Location:** Charlotte Martin Theatre

**Themes explored:** Adventure, Confidence, Friendship, Love, Grief

### **The Girl Who Swallowed A Cactus**

A From-Home Fest Production presented by SCT

Written by Eric Coble

Performed by Tia Shearer Bassett

Directed by Matt Bassett

**1/9/25–1/26/25**

**Run time:** Approx. 55 minutes with no intermission

**Recommended for Ages 7+**

**Location:** A live, digital production (with some interaction) on Zoom

**Themes:** Harmony with animals, Environmental Stewardship, Creativity, Innovation, Curiosity

## ***The Hula Hoopin' Queen***

Adapted by Gloria Bond Cunie, from the book by Thelma Lynn Godin

Directed by Jacole Kitchen

**2/12/25–3/9/25**

**Run time:** Approx. 60 minutes, no intermission

**Recommended for ages 5+**

**Location:** Charlotte Martin Theatre

**Themes:** Hoops from cultures around the world, making mistakes, personal and community responsibility, understanding each other, intergenerational knowledge

## ***The Pa'akai We Bring***

Created by Moses Goods and the **Honolulu Theatre for Youth Ensemble**

Directed by Moses Goods

**5/7/25–6/1/25**

**Run time:** Approx. 60 minutes, no intermission

**Recommended for Ages 7+**

**Location:** Eve Alvord Theatre

**Themes:** Native Hawaiian Culture and History, Ensemble-based theater, preserving stories for future generations