

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 7, 2023

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**Seattle Children's Theatre produces staged reading of *The Snow Queen*
with National Nordic Museum and Western Washington University**

(Seattle, Wash.) SEATTLE – November 6, 2023 – **Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT)** announces a staged reading of *The Snow Queen* by Matt Opatrny. This one-day, West Coast world-premiere event takes place **December 3, 2023 at 6:30pm at National Nordic Museum** (2655 NW Market Street; Seattle, WA 98107) and runs approximately 90 minutes with no intermission. When Gerda's best friend, Kai, is taken by the Snow Queen, she is determined to rescue him. She embarks on an unforgettable adventure where flowers sing, animals talk, and riddles yearn to be solved. Will Gerda's love and grief save her best friend Kai before he is trapped forever in the Snow Queen's palace? Join us in this courageous and whimsical story of grief, human connection and belonging.

"The Snow Queen is an important story about grief, love, courage and friendship. I deeply connect with Gerda's story as it centers the process of grief and healing for a young person. Unfortunately, in my experience, adults don't always talk about this emotion with young people. I think we miss a tremendous opportunity to prepare and empower young minds through the lessons we learn about ourselves in these challenging moments. My hope is this magical adventure provides our audiences an opportunity to connect and find comfort with those we love."

– Johamy Morales, SCT Associate Artistic Director

The Snow Queen originally premiered in New York in 2018 at the Blessed Unrest Theatre, but playwright Matt Opatrny still felt there was more to do with this story. In 2023, the SCT + Western Washington University (WWU) Test Kitchen partnership began as the first phase of workshopping this script. WWU Theatre Department Chair, Rich Brown and his students collaborated through this workshop process alongside Matt Opatrny, and SCT Associate Artistic Director, Johamy Morales. With the driving philosophy of "we go further together", the group's goals were to maximize opportunities for artistic and intellectual discovery by fully embracing the collaborative nature of live theatre. When the team began seeking a venue for this staged reading, SCT found a partner in The National Nordic Museum (NNM). Themes, location, and characters in *The Snow Queen* are of Nordic origin, making it an honor to partner with NNM, whose goals include "...celebrating Nordic life, art, and culture, from the past to the present."

Audiences may recognize the core story of *The Snow Queen* from its relationship to the hit Disney movie musical, "Frozen." Says Morales "This is the story that inspired Frozen, but we want to be clear that this is SCT's unique take on the classic tale, exploring themes of grief and friendship." Playwright Matt Opatrny took inspiration from the classic Hans Christian Anderson tale, but the collaboration between these three organizations will help finalize the script that is read on December 3, 2023.

The cast and creative team working on this production are all local to Seattle area and audiences may recognize many of these professional actors from previous SCT shows.

Joining Morales and Rich Brown on stage is Teague Parker, an actor, improviser, teaching artist, and WWU graduate who has brought his talents to SCT on the stage and in education offerings.

Completing the ensemble of actors are Angelica McMillan, Porscha Shaw, Andy Walker, and Khanh Doan, most of whom have a history on SCT stages.

SCT Artistic Director Idris Goodwin notes that this staged reading is a sneak peek of sorts for SCT, as *The Snow Queen* is a top contender for SCT's 50th Season in 2024-2025. "*The Snow Queen* is a story of connection to others, of grief, and of good vs evil. These themes represent the type of crucial conversations theatre can help create between youth and the adults who guide them. And it might fit very nicely into our 2024-2025 season. Stay tuned," **said Goodwin.**

Cast & Creative:

Johamy Morales – **Director**

Matt Opatrny – **Playwright**

Ensemble of Actors:

Teague Parker

Rich Brown

Angelica McMillan

Porscha Shaw

Andy Walker

Khanh Doan

For Calendar Editors:

What: *The Snow Queen* by Matt Opatrny | **Staged Reading**

Where: Osberg Great Hall - National Nordic Museum | 2655 NW Market Street; Seattle, WA 98107

When: December 3, 2023 | 6:30pm

Cost: Free with registration

Tickets & Registration: nordicmuseum.org/events/the-snow-queen-workshop-reading

About National Nordic Museum:

The National Nordic Museum shares Nordic culture, values, and ideas with people of all ages and backgrounds to create connections, generate dialogue, and inspire new perspectives. Founded in 1979, the National Nordic Museum is the only institution of its size and scale in the United States to present the history and culture of the entire Nordic region (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the regions of the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Åland, and the cultural region of Sápmi) and the legacy of Nordic immigrants to the United States. Located along Seattle's working waterfront in an iconic building that embodies Nordic design, the institution is both a museum and a community gathering place. NordicMuseum.org

About SCT:

Since 1975, SCT has been a leading generator of new works, aiming to provide 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. In addition, every first and fifth grade classroom in Seattle Public Schools can receive free tickets under **One&Five**. Learn more information about both of these programs at sct.org. The 2023-2024 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.

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