

Press Release: Sept 4, 2015

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S

We are in a Play!



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*Our mission—
to educate, entertain
and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Associate Artistic Director
John Ellingson

Education Director
Leigh Mallonee

NW Children's Theater Launches 2015-2016 Season of Plays with *Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*

NWCT's 23rd Season kicks off with beloved children's book characters Elephant & Piggie! Based on author Mo Willem's popular book series of the same name, Gerald the Elephant and Piggie the Pig take to the stage and explore what it means to be "bestus friends!"

Perfect for first-time theater-goers, this upbeat musical tale explores the rollicking world of friendship and adventure through the eyes of Gerald the Elephant (John Ellingson) & Piggie (Joellen Sweeney). On a day when anything is possible, Dog (Nate Foland) drops by with an invitation to a party from The Squirrelles (Anabel Cantor, Michaela Warren, and Georgia Welch). But what does one wear to a party? Is it a fancy party? A pool party? A costume party? Gerald knows – Gerald knows parties.

Elephant & Piggie is the second Mo Willem's story to appear on NWCT's stage, following 2009's *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*. Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy creates the world of Elephant & Piggie atop a playful set designed by award-winning scenic designer John Ellingson. The storyline weaves in and out of eight of Willem's books, including *Elephants Cannot Dance*, *I Love My New Toy*, and *Should I Share My Ice Cream?*, set to music by Deborah Wicks La Puma with music direction by Ezra Weiss.

NWCT's 2015-16 season follows a record-breaking, award-winning 22nd Season. Boasting three sell-out productions, last season saw unprecedented recognition for the Children's Theater in the form of nine Portland Area Musical Theater Awards (PAMTAs) and seven Drammy Awards, including Best Production of a Musical, Best Director, as well as awards for Costume and Design. NWCT's 23rd season promises to delight families with stories of familiar friends, fantastical adventure, and the return of two of NWCT's most popular original productions.

Elephant & Piggie also features the first of four NWCT Sensory Friendly Performances for this season. Featuring shorter run-times, no intermission, reduced or removed lighting and sound cues, and the constant presence of house lights, these performances are specially designed for children on the autism spectrum or with other sensory sensitivities. These performances are accompanied by a unique Social Story to help guide families through the entire theater experience from parking lot to the final bows.

NWCT's 2015-16 Season offers four Sensory Friendly Performances free of charge (one each for *Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!"*, *The Sun Serpent*, *Alice in Wonderland*, and *Snow White*) thanks to generous funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Jackson Foundation, and NWCT Donor Circle Members.

Elephant & Piggie is produced in part through the support of the Collins Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art, Kafoury & McDougal, Schwabe, Williamson, & Wyatt, the Oregon Arts Commission, and NWCT Donor Circle Members. More than 5,000 school children will play along with Gerald and Piggie during twelve student matinee performances.

SAT & SUN 10 am & 1 pm
SEPT 26, 27
OCT 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18*, 24, 25

*Sensory Friendly Performance

TICKETS & INFORMATION
503-222-4480 • NWCTS.ORG
SEASON SUBSCRIBER DISCOUNTS!

Release Date
Sept 4, 2015

End Date
Oct 25, 2015

Media Contact
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