

Madeline and the Gypsies

from the book by Ludwig Bemelmans, adapted by Barry Kornhauser,
composed by Michael Koerner

“In an old house in Paris that is covered in vines...

NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

NW Neighborhood
Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street
Suite 216
Portland, OR 97209-2189

phone: 503-222-4480
fax: 503-222-4130
www.nwcts.org

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

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Education Director
Carolyn Newsom

Volunteer Director
Diane Carlson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date
April 9, 2010
Kill Date
May 24, 2010

Media Contact

To set up interviews
or discuss other
possibilities for feature
stories, please contact:

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...live twelve little girls in two straight lines.” Until the circus comes to town! From acrobats and clowns to strongmen and trained seals, adventures abound when the daring Madeline and her friend Pepito join a gypsy circus in a big top extravaganza. *Ooh, la la!*

Ludwig Bemelman’s iconic imagery and NWCT come together on stage in an enticing blend of creative storytelling, with a hint of French ‘je ne sais quoi’! As in the book, the star of the show is the mischievous Madeline, who runs off to the circus with her friend Pepito, the son of the Spanish ambassador. Much to Miss Clavel’s dismay, their adventure takes them behind-the-scenes of a traveling gypsy circus with clowns, acrobats, dancers, trained animals and a host of familiar circus characters. Inspired tunes that are ‘trés français’ and traditional European circus music create a pastiche of Parisian sites and sounds, an irresistible world for Madeline to explore, far beyond her beloved Paris.

Madeline stars NWCT veteran youth performer Madison Wray in the title role of Madeline. Maddy is a Portland favorite; she starred in Portland Center Stage productions of *A Christmas Carol* as Tiny Tim, and brings Madeline to life with a delightful whimsy. She is joined on stage by NWCT Artist in Residence John Ellingson (previously seen as a persistent Pigeon) whose hilariously captivating performance skills are once again brought to the NWCT stage as a silent clown.

In keeping with NWCT’s unique style, adult and youth actors share the stage, with Genevieve Andersen (*Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*) as Gypsy Mama, and Judy Straalund as Miss Clavel. There is a chorus of twelve little girls in two straight lines, and a talented group of young performing artists as the gypsy circus. They are joined by live musicians, pianist Tracy Ross and violinist Mary Rowell.

Guest director Joel Morrello, an instructor at the Arts and Communications Magnet Academy in

Beaverton, leads the talented cast, with Tracy Ross as music director and Amelia Engen as choreographer. (Joel appeared himself on the NWCT stage as Lord Capulet in the 2007 production of *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*.) NWCT’s award-winning design team includes Jeff Seats (scenic design), Mary Rochon (costume design), Rody Ortega (sound design), Kristeen Willis-Crosser (light design) and Mina Kinukawa (props design).

Madeline and the Gypsies is sponsored by The Collins Foundation, Regional Arts & Culture Council/Work for Art, The Standard, the Oregon Arts Commission, Dennis Uniform and the NWCT Producers Guild, and is produced in partnership with L’Alliance Française de Portland. Approximately 4,000 school children will exclaim “*Oooh, la la!*” as Madeline somersaults through 12 student matinees.

WHEN

April 30-May 23, 2010
Fri at 7pm
Sat & Sun at noon & 4pm

WHERE

NW Neighborhood Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street, Portland

TICKETS

503-222-4480 or NWCTS.ORG

AGE RANGE

Most enjoyed by ages 5 and up

PRICES

\$18-22 adults
\$13-18 youth (14 & under)

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PHOTOS

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high resolution photos online at:
<http://nwcts.org/html/press.html>

(Character) actor names from left to right:

0220b

(silent clown) John Ellingson, (Madeline)
Madison Wray and (gypsy dancer) Kylie
DeHaven in NWCT's *Madeline and the Gypsies*.

#0267

(silent clown) John Ellingson and (Madeline)
Madison Wray in NWCT's *Madeline and the
Gypsies*.

0273b

(gypsy dancer) Kylie DeHaven and (Madeline)
Madison Wray in NWCT's *Madeline and the
Gypsies*.

0279

(silent clown) John Ellingson, (Madeline)
Madison Wray and (gypsy dancer) Kylie
DeHaven in NWCT's *Madeline and the Gypsies*.

0348b

(silent clown) John Ellingson and (Madeline)
Madison Wray in NWCT's *Madeline and the
Gypsies*.

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