

# Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

*from the book by Mo Williams, adapted by Sarah Jane Hardy and John Ellingson  
music and lyrics by Ezra Weiss*

*"Hey, can I drive the bus? Please...? COME ON!"*

## 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

**Updated Release Date**  
March 22, 2010  
**Kill Date**  
April 5, 2010

### Media Contact

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

Marri-Beth Serritella  
Sucha Production, Inc.  
503-528-1370  
mb@suchaproduction.com

Finally, a play you can say “no” to! When a bus driver takes a break from his route, a wheeling-and-dealing pigeon begs to take his place. This popular book takes flight as audiences get on the bus and move to a Latin groove in this original musical about a little bird with BIG dreams. NWCT World Premiere!

Mo Willem’s smash hit children’s picture book is given the star-treatment in this musical adaptation for the stage. With an inspired score full of Latin big band music and clever lyrics, Mo’s preschool fans and their families will be delighted songs like “Cousin Herb” and “Let Me Drive the Bus!” The book’s transformation from page to stage retains the charming simplicity of Mo’s illustrations and story, with each page presenting an opportunity for a scene, a song, a game or a gag.

As in the book, the star of the show is the Pigeon, with a playful character developed and performed by NWCT Artist in Residence John Ellingson. As one of Portland theater’s most beloved performers, John is recognized by NWCT’s young audiences everywhere he goes, and while John’s performances on the NWCT stage are too numerous to list, some audience favorites have been Catjack in the recent *Pinocchio*, the Mad Hatter in *Alice in Wonderland* and, of course, MC Dog in the critically-acclaimed smash hit *Go, Dog. Go!*

John is joined on stage by Erik James and Genevieve Anderson, who play The Bus Driver and Mom, in addition to other roles. A chorus of young performers, most of whom have engaged in professional training by NWCT, portray a variety of supporting roles.

Mo’s delightfully simple world is realized on stage by scenic designer Jeff Seats through a series of colorful panels and oversized set pieces. The Pigeon’s world is alternately to scale and supersized depending on the Pigeon’s point of view, and NWCT Artistic Director Sarah Jane Hardy directs. The show is composed by the acclaimed Ezra Weiss, whose jazz adaptation of *Alice in Wonderland* was a Top Ten Cast Album of 2009 on Talkin’ Broadway.

Hardy’s all star production team includes award-winning NWCT costume designer Mary Rochon, props master Mina Kinukawa, lights by Jeff Forbes, and sound design by Rody Ortega.

This original world premiere adaptation of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* continues NWCT’s artistic commitment to creating original work for the stage for the children, students and families of Oregon, SW Washington and beyond. Approximately 4,000 school children will say ‘NO!’ to the Pigeon in 10 student matinees.

*Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* is sponsored by The Collins Foundation, Regional Arts & Culture Council/Work for Art, The Standard, the Oregon Arts Commission and the NWCT Producers Guild and is most enjoyed by ages 4 & up.

### WHEN

March 20-April 4, 2010  
Sat-Sun at 12 & 3 pm  
Special Spring Break shows:  
Mar 23-26 at 12 & 3 pm

### WHERE

NW Neighborhood Cultural Center  
1819 NW Everett Street, Portland

### TICKETS

503-222-4480 or NWCTS.ORG

### AGE RANGE

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### PRICES

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## PHOTOS

1) photo credit: ©2010 Annaliese Moyer

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

# 28, 37, 52, 69, 75, 104, 110,  
114, 115, 117, 121, 128, 149

(The Pigeon) John Ellingson in NWCT's world  
premiere of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

2) photo credit: ©2010 David Kinder

(Character) actor names from left to right:

# 0877

Ensemble members (yellow) Emily Bryan,  
(orange) Grover Hollway interact with (The  
Pigeon) John Ellingson in NWCT's world  
premiere of *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*

# 1232

(The Pigeon) John Ellingson and (Mom)  
Genevieve Anderson in NWCT's...

# 1270

"Please can I drive the bus?!" (The Pigeon) John  
Ellingson in NWCT's...

# 1318

Ensemble (purple) Leona Kindermann, (blue)  
Genevieve Anderson, (pink) Natalie Rose Ann  
Hovee, and (yellow) Emily Bryan in NWCT's...

# 1739

(Pink) Natalie Rose Ann Hovee, (orange) Grover  
Hollway, (The Pigeon) John Ellingson, (purple)  
Leona Kindermann, (blue) Genevieve Anderson,  
in NWCT's...

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# 1819

(The Pigeon) John Ellingson, (blue) Reed  
Sturtevant, (pink) Natalie Rose Ann Hovee in  
NWCT's world premiere of *Don't Let the Pigeon  
Drive the Bus!*

# 1846

(The Pigeon) John Ellingson hosts a game  
show—one of the ways audience members  
participate in NWCT's...

# 1949

(Green) Bryan Kinder, (pink) Natalie Rose  
Ann Hovee, (The Pigeon) John Ellingson,  
(blue) Genevieve Anderson and (orange) Grover  
Hollway in NWCT's world premiere of *Don't Let  
the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*