

WAVE WAVE

PRESS RELEASE

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Northwest Children's Theater and School Presents

EL **ZORRITO**
THE LEGEND OF THE BOY ZORRO
May 4 - 27, 2012

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 Carlsen

“En un mundo sin reglas”: in a world without rules,
“en un pueblo sin esperanza”: in a town without
hope, “un niño escucha la llamada de un héroe”: one
boy heeds the hero’s call! Come celebrate our first
bilingual adventure story about integrity, justice and
the creation of a legend. An NWCT World Premiere!

In the newly-formed state of California, young
Diego de la Vega (Michael Kepler Meo) must take up
his father’s sword to defend the town of Capistrano
from the machinations of its tyrannical Mayor
Ramon (John Ellingson). With the aid of his stalwart,
but silent side-kick Bernardo (Kevin-Michael
Moore) Diego becomes “El Zorrillo”, a masked
swordsmen who thwarts Mayor Ramon’s schemes
at every turn. Ramon, frustrated by his henchman
Claude’s (Duane Hall) bumbling attempts to capture
Zorrillo, hires a mysterious warrior from Spain
named only “The Beserker”(Paul Susi). Faced with
this new foe, as well as a budding romance with the
Mayor’s daughter Christina (Sophie Keller), young
Zorrillo may have finally met his match.

The legend of Zorro has been thrilling children
and their parents since 1919 when creator Johnston
McCulley penned a five-part serial “The Curse
of Capistrano.” Since then, Zorro has inspired 45
film adaptations as well as the famous television
series. He remains one of the all-time great iconic
heroes with his signature black mask, cape and
sombbrero cordobés, fighting for truth and justice
while making his foes look foolish in the process.

In adapting this story for the stage writer
Milo Mowery and composer Rodolfo Ortega are
committed to offering an authentic, bilingual
experience. This world premiere production offers
a story that can be enjoyed in both Spanish and
English while drawing heavily upon contemporary
musical theater, traditional Mexican folk-dance,
and Zorro’s trademark flashy swordplay. As both
composer and sound designer, Ortega focused on
creating a score that starts out with a contemporary
feel and slowly transitions to a more traditional folk-
loric sound.

The key to any production of Zorro is the man
behind the mask. In the case of *El Zorrillo*, Northwest
Children’s Theater was incredibly fortunate to find
Michael Kepler Meo. Since his professional debut in
2009, Meo has performed as a principal singer in
eight fully-staged opera productions which include
companies in Portland, Houston, St. Louis, Wexford
(Ireland), Los Angeles, and New York. At the age of
thirteen he has been selected as one of Portland’s
outstanding young musicians by maestro Neil
Deponte’s MetroArts Inc. With a history of opera,
swordplay (he is a member of the Society for Creative
Anachronism), and a fluency in Spanish, Michael
was the perfect fit for the infamous “Masked Fox”.

Zorrillo is aided on his quest by his mother,
Esperanza (Veronika Nuñez). As the Senior

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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Release Date
April 12, 2012
Kill Date
May 28, 2012

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

WHEN

May 4-27, 2012

Shows at:

Fri. 7 pm

Sat. 2 & 6 pm

Sun. 2 pm

WHERE

**NW Neighborhood Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street, Portland**

TICKETS

503-222-4480 or NWCTS.ORG

AGE RANGE

Most enjoyed by ages 6 and up

PRICES

\$18-22 adults

\$13-18 youth (14 & under)

INFO

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Bilingual Exhibits Developer at OMSI, and a frequent performer at the Miracle Theatre Group, Veronika is very excited to try her hand at swordplay and Spanish-language musical theater at NWCT. When Zorrito is threatened by the arrival of “The Berserker” Esperanza dons a mask of her own, rallying a chorus of villagers (played by Alberto Romero, Arion Abramovitz, Elizabeth Gibbs, Madison Thompson, Miriam Jaffe, and Pablo Saldana) to rise up and stand by her son’s side.

A clever, expandable set by kollodi brings the town of Captistrano alive, as the simple walls of a study stretch out to become the dramatic arches of the town square where Zorrito makes his stand. Award-winning costume designer Mary Rochon returns with a design that pays homage to these legendary icons while making the young Diego’s classic black garb her own. Dramatic lighting by Jeff Forbes and props by Roger Monroe flesh out a town under siege, and arm the young noble who comes to their rescue.

El Zorrito: The Legend of the Boy Zorro is presented with a generous sponsorship from Kafoury & McDougal, Lawyers for the People. It is produced in part through the support of the Collins Foundation, Regional Arts and Culture Council and Work for Art, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, and NWCT Donor Circle Members. Over 5,000 school children will cheer Zorrito on during 13 student matinee performances.

PHOTO CREDIT:
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high resolution photos online at:

<http://nwcts.org/content/press-photos>

All Photos

(Diego: El Zorrito) Michael Kepler Meo in the world premiere of Northwest Children’s Theater and School’s *El Zorrito: The Legend of the Boy Zorro*.

VIDEO CLIP

Michael Kepler Meo performing:
[“Zorrito, He Is Me”](#) from *El Zorrito: The Legend of the Boy Zorro*. Michael dazzles during a studio recording session for the Original Cast Recording of *El Zorrito*. Music by Rodolfo Ortega, Lyrics by Milo Mowery and Rodolfo Ortega.

SONG CLIPS

Excerpt from:
[“El Zorrito”](#) (:41 mp3)
[“Zorrito, He Is Me”](#) (1:18 mp3).
Music by Rodolfo Ortega, Lyrics by Milo Mowery and Rodolfo Ortega. Performed by Michael Kepler Meo.

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