

## RAMONA QUIMBY

*Ramona Quimby*, Theatreworks/USA's play based on the best-selling books by Beverly Cleary, will be playing at \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, under the auspices of \_\_\_\_\_.

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Hold onto your hats as you follow the latest breathless adventure of the world's most animated elementary school student. *Ramona*, the exasperating but lovable third-grader brought to life over the last 40 years in the books of Newbery Award-winning writer Beverly Cleary, comes to life on the stage in TheatreworksUSA's *Ramona Quimby*.

While intended to tickle the funny bone, the play also incorporates issues that touch on the lives of real families. *Ramona's* life is a mess! Her teacher hates her, older sister Beezus is a pain. Aunt Bea may marry a dork, and Dad just lost his job. Life is no picnic, and growing up isn't easy. But with the help of her loving and patient family and friends, *Ramona* takes on life's daily challenges -- as audiences laugh and cheer her on.

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*Ramona Quimby* is based on the best-selling Newbery Medal winning series of books by **Beverly Cleary** and is adapted by Obie-winning playwright **Len Jenkin**. The incidental music score is by **Daniel Messé** (TheatreworksUSA's *The Mystery of King Tut*, *Black Beauty*). The production is directed by Theatreworks veteran **Rob Barron** (*Mike Mulligan & His Steam Shovel*, *Charlotte's Web*, director/adaptor of *Romeo & Juliet*). The scenic design is by **John Farrell**, and the costume design is by **Anne-Marie Wright**. This 60-minute play is recommended for audiences age 6 and up.

*Ramona Quimby* began its national tour in fall 1998. This show is able, as are all TheatreworksUSA productions, to play a wide range of venues, from large Broadway-sized performing arts centers in major metropolitan areas, to elementary school cafeterias in small towns.

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The six actors and stage manager in **Ramona Quimby** rehearsed for two weeks in New York City with the director. Once the tour begins, the actors and stage manager typically arrive at the performance venue early in the morning to set up the scenery and to prepare for the performance. Following the show, they pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment into two large vans, and drive to the next city, sleep in a hotel, and begin the whole ritual again the following day.

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**TheatreworksUSA** has a distinguished history of not only providing young audiences with their first taste of the performing arts, but also giving young actors, writers, directors, and designers an early opportunity to work in this field. A list of TheatreworksUSA alumni reads like a veritable "who's who" of theatre: four-time Tony-winning director Jerry Zaks, Robert Jess Roth (*Beauty and the Beast*), Michael Mayer (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane (TV's "Friends"), Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*), Larry O'Keefe (*Bat Boy*), Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (*Avenue Q*); and Tony-winning actors Roger Bart, Chuck Cooper, and John Glover. Esteemed performers F. Murray Abraham, Henry Winkler, and Judy Kuhn also got their start with Theatreworks, and other actors have gone on to originate lead roles in such Broadway shows as *Hairspray*, *The Producers*, *Les Misérables*, *Rent*, *Urinetown*, and many others. The actors, writers, director, and designers of **Ramona Quimby** may also go on to similar success in musical theatre.

TheatreworksUSA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, TheatreworksUSA has enlightened, entertained, and instructed over 68 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about four million people annually. Every year, the company tours approximately 16 shows from its ever-growing repertoire of 110 plays and musicals. In addition, TheatreworksUSA also has an extensive multi-cultural guest artist roster, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets, and magicians. Under the direction of Barbara Pasternack (Artistic Director) and Ken Arthur (Managing Director), TheatreworksUSA is also one of the most honored theatres of its kind. It is the only children's theatre to receive both a Drama Desk and a Lucille Lortel Award. In addition, TheatreworksUSA was the recipient of a 2001 Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, and in May 2000, The Actors Fund of America bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull

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