



FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Theatreworks USA | 151 West 26th Street, New York, NY 10001 | 212.647.1100 ph | 212.924.5377 fax | www.twusa.org

THE LION, THE WITCH, & THE WARDROBE

The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe, Theatreworks USA's long-running musical based on the C.S. Lewis novel, will be playing at _____, on _____ at _____ o'clock, under the auspices of _____.

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This enchanting musical is based on C.S. Lewis' adventure story about four children of war-torn England, who accidentally enter the land of Narnia by climbing through a magic wardrobe. This strange and wondrous place is ruled by the cold-hearted White Witch, who makes the winter last year round. Although they seem unlikely saviors, the children fulfill an ancient prophecy by defeating the witch, thus restoring sunshine and peace to the spell-bound Narnia and returning the great Lion King Aslan to his throne.

This wondrous tale is faithfully translated to the stage in Theatreworks USA's *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*, which the authors adapted from their own full-length musical, *Narnia*. The longer work, performed in New York and London, was lavishly praised by critics and audiences alike. *The New York Times* said, "One is irresistibly drawn into the world of Narnia" and *The Daily News* called it "a deft musical adaptation... the score captures the spirit of the book with great cleverness and charm."

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The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe is a condensed version of the full-length musical *Narnia*, with book by **Jules Tascia**, music by **Thomas Tierney**, and lyrics by **Ted Drachman**. It is based on the book of the same name by C.S. Lewis, which is part of the 7-volume *Chronicles of Narnia* series. The production is directed by **John Henry Davis** (TV's "Oz," the film *Ordinary Sinner*) with choreography by **Janet Bogardus** and fight direction by **John Morgan**. The scenery is designed by Beowulf Boritt and the costumes are by **Anne-Marie Wright**. Orchestrations are by **Dave Hab**. This 60-minute musical is recommended for audiences age 6 and up.

(MORE...)

Theatreworks USA's story-theatre style adaptation of this show has been on tour since fall 1993. *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe* is able, as are all Theatreworks USA 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.

The five actors and stage manager in *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe* 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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Theatreworks USA 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 Theatreworks USA 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 John Lloyd Young, 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 *Avenue Q, Hairspray, Young Frankenstein, Rent, Wicked, Jersey Boys*, and many others. The actors, writers, director, choreographer, and designers of **The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe** may also go on to similar success in musical theatre.

Theatreworks USA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, Theatreworks USA 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, Theatreworks USA 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), Theatreworks USA 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, Theatreworks USA 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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