

IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE & OTHER STORY BOOKS

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books, a musical revue based on popular children's literature, will be performed at _____ on _____ at _____ o'clock under the auspices of _____.

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Eight delightful stories come to life in Theatreworks USA's musical revue *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books*. Performed by a multi-racial cast, the stories represent various issues, themes and ideas relevant to a broad and diverse audience of children. Books featured in the show include:

- **"AMAZING GRACE"** follows young Grace as she attempts to break stereotypes in an effort to play the title character in her school's production of Peter Pan. Based on Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman, adapted by Kirsten Childs (author of *The Bubbly Black Girl* and Kleban Award winner).
- **"BORREGUITA AND THE COYOTE"** is the classic Mexican tale of a little lamb, or borreguita, who uses her wits to escape a hungry coyote. Based on Borreguita and the Coyote by Verna Aardema, adapted by Robert J. Lopez and Jeffrey Marx (songwriters of the Best Musical Tony Award-winner *Avenue Q*).
- In **"IF YOU GIVE A MOUSE A COOKIE,"** a boy shares his snack with a hungry, demanding mouse, and learns a hilarious lesson about cause-and-effect. Based on If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Joffe Numeroff, adapted by Jeremy Desmon and Patrick Dwyer.
- In **"IMOGENE'S ANTLERS,"** young Imogene is delighted to wake up with "cool" antlers, but soon discovers that her parents and school principals do not share her enthusiasm. Based on Imogene's Antlers by David Small, adapted by Robert J. Lopez and Jeffrey Marx (songwriters of the Best Musical Tony Award-winner *Avenue Q*).
- **"MARTHA SPEAKS"** is the adventurous tale of a family dog who literally becomes *outspoken* after dining on alphabet soup. Based on Martha Speaks, by Susan Meddaugh, adapted by Arthur Perlman and Jeffrey Lunden (Gilman & Gonzalez-Falla and Jonathan Larson Foundation Award-winners).
- Based on a Nigerian tall tale, **"MASTER MAN"** concerns a man whose muscles are as big as his ego, who earns his comeuppance when he claims to be the strongest man in the world. Based on Master Man by Aaron Shepard, adapted by Jordan Allen-Dutton & Erik Weiner (*Bomb-itty of Errors*) and James-Allen Ford.
- **"MATH CURSE"** playfully addresses the phobia some kids have when tackling seemingly difficult math problems. Based on Math Curse by Jon Scieszka, adapted by Mindi Dickstein (lyricist of Broadway's *Little Women*) and Daniel Messé. Dickstein and Messé also wrote the revue's opening number, "Pick a Book."

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- "OWEN" just can't bear to part with his beloved blanket, Fuzzy – a problem, since he is about to start kindergarten. Owen's understanding mother provides a clever solution. Based on Owen by Kevin Henkes, adapted by Faye Greenberg and David Evans.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books is a revised version of *Reading Rainbow*, a previous Theatreworks USA musical revue. This revised production features the original revue's direction and choreography of **David Armstrong** (artistic director of Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre, the largest regional theatre in the northwest), plus additions by **Kevin Del Aguila** (librettist of Off-Broadway's *Altar Boyz*). For both the original and revised productions, the scenery was designed by **Rob Odoriso**, with costumes by **Martha Bromelmeier**. This 60-minute musical is recommended for ages 4 and up.

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An earlier version of this production, *Reading Rainbow*, premiered in July 2000 at the Danny Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College in New York City as Theatreworks USA's annual Free Summer Theatre attraction. The show then toured from fall 2000 through spring 2003. The show was later revised and retitled *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books*, and began touring again in fall 2005 and played at Off-Broadway's Lucille Lortel Theatre in summer 2006. *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books* 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 six actors and stage manager in *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books* rehearsed for two weeks in New York City with the director and choreographer. 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.

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 *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* 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 72 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 116 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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