



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

THE MYSTERY OF KING TUT

The Mystery of King Tut, Theatreworks USA's musical inspired by the discovery of King Tut's tomb, will be playing at _____, on _____ at _____ o'clock, under the auspices of _____.

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Theatreworks' new musical tells two exciting stories: that of Tutankhamen, the "boy king" who ruled Egypt in the 14th century B.C., and Howard Carter, the archeologist who made him famous by discovering his tomb in 1922. After ten years of searching, Carter finally succeeds in making one of the greatest finds in archeological history. As he attempts to unravel the mysteries of the tomb's hieroglyphs and artifacts, the suspenseful tale of Tut's own struggles against politics and betrayal emerges. Although Carter's success is bittersweet, as he struggles against rumors of "King Tut's curse" and governmental opposition, he perseveres to keep his dream, and the legacy of King Tut, alive.

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The two eras in *The Mystery of King Tut* are intertwined and brought to life by the creative team of bookwriter/lyricist **Mindi Dickstein** (lyrics for Broadway's *Little Women*) and **Daniel Messé** (incidental score for Theatreworks USA's *Ramona Quimby*). This Larsen Award-winning team previously collaborated on Theatreworks USA's *Black Beauty*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and contributed songs to *Reading Rainbow*. The production is directed by **Gordon Greenberg** (Off-Broadway's *Jacques Brel* and Theatreworks USA's *Cam Jansen*). The scenic design is by **Narelle Sissons**, and the costumes are by **Anne Kennedy**. This 60-minute musical is recommended for audiences age 7 and up.

After a brief NYC-area regional tour in spring 2001, *The Mystery of King Tut* began its national tour in fall 2001, and performed through spring 2004. The production was revived in fall 2007. *The Mystery of King Tut* 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.

(MORE...)

The six actors and stage manager in *The Mystery of King Tut* 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 (*Spring Awakening*); writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane (TV’s “Friends”), Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty (*Ragtime, Once on This Island*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*), Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin (*Legally Blonde*), 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, director, and designers of *The Mystery of King Tut* 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 American bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull

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