



**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

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## HENRY AND MUDGE

*Henry and Mudge*, TheatreworksUSA's new musical based on the best-selling children's books about a boy and his great big canine buddy written by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Suçie Stevenson, will be performed at

\_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at  
\_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, under the auspices of \_\_\_\_\_.

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Moving from the city to a new house in the country can be tough. Just ask Henry. He misses Annie, his cousin and best friend, and can't find a playmate in his new neighborhood. Luckily Mom and Dad buy him a great, big, slobbery dog – Mudge – with whom he can share all kinds of adventures. It looks like Henry and Mudge will be best friends forever, until Annie arrives for a visit. Will Annie come between a boy and his dog? Can a kid have two best friends?

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*Henry and Mudge* was adapted by bookwriter/lyricist **Kait Kerrigan** and composer/lyricist **Brian Lowdermilk** (*The Woman Upstairs*, Jonathan Larson Award-winners) and is based on the best-selling books by Cynthia Rylant, illustrated by Suçie Stevenson. The production is directed by **Peter Flynn** (Broadway concerts of *On the Twentieth Century*, *Chess*, *Funny Girl*) and the Lortel-nominated choreography is by **Devavand Janki** (Lortel Award-winner for *Zanna Don't*, nominee for Theatreworks USA's *Junie B. Jones*). Flynn and Janki recently collaborated on TheatreworksUSA's hit production of *Junie B. Jones*. Scenic design is by **Paul C. Weimer** and costume design is by **Rob Bevenger**. This 60-minute musical is recommended for audiences age 4 and up.

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After a brief New York City-area tour in spring 2006, *Henry and Mudge* began its national tour in September 2006, and enjoyed a five-week engagement at Off-Broadway's Lucille Lortel Theatre from December 2006 through January 2007. *Henry and Mudge* 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.

The five actors and stage manager touring with *Henry and Mudge* 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.

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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 *Henry and Mudge* 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 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 115 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 American bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull