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CORDUROY

Corduroy, TheatreworksUSA’s new musical based on the classic picture book by Don Freeman about a lonely teddy bear and the girl who adopts him, will be performed at _____ on _____ at _____ o’clock, under the auspices of _____.

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It’s the middle of the summer, and eight-and-a-half year old Lisa Carolina Evelina Brown moves to the big city from a small town. Everything is different in the metropolis... Apartment buildings stretch into the sky, kids play double dutch in the street under the El train, and the whole city dances to a completely different beat. It seems like out of all the millions and millions of people who live in the big city, no-one wants to be Lisa’s friend.

Meanwhile, in Hampton’s Department Store, a teddy bear in green overalls named Corduroy is just waiting for a friend. When he meets Lisa, they both know they’re perfect for each other. But Lisa’s mama won’t spend her hard-earned money on a bear that’s not perfect -- Corduroy is missing a button! While Corduroy searches the store for his lost button, Lisa searches for a way to bring her new friend home.

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The rhythm-and-blues and jazz-inspired music and lyrics of *Corduroy* were composed by **Scott Davenport Richards** (2001 Johnathan Larson Award Winner, TheatreworksUSA’s *Sundiata: Lion King of Mali*). The libretto was adapted from Don Freeman’s book by **Cusi Cram** (Emmy-nominated for TV’s “Arthur”). This production is directed by **Wilfredo Medina**, and the jazzy choreography was created by **Tanya Gibson-Clark** (TheatreworksUSA’s *Island of the Blue Dolphins*). **Luke Cantarella** designed the scenery and **Martha Bromelmeier** designed the costumes. This 60-minute musical is recommended for audiences age 4 and up.

(MORE...)

After a short New York City-area regional tour in spring 2003, **Corduroy** hit the road in fall 2003 for a national tour. *Corduroy* 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 six actors and stage manager rehearsed for two weeks in New York City with the director and choreographer of this show. 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, directors, and designers of **Corduroy** 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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