

JUNIE B. JONES

Junie B. Jones, a musical based on the books by Barbara Park, will be performed at _____ on _____ at _____ o'clock, under the auspices of _____.

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Outspoken, precocious, lovable Junie B. Jones stars in a colorful, funny, fast-paced musical about new friends, new glasses, sugar cookies, the annual kickball tournament, and other various first-grade angst-ridden situations. Follow her adventures as she writes down the story of her life in her “Top-Secret Personal Beeswax Journal.”

This musical is based on four volumes in Barbara Park’s *Junie B. Jones* series of books, illustrated by Denise Brunkus and published by Random House: *Junie B, First Grader (at Last!)*; *Junie B, Boss of Lunch*; *Junie B, One-Man Band*; and *Top-Secret Personal Beeswax: A Journal by Junie B (and Me)*.

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Junie B. Jones is a musical by **Marcy Heisler and Zina Goldrich** (The Broadway-bound musical based on the film *Ever After, Dear Edwina*, “Taylor the Latte Boy”) based on the best-selling books by **Barbara Park**. The production is directed by **Peter Flynn** (Theatreworks USA’s *Nate the Great*, *Henry and Mudge*, Artistic Director of Hangar Theatre) and choreographed by **Devanand Janki** (Off-Broadway: *Zanna Don’t*, *Cupid & Psyche*). The scenic design is by **Luke Hegel-Cantarella** (Theatreworks USA’s *Corduroy*), and the costumes are by **Lora LaVon**. This 60-minute musical is recommended for audiences age 5 and up. The show was nominated in 2006 for the Lucille Lortel Awards for Outstanding Musical and Outstanding Choreography.

(MORE...)

After a brief New York City-area tour in spring 2004, *Junie B. Jones* premiered Off-Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theatre in July 2004, and is now one of Theatreworks USA's most popular productions. *Junie B. Jones* began its national tour in fall 2004, and a second national touring company began touring in spring 2005. The show returned for engagements at the Lortel Theatre in November 2005 and March 2008. *Junie B. Jones* 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 touring with *Junie B. Jones* 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 *Junie B. Jones* 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 115 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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