



FOR  
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RELEASE

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## NATE THE GREAT

*Nate the Great*, a new musical based on the first volume of Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's eponymous book series about a boy detective, will be performed at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock under the auspices of \_\_\_\_\_.

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Theatreworks USA, America's largest non-profit theatre for young and family audiences, presents *Nate the Great*, a new musical about teamwork and friendship (imaginary and otherwise).

Introducing the latest and greatest in the grand tradition of crime-solving detectives like Sherlock Holmes, Nero Wolfe and Charlie Chan... Nate! Nate the Great, that is.

This pint-size young detective has found lost balloons, books, slippers, chickens, and even a lost goldfish. But when his neighbor Annie asks for help in locating her missing painting, it takes all of Nate's derring-do to solve the toughest case of his career!

Although Nate believes that great detectives work alone, he finds that unraveling mysteries is easier (and a lot more fun!) with a partner. And a big plate of pancakes. Target is the national tour sponsor of this production. **TARGET**

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*Nate the Great* is based on the first volume in **Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's** book series of the same name. The production features lyrics and book by **Mindi Dickstein** (Broadway's *Little Women: The Musical*) and music by **Daniel Messé**. Dickstein and Messé previously collaborated on Theatreworks USA's *The Mystery of King Tut*, *Black Beauty*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and portions of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie & Other Story Books*. The show was originally directed by **Peter Flynn** with choreography by **Devavand Janki**, who previously teamed up on Theatreworks USA's *Junie B. Jones* and *Henry & Mudge*. Scenery was designed by Paul Weimer, with costumes by Rick Kelly. This 60-minute musical is recommended for ages 4 and up.

(MORE...)

After a brief New York City-area tour in spring 2008, *Nate the Great* launched its national tour in fall 2008. *Nate the Great* 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 *Nate the Great* 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 *Nate the Great* 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 (Producing 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