



**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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WE THE PEOPLE

We the People, a musical inspired by American Government topics and Civics lessons, will be performed at _____ on _____ at _____ o'clock under the auspices of _____.

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Theatreworks USA presents a new rock musical that makes Civics and Social Studies topics fun and accessible. Dawn Shapiro is a typical modern student who receives an inspiring visit from the original boy band, The Founding Fathers: George Washington, Ben Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Picking up where television's "Schoolhouse Rock" left off, Dawn (and the audience) have a blast learning about American government and leave inspired to get involved and ready to make a difference.

Topics covered in **WE THE PEOPLE** include:

- "Road to Democracy" – The Founding Fathers sum up their history and how they created the American government.
- "The First Amendment" – A review of the freedoms guaranteed by the first amendment to the United States constitution, as well as the rest of the Bill of Rights.
- "King of the Ring" – Explains in the context of a wrestling match, how the three branches of government work together via the system of checks and balances.
- "We in the House" – A rap song describing the two legislative houses of Congress: The House of Representatives and the Senate.
- "The Supremes" – Dawn puts her first amendment right to free speech to the test with the Supreme Court
- "The President Song" – Ben Franklin explains the process of getting elected to the highest office in the land.
- "Make This Country New" – Inspired by the Founding Fathers, Dawn knows she can get involved via volunteerism and activism and help to create a better United States of America.

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WE THE PEOPLE is directed by Gordon Greenberg (*Happy Days: The Musical*, Theatreworks USA's *The Mystery of King Tut*) with choreography by Michele Lynch (*The Coast of Utopia* on Broadway). Contributing songwriters include some of the brightest up-and-coming musical theatre writers in New York, including Brad Alexander & Kevin Del Aguila; Sam Forman & Eli Bolin; Joe Iconis; Jeff Lunden & Art Perlman; Tommy Newman, Ryan Scott Oliver; Adam Overett; Erik Weiner, Mark Weiner & Jordan Allen-Dutton. The book for the show was written by Joe Iconis (*The Plant That Ate Dirty Socks*). The production team includes Adam Koch's scenic design, and costumes by Lora LaVon (*Junie B. Jones*). This 60-minute musical is recommended for ages 7 and up.

(MORE...)

After a brief New York City-area tour in spring 2010, **WE THE PEOPLE** played a month-long engagement at Off-Broadway's Lucille Lortel Theatre as Theatreworks USA's annual Free Summer Theatre production. The show launched its national tour in fall 2010. **WE THE PEOPLE** 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 five actors and stage manager in **WE THE PEOPLE** 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 *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* 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 84 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about three 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 (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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