

MEDIA RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Kate DiCamillo's THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE
Fills DCT Audiences with Hope and Expectancy
Running March 18 – April 10

A china rabbit given to a ten-year-old girl named Abilene by her grandmother in the 1920s begins a journey of unimaginable life lessons that will appeal to audiences of all ages when THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE runs at Dallas Children's Theater from March 18 – April 10. The play, based on the book by award-winning author Kate DiCamillo, who also wrote *Because of Winn Dixie*, features five actors playing 26 parts and contains exquisite language, an inventive plot and memorable characters.

"There are so many important lessons in this story," said Artie Olaisen, director of THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE, and DCT's Associate Artistic Director. "Edward must learn to think outside of self, thinking less of self and more of others is what struck me. Learning empathy may be one of the greatest lessons for young people."

Author Kate DiCamillo is well known for her book, *Because of Winn Dixie*. However, the relative obscurity of THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE did not dissuade DCT from producing a theatrical gem that drives audiences to contemplate the state of their own relationships and friendships in terms of resilience and patience. To supplement the play, DCT launched the Edward Tulane JourneyMaker's Project, a group of five selected families, who read the book, did assignments together as a family, attended an early script reading and shared their comments about the both the book and the experience with staff members.

DCT Teaching Artist Steph Garrett, who was also cast as in the play, moderated a discussion of characters, plot and themes with children and their parents. A week later, the JourneyMakers reassembled for a staged reading of the script, hosted by Olaisen. The actors wonderfully created distinct voices for each of the 26 characters and banjo and acoustic guitar accompanied to set the mood as JourneyMakers followed along with scripts they were loaned. Their journey will be highlighted in a five-part video series on DCT's Facebook and YouTube profiles beginning February 24.

"We've been amazed by how interested families were in taking the journey from page to stage with us, and how seriously they took the assignments we gave them," said Sandra Session-Robertson, DCT's Senior Director of Communications and Philanthropy. "Even the youngest children comprehended the story and applied some life meaning to it. Hearing their thoughts on their experience was as beautiful as this story is."

THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE follows a precious, china rabbit as his life begins in the home of his young owner during the 1920s. When he flies overboard during their journey on a ship, Edward's life is turned upside down. After being buried on the ocean floor for more than 200 days, a fisherman's net sweeps Edward from the depths of the ocean and he goes on to experience a life he could have never imagined with three new families, each struggling with their own challenges. This stunning, highly theatrical play became an immediate must-see hit following its premiere and is sure to go down in history as a family classic, with DCT families among the first audiences.

Original music created and performed by actors Johnny Lee and Sonny Franks will underscore the mood and heart of the piece. Olaisen said, "I want people to feel invigorated by a sophisticated piece of theater and storytelling, as well as a little more aware and appreciative of the love in their life when they leave this play. Hopefully they are challenged to be more loving and sensitive to those around them, after seeing this play."

On opening night, special guests Gene and Peggy Helmick-Richardson, known as the *Twice Upon A Time Storytellers*, will help young patrons imagine what storytelling was like during the depression era using a variety of techniques. Gene and Peggy have over 30 years of experience as members of the Dallas Storytelling Guild and as part of the Texas Commission of the Arts Touring Artists Roster since 2003. Additionally, Nothing Bundt Cakes—White Rock will serve bundtinis to guests during intermission. As always, there will be face painting and giveaways.

KATE DiCAMILLO'S
THE MIRACULOUS JOURNEY OF EDWARD TULANE
Adapted By Dwayne Hartford

March 18 - April 10, 2016

Recommended for ages 7 and up

Cast

The Traveler – Georgia Clinton*
The Musician – Johnny Lee*
The Woman – Steph Garrett*
The Man – Sonny Franks*
The Other – Haulston Mann

Production Team

Director – Artie Olaisen
Scenic, Video, Props Designer – H. Bart McGeehon
Lighting Designer – Jason Lynch
Costume Designer – Lyle Huchton
Sound Designer – Marco Salinas
Stage Manager – Douglass Burks*

* Indicates a member of Actors' Equity Association.

Performance Dates and Times

- Thursday, March 17, 7:30 PM – Preview/Pay What You Can Night
- Friday, March 18, 7:30 PM – Opening Night
- Saturday, March 19, 1:30 PM
- Saturday, March 19, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, March 20, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, March 20, 4:30 PM
- Saturday, April 2, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, April 3, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, April 3, 4:30 PM (ASL)
- Saturday, April 9, 1:30 PM (Sensory)
- Saturday, April 9, 4:30 PM
- Sunday, April 10, 1:30 PM
- Sunday, April 10, 4:30 PM

Ticket Prices: \$13-26

Lap seats available for young children. Reserve early for best pricing. Prices subject to change. Call the box office for details; 214-740-0051. Tickets available online at dct.org

Weekday Student Matinee shows also available Tuesdays through Fridays. Please call ArtReach Booking at [214-219-2049](tel:214-219-2049).

The Title Sponsor is TACA.

Dallas Children's Theater
Rosewood Center for Family Arts
5938 Skillman Street
Dallas, Texas 75231

About Dallas Children's Theater

Dallas Children's Theater features professional actors performing for an annual audience of 250,000 young people and their families through mainstage productions (12 in the 2015-16 season), a national touring company, and an arts-in-education program. As the only major organization in Dallas focusing solely on youth and family theater, DCT builds bridges of understanding between generations and cultures, instilling an early appreciation of literature, art and the performing arts in tomorrow's artists and patrons.

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