



PRESENTS

Children's Popcorn Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY, 2004

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'Rumpelstiltskin' Kicks Off Culver City Public Theatre's New 'Children's Popcorn Theatre' Series

Culver City, California-- The Culver City Public Theatre ("The Public") will inaugurate its new "Children's Popcorn Theatre" series with Adele Thane's staged adaptation of the Brothers Grimm classic tale, *Rumpelstiltskin* as part of its 2004 Summer Season in Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park on Saturday, July 24th at 12 Noon. Now in its sixth season, The Public is pleased to add this enduring Fairytale to its program of free classical theatre to Los Angeles-area audiences. Performances continue Saturdays and Sundays at 12 Noon through August 15th.

The Children's Popcorn Theatre will run in tandem with The Public's mainstage season, announced earlier this spring, and admission will be Free for children of all ages.

In the fascinating tale of *Rumpelstiltskin*, a naive Miller's daughter is forced to do the impossible - spin straw into gold. She makes a bargain with a strange little man, and that bargain

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turns into much more than she expected. Can she solve the riddle in time? Excitement ensues as royalty, townspeople and other enchanting characters join together in a valiant attempt to help her solve a seemingly impossible riddle.

Directing this production is Culver City Public Theatre's own founding member and Board Chairman, Kyle Nudo. Nudo has brought to life many of The Public's most popular and memorable roles including triumphant turns in *Scapin*, *The Braggart Soldier*, *All's Well that Ends Well* and *The Government Inspector*.

A children's theatre veteran, Mr. Nudo spent years touring the country and playing to thousands of eager children. "Many companies consider children's theatre as a lower form; and we believe that way of thinking is a mistake. Children are the most honest and also unforgiving audience you'll ever see as a performer," Nudo explains, "If what you're giving them isn't funny, or frightening, or melancholy, or gripping in any way, they will always let you know! Giving a child that first live-performance experience is pure magic in their eyes."

Regarding the inclusion of Children's Theatre to the season's programming, Culver City Public Theatre Co-Executive Director Ken Kamlet explains, "It is very important that we develop audiences of today as well as those of tomorrow. When youngsters are exposed to theatre at an early age, they often develop a life-long appreciation of theatre and the arts and they usually excel scholastically, socially and civically as they grow into adulthood. Theatre ignites a child's imagination and instills a passion for dreaming that nothing else can in quite the same way."

"We set out to find a piece that was not only easily recognizable by today's audience, but that also told a story that is at once compelling for a child and that imparts a moral or lesson that every parent can appreciate," notes The Public Board President Laura Neufeld, "I think the underlying moral in *Rumpelstiltskin* is the importance of choices, decision-making - and their outcome."

Heading the cast as the infamous and mercurial Fairytale character, *Rumpelstiltskin* is Doran George, an internationally recognized visual artist, dancer and writer making his acting debut. Recent USC School of Theater graduate Anisa Alamia plays the good-hearted heroine, Grizelle. The production also features Company Member Greg Ellery as the gallant young King Crispin and stage veterans Melody Gillette and John Bolton Galbraith as Aunt Cockatoo and the Miller, respectively. Rounding out the cast are Gina E. Pooley as the charming Happily, the Bluebird, Eldridge Numen as

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the eager to please Shadow, and child actors Madeline Wells, Max Osborne and Isabella Hunter-Agnew as the adorable King's siblings.

Noël Coward's classic madcap comedy *Hay Fever* kicks off Culver City Public Theatre's 2004 mainstage Summer Season in Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park on Saturday, July 10th at 2pm. Mayhem ensues as the charming and eccentric Bliss family each invite a guest to their country home for a summer weekend. The visitors struggle to make sense of bizarre antics and a hilarious game of romantic musical chairs ensues. **Performances are scheduled for weekend afternoons at 2pm from July 10-25.**

Next, The Public will present Henrik Ibsen's prescient cautionary tale, *An Enemy Of The People*, adapted by American theatrical icon Arthur Miller. In this explosive drama, an unforgettable tale of betrayal, greed, corruption and the courageous fight for truth reminds us that integrity and freedom of speech remain essential. **Performances are scheduled for weekend afternoons at 2pm from July 31-August 8th.**

The Public will round out its mainstage season with Anton Chekhov's timeless, wistful classic *The Cherry Orchard*. With this humorous, passionate portrait of a disappearing way of life, re-discover the grace and humor of this masterpiece of the modern theatre. **Performances are scheduled for weekend afternoons at 2pm from August 14-29.**

Culver City Public Theatre, which operates under a Letter of Agreement with Actors' Equity Association (the union of American theatrical actors and stage managers), continues an 18-year tradition of presenting an annual summer season of free, outdoor, classical theatre in beautiful Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park, located at the corner of Motor Avenue and Braddock Drive (near the 405 and 10 Freeways) in historic Culver City, CA. The public is invited to bring their lawn chairs and blankets to attend the productions that are intended for young and adult audiences alike.

The Public has experienced enormous artistic and financial growth during each year of operation. Its productions are attended by approximately 2,000 patrons each season.

Culver City Public Theatre is an incorporated, not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that is sponsored by the Culver City Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services and by the generous contributions and grants from the City of Culver City, The Cultural Affairs Commission and The Culver City Parks and Services Foundation. Additional funding comes from donations from local businesses and patrons.

For general information call (310) 712-5482 or visit the official website at www.CCPT.org.

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Culver City Public Theatre Presents *Rumpelstiltskin*
L-R: Anisa Alamia (Grizelle), Doran George
(Rumpelstiltskin).

Photo Credit: Kyle Nudo



Culver City Public Theatre Presents *Rumpelstiltskin*
L-R: Anisa Alamia (Grizelle), Doran George
(Rumpelstiltskin).

Photo Credit: Kyle Nudo



Culver City Public Theatre Presents *Rumpelstiltskin*
Pictured Left: Board Chairman Kyle Nudo, who will Direct, Choreograph and
Design *Rumpelstiltskin* for the new "Children's Popcorn Theatre" series.

Photo Credit: Culver City Public Theatre

Note:

Full sized originals of above are available as well as additional images from CCPT productions and Company Member headshots. We will happily provide these photos by email or snail-mail upon request or easily download these images directly from www.ccpt.org/PressRoom.htm.