



# TYA & YOUNG ADULT CATALOG

*April 2011*

## – MUSICALS –

### **BRAVE IRENE**

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**Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from the book by William Steig*

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 4F, 2M (or 5F)

Ages: 5+

Commissioned/Produced by Adventure Theatre, Glen Echo, MD

A perfect winter musical. Irene braves the elements—the Cold, the Wind, and the Dark—to deliver a ball gown to a Duchess just in time for the Duchess' ball. A story of courage and perseverance for all ages.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

“The creator of the children's musical ‘Miss Nelson Is Missing’ has done it again.” – *Omaha World-Herald*

### **THE BULLY**

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**Book, Music, and Lyrics by John Gregor**

Runtime: 50 Minutes

Cast: 7 (3M, 4W)

Ages: 5-12

Originally produced by the Vital Theatre Company, Manhattan.

*The Bully* tells the story of Lenny, the smartest kid in school. Unfortunately, he is not the strongest kid, and he is constantly picked on by Steve, the school bully. A bus mix-up leaves the two boys stranded at the wrong school where they both get picked on for being the “new kids.” Taunted by the terrifying Meg, each boy learns what life is really like for the other. They are forced to work together in order to get back to their own school. In the end, they realize that they might not be so different after all. *The Bully* has had over 100 performances across the country!

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

## **THE CHRISTMAS DOLL**

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### **Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from the book by Elvira Woodruff*

Runtime: 90 Minutes (TYA) Also, full-length: 1hr, 45min

Cast: 10 (6F, 4M) (Lucy, Glory, Nick Button plus Chorus of 8/all other roles) Large Cast works well.

Ages: All ages, 5+

World Premiere – Children’s Theatre of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC (2007)

*Set in 1840s London*, Lucy and Glory Wolcott live at Grimstone Union at the mercy of the cruel Matron Wick and Mistress Branch. Lucy invents stories about a long lost doll named Morning Glory to humor her sister. When a deadly fever sweeps through the workhouse, the two sisters escape to the mean streets of London where they encounter many colorful characters. Finding an old, discarded doll by the river that Glory believes is her long lost doll, and teaming up with the beggar boy Nick Button, Morning Glory leads the three on a journey that will change their lives forever, for Morning Glory is no ordinary doll. Written in the style of Charles Dickens/Oliver/Annie). Mainstage or TYA.

Small Chamber Orchestra, also Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

"Woodruff spins a Dickensian saga, full of outlandish Londoners and narrative twists, both cruel and kind ... But beneath the dark, chilly gloom of *The Christmas Doll* beats a big, bright, beautiful heart ... Audiences will cherish this beautifully crafted "Doll." *The Charlotte Observer*

"It's better than half the musicals I saw on Broadway last year - with production values at the same high level...a damn good musical!"  
*Creative Loafing*

### **2007 National Youth Theatre Award for Outstanding Play/Musical**

2007 Creative Loafing Nomination for Best Original Show

2007-8 Metrolina Theatre Nomination for Outstanding Original Musical

2007-8 Metrolina Theatre Nomination for Outstanding Musical Composition

2007-8 Metrolina Theatre Nomination for Outstanding Production

## **DIARY OF A WORM, A SPIDER, A FLY**

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### **Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Exclusive adaptation of the three books by Doreen Cronin and illustrated by Harry Bliss*

Runtime: 70 min.

Cast: 6 (3M, 3F)

Ages: 3+

Commissioned by Oregon Children’s Theatre, Portland, OR, World Premier Jan/Feb, 2011

Is Spider getting too big for his own skin? Will Fly find her superhero powers in time to save her Aunt Rita from peril? Will Worm learn to stand on his own two feet...even though he doesn’t have feet? We invite you to take a look at the world from a bug’s perspective. Perhaps you’ll see that their lives are not all that different from yours.

This world première musical captures all of the droll humor and whimsy of the wildly popular books.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

## **DOCTOR DOLITTLE**

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### **Book and Lyrics by Mark St. Germain**

### **Music and Lyrics by Randy Courts**

*Inspired by Hugh Lofting’s “The Story of Doctor Dolittle”*

Runtime: 75 min.

Cast: 1F, 6M

Ages: 6+

Commissioned and Produced by TheatreWorks

Hugh Lofting, a Lieutenant in the Royal British Army is separated from his son Colin during World War I. At his wife’s urging, Lofting writes a story for him from the front. Despite the harsh conditions on the battlefield, Lieutenant Lofting’s imagination comes alive as he concocts a marvelous tale about a kind-hearted physician who can talk with animals: *The Story of Doctor Dolittle*.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

## **GEORGE AND MARTHA**

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### **Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from "George & Martha Collected Stories" by James Marshall*

Available for licensing Spring 2011

Runtime: 75 minutes

Cast: 5 (2F, 3M) (George & Martha, plus Croc, Pig, Dog)

Ages: 3+

Commissioned by Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD, World Premier, Spring, 2011

George & Martha, two hippopotami, do everything together, with the same ups and downs in true friendship as humans. They teach each other that privacy is important, practical jokes can sometimes backfire, and pouring split pea into your loafers to spare the chef's feelings is not the best laid plan. Gentle stories, flavored with Marshall's trademark wit, framed in vaudeville.

Orchestrations for small band, also Orchestration/Accompaniment CD

## **HEIDI**

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### **Book by Martha King De Silva**

### **Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from the book by Johanna Spyri*

Runtime: 80 minutes

Cast: 8 (4F, 4M) (Heidi, Alp, Peter, Clara & Chorus of 4/townpeople, goats, all others)

Ages: All Ages, 5+

Originally Commissioned & Produced by Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD (2009)

In this new musical re-telling of the classic Victorian era book, Heidi moves from a small Swiss village to the Alps, to Frankfurt, Germany, and back to her beloved mountains (complete with singing goats!). Everywhere she goes, Heidi brings joy to the people around her: her lonely grandfather, her neighbor Peter in the Alps, as well as her sickly friend Clara in the city. This richly emotional story is like a welcome breath of mountain air as it celebrates the power of love, and hope for a better life. TYA or Mainstage.

Orchestrations for Small Chamber Orchestra also Orchestration/Accompaniment CD

"A Goat-to Musical for Kids!...With a straight forward script by Martha King De Silva ... The music is kid-friendly and accomplished... Sandra Murphy's performance of Frau Rottenmeir is so villainous that the crowd cheers her misfortune." *Editor's Pick - The Washington Post*

"From the singing goats and the subtle oompah-pah strains of Cushing's score (and her devilishly clever lyrics) to Tara Giordano's nuanced performance as Heidi, there's plenty to yodel about in this production." *3 1/2 \*\*\* The Washington Times*

**2010 Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Production, Theatre for Young Audiences**

## **MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY!**

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### **Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from the book by Harry Allard, illustrated by James Marshall*

Runtime: 65 min.

Cast: 6 (2F, 4M)

Ages: 4+

Originally Commissioned & Produced by Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD (2003)

The Smedly Tornadoes have not only never won a football game, they have never scored a single point! Coach Armstrong goes bonkers and Miss Nelson decides to help out. She enlists Coach Viola Swamp to whip the team into shape and save the day! Snappy sequel to "Miss Nelson Is Missing!" A perfect fall musical.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

"Frolicking football players, a perky cheerleader, a hilarious spatula-wielding cafeteria lady, and an electrifying Viola Swamp, who transforms from the sweet-faced Miss Nelson to the dreaded coach, all play to the appreciative giggles of local schoolkids... The carefully choreographed slow motion finale is as grittily elegant as anything on 'Monday Night Football.'" *The Washington Post*

"Joan Cushing has created another tour de force." *The New York Times*

## **MISS NELSON IS MISSING!**

### **Book, Music & Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

\* The most produced TYA musical of the 2004/2005 season! \*

*Adapted from the books "Miss Nelson is Missing!" and "Miss Nelson is Back!" by Harry Allard, illustrated by James Marshall*

Runtime: 60 min. Also New 70 min. version

Cast: 6 (3F, 3M) (Nelson/Viola Swamp, Pop Hanson/Mr. Blandsworth/Detective McSmogg/Al Catraz & 4 kids)

Ages: 4+

Originally Commissioned & Produced by Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD (2001)

Miss Nelson's class is the worst-behaved in the whole school. One day, Miss Nelson does not come to school, and the class gets Viola Swamp, a scary substitute who assigns homework from hell. The search is on for Miss Nelson. Hopefully the students of Room 207 will find her before it's too late – for them! Lessons of respect and appreciation.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

"A gifted playwright and composer, Ms. Cushing has created a musical that will charm anyone who has ever sat in front of a schoolteacher's desk – or, for that matter, behind it." *The New York Times*

"Billed as the 100<sup>th</sup> production ever...it's easy to see why this show has so many notches on its belt." *Washington Post* "A sly and witty script." *WTOP Radio* "A joyous hour of theatrical entertainment." *Bay Area Parent* "A genuine romp, lively and funny." *Omaha World Herald* "Works for adults as well as children." *Dartmouth News* "Full of bounce and fun, featuring Cushing's pun-der-ful music and script." *Washington Times*

**Winner - 2003 National Children's Theatre Festival Award, Best New Musical**

## **PETITE ROUGE: A Cajun Red Riding Hood**

### **Book, Music and Lyrics by Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from the book by Mike Artell, illustrated by Jim Harris*

Runtime: 75 min.

Cast: 6 (3M, 3F)

All Ages, 4+

Originally Commissioned & Produced by Imagination Stage, Bethesda, MD (2005)

When the Big Bad Gator spies tasty duck Petite Rouge and sidekick cat TeJean heading down the bayou, Petite leads him on a wild duck chase through New Orleans and Mardi Gras all the way to a surprise ending. A Swamp Chorus sings back-up to the Zydeco-driven score in this foot-stomping, family-friendly musical soaked in Cajun hot sauce! Saucy and colorful, as you'd expect, from the creator of the blockbuster hits Junie B. Jones and the Miss Nelson musicals!

Orchestrations for 6 piece band or Orchestration/Accompaniment CD

"Almost everything about the show is hot: (the Louisiana bayou), the music (with peppy zydeco and steamy jazz), the dancing (lots of tango moves) and, most of all, the fiery Cajun sauce...a musical with heart." - *The New York Times*

"With the exuberance of a Mardi Gras float wheeling through the Big Easy, writer and composer Joan Cushing has turned a 2001 picture book into a clever stage production whose tunes explode with Louisiana zest!" - *The Washington Post*

"As snappy as a string of cayenne peppers!... Miss Cushing's show luxuriates in the music of New Orleans - Cajun, zydeco, Dixieland, gospel, jazz and the blues...and her talent for infectious rhymes [is] as sharp as ever... Petite Rouge is a feast for the senses and the appetite, as Miss Cushing's adaptation revels in the sights, music and food of Cajun country." - *Four Stars \*\*\*\* The Washington Times*

**New York Musical Theatre Festival 2007**

**Honorable Mention, Best in Script/NY Theatre Festival Awards for Excellence**

**London Production 2008, directed by Phil Willmott**

**Edinburgh Theatre Festival 2010**

## **PINKALICIOUS**

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\*See Theatrical Rights Worldwide for licenses.\* ( [www.theatricalrights.com](http://www.theatricalrights.com) )

**Book and lyrics by Elizabeth Kann and Victoria Kann, music and lyrics by John Gregor**

*Based on the children's book written by Elizabeth Kann and Victoria Kann, with illustrations by Victoria Kann*

Runtime: 50 min.

Cast: 2M, 5F

Ages: 5-12

Originally produced by the Vital Theater Company, Manhattan.

Received a sold out, extended run Off-Broadway at the Soho Playhouse! Over 100 performances!

*Pinkalicious* is the story of a girl who can't stop eating pink cupcakes despite warnings from her parents. Her pink indulgence lands her at the doctor's office with Pinkitis, an affliction that turns her pink from head to toe – a dream come true for this pink loving enthusiast. But when her hue goes too far, only Pinkalicious can figure out a way to get out of this predicament.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

## **PINOCCHIO**

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**Book and Lyrics by Susan DiLallo, Music by Jeffrey Harris**

\* Winner of the 2003 Hangar Theatre KIDDSTUFF New Play Competition \*

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 1F, 4M

Ages: 5+

Originally commissioned by TheatreworksUSA

Productions: Hangar Theatre, South Coast Repertory, Omaha Theatre for Young People, Kings Theatre Company

This modern re-telling of the classic Italian tale gently explores the theme of adoption. Carved and created by his "adoptive" father, Pinocchio rails against looking different, being teased by classmates, and not having "real" parents – until he learns the true nature of love and parenting.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

“...the show is colorful and character-driven... But there's a deeper theme at play here – the story deals most affectingly with the topic of adoption, and how special it is to be chosen.” – *The Daily Pilot*

## **VELMA GRATCH AND THE WAY COOL BUTTERFLY**

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**Book by Michelle Elliott, Lyrics by Michelle Elliott and Danny Larsen, Music by Danny Larsen**

*Based on the children's book written by Alan Madison with illustrations by Kevin Hawkes*

Runtime: 45 min

Cast: 5F, 2M

Ages: 4+

Originally produced by the Vital Theater Company, Manhattan

Velma Gratch is excited to start first grade, but when she does she finds herself overshadowed by her older sisters! While searching for a way to stand out, Velma discovers she has a passion for butterflies! When one lands on her finger, she's in heaven! But what is she to do when it doesn't fly away? A charming story of a girl and a butterfly, and Velma's metamorphosis into something unique and special.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

## **THE WIZ: The TYA Version**

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**Book by William F. Brown, Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls**

**Additional material by Tina Tippit**

*Based on "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum*

Runtime: 75 min

Cast: 4F, 4M +variable size ensemble (10-20)

Ages: 6+

Originally produced by First Stage Children's Theater, Milwaukee

Based on the original Tony Award winning Broadway musical.

Orchestration/Accompaniment CD available

## – PLAYS –

### **ACROSS THE WIDE AND LONESOME PRAIRIE**

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**By Julie Jensen**

*Based on "Across the Wide and Lonesome Prairie: The Oregon Trail Diary of Hattie Campbell, 1847," part of the Scholastic Dear America series*

Runtime: Approximately 60 minutes

Cast: 2F

Ages: 10+

Commissioned by the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.

Productions: Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey/The Growing Stage, Kennedy Center, Public School Tour, Washington D.C.

Two 13-year-old girls on the Oregon Trail from Missouri to Oregon encounter things tragic and funny, reassuring and frightening.

### **ANALIESE**

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**By Lynne Alvarez**

*Based on "The Snow Queen" by Hans Christian Andersen*

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 8F, 9M

Young Adult

Published in Best Plays by Women in 1997, Smith & Kraus, 1997.

Two young adults living in 19<sup>th</sup> century Denmark are separated when the boy, Christian, mysteriously departs with an exotic older woman. Analiese, fearing Christian may be in danger, begins to search for him in a small boat, accompanied by an insightful toucan. Alvarez reveals a world that is boldly theatrical and classically intelligent in this tale based on "The Snow Queen."

### **CRISPIN: THE CROSS OF LEAD**

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**By Russell Davis**

*Adapted from "Crispin" by Avi (2003 Newbery Medal)*

Runtime: 85 minutes (with intermission)

Cast: 6-8 actors

Ages: 8+

Commissioned/Produced by People's Light & Theatre Company

England in the year 1377 is ravaged by plague and ruled by despotic noblemen. After being declared a "wolf's head" for a crime he didn't commit (meaning that anyone can kill him and collect a reward), an orphaned 13 year old boy must flee his tiny village – the only village he's ever known – and run for his life. He meets Bear, a traveling entertainer, who becomes his protector and teacher and shows him a new world full of music, juggling and torch-lit intrigue. As Crispin's secret identity is revealed, he learns about loyalty, friendship and the courage it takes to discover your true self.

"Crispin" is a terrific production. It is probably wise to consider its dark theme before bringing younger children, but the theater is encouraging children ages 8 and up to attend." –*The Bulletin*

### **ESPERANZA RISING**

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**By Lynne Alvarez**

*Adapted from the book by Pam Muñoz Ryan*

Runtime: 90 min.

Cast: 13 actors

Ages: 8+

Commissioned and produced by Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis.

Esperanza, born to enormous wealth and privilege in 1930's Mexico, has little to worry about – until a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and her mother to flee. Across the border in a migrant labor camp, Esperanza discovers what she's truly made of, and what she can't live without: hope.

## **HANKY AND GIRLO**

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**By Joe Sutton**

*Based on "Hansel and Gretel" by the Brothers Grimm*

Runtime: 55 min.

Cast: 3 actors

Ages: 5+

Produced by Omaha Theatre for Youth

Hansel and Gretel are Hanky and Girlo, and instead of marching into a forest, the two children are left to march down the fire stairs to the old lady who lives in the basement. It's an urban retelling of that most classic of children's tales; one that celebrates survival and pluck.

"...a delightfully creepy twist on the Hansel and Gretel legend..." – *Omaha World-Herald*

## **THE LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD SHOW**

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**By Russell Davis**

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 3 F, 1 M

Ages: 5+

Commissioned/Produced by People's Light and Theatre Company. 2010 Production at Orlando Shakespeare Theater

Take one girl, equipped with a basket of goodies. Add one Grandmother, sick in bed. Combine with one Wolf, lurking mischievously. Toss in one skeptical Mother, and let simmer for one hour. Russell Davis stirs the ingredients of this well-loved tale in new postmodern directions, concocting a sly and spicy story that delights children and adults right down to the last surprising bite.

"...a familiar tale gets an original twist, not just in the story but in the way kids think about it." – *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"...we're completely won over by Davis' fractured fairy tale style." – *The Daily Local News*

"...the Wolf's 'Hamlet' references amuse adults as much as the slapstick comedy tickles children." – *Main Line Times*

## **THE LITTLE LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD SHOW**

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**By Russell Davis**

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 3 F, 1 M

Ages: 3+

Commissioned/Produced by Honolulu Theatre for Youth and New Zenith Theatre

An adaptation of "The Little Red Riding Hood Show" for audiences ages 3 and up.

"...a remarkably sophisticated text" – *Honolulu Advertiser*

## **LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY**

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**By Joan Cushing**

*Adapted from the book by Gary D. Schmidt*

Runtime: 75 minutes

Cast: 15 or 10 with doubling

Ages: 10+

A new play with church hymns, **LIZZIE BRIGHT AND THE BUCKMINSTER BOY** is a unique coming of age play based on the true event of an island's destruction in 1912. Peopled by a colorful cast of characters—the crusty Mrs. Cobb, the wicked Mrs. Elia Hurd, a bully named Willis, a racist Sheriff, greedy church deacons, the

puritanical Reverend Buckminster, and two 12-year old heroes: Lizzie Bright Griffin and Turner Buckminster III—this lovely, heartbreaking, and very real story doesn't always go where you think it will, but in the end it goes to a movingly spiritual place.

## **THE MAGIC CITY**

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**By Joe Sutton**

*Adapted from the novel by E. Nesbit*

Runtime: 90 min.

Cast: 5F, 5M (doubling possible)

Ages: 4+

Commissioned/Produced by Seattle Children's Theatre

Philip, an orphan, has always had his sister Helen by his side... until she marries Peter and moves Philip to their new home. As Philip struggles to accept his new family, he builds an elaborate city out of toys and household objects – only to find himself battling an evil woman (and slaying her dragon) when the city he's built becomes magically real.

“‘The Magic City’...succeeds on so many levels it’s hard to know where to start praising it... The script is an excellent adaptation...”--

## **THE RED BADGE OF COURAGE**

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**By Joe Sutton**

*Adapted from the novel by Stephen Crane*

Runtime: 90 min.

Cast: 1F, 7M

Ages: 11+

Produced/Commissioned by Seattle Children's Theatre

The year is 1863. The battle is Chancellorsville. Young Henry Fleming suddenly finds his heroic ideals challenged by the harsh realities of the Civil War, and must reconcile courage, fear, and duty as he marches into the battle that will change his life.

“...an authentic peek into history as well as profound insights into a young soldier’s heart and mind.” – *The Herald*

“...the lean, haunting quality [of this production]...will not soon be forgotten – and may be, one hopes, the trigger for many a probing, post-play conversation.” – *The Seattle Times*

## **THE REINCARNATION OF JAIME BROWN**

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**By Lynne Alvarez**

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 3F, 5M

Ages: High School

Commissioned/Produced by ACT's Young Conservatory

Published in Best Plays by Women in 1994, Smith & Kraus, 1994.

The separate quests of a young New York street poet seeking fame and fortune and a wealthy entrepreneur who will stop at nothing to find his son who committed suicide nineteen years ago collide with astrological proportions, helped by a mystical and androgynous couple.

## **RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI**

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**By Lynne Alvarez**

*Adapted from the novel by Rudyard Kipling*

Runtime: < 60 min.

Cast: 6 actors

Ages: 5+

Commissioned/Produced by the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, produced again 2004-05.

This delightful adaptation of Rudyard Kipling's classic novel chronicles the adventures of a mongoose taken in by a family of British colonials, and his fight to defend his family from the menacing cobras Nag and Nagaina.

## **SURVIVING THE APPLEWHITES**

**By Katherine Paterson and Stephanie S. Tolan**

*Based on the novel by Stephanie S. Tolan*

Runtime: 90 minutes

Cast: 8M, 7F

Ages: 10+

13-year-old punk Jake Semple has been thrown out of every public school in Rhode Island. His desperate grandfather pleads with the homeschooling Applewhites of rural North Carolina to take him. When Jake joins their creative clan, he clashes immediately with the one self-disciplined member of the family, 12-year old E.D. The only thing they have in common is the determination to survive the family's eccentricities.

"The theatrical adaptation of Stephanie Tolan's popular and award-winning middle-school novel *Surviving the Applewhites*... is so fresh that the paint is barely dry on it.... It's exciting to see the first production of a work that clearly has the energy, intelligence and comic crispness to become a staple of children's theater." --*The Columbus Dispatch*

## **THE THOUGHTS AND TRAVELS OF NICKI**

**By Russell Davis**

Runtime: 60 min.

Cast: 3F, 2M

Ages: 5+

Commissioned/Produced by People's Light and Theatre Company

There's a monster in Nicki's house. He eats her bed, then her room, and her parents too. When the monster finally threatens to eat Nicki's very thoughts, she decides to confront him. With the help of a sly cat named Pharpar, Nicki joins a gang of traveling performers and discovers a way to turn her fears into amazing feats of imagination. A flying horse, a unicycling bear and world-class juggling make Nicki's circus show a wildly fun and fantastical event.

A truly magical production." -- *The Seattle Weekly (Critic's Pick)*