

GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE STORY PIRATES ANNOUNCE UNPRECEDENTED 10-SHOW SEASON

***The Family Friendly Pirates Bring Puppets, Music and Big Laughs to
Select Saturdays at the Geffen Playhouse Starting October 13***

LOS ANGELES, September 7, 2012 – The Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates are bringing puppets, music and big laughs to the theater in an unprecedented 10-show line-up as part of the Geffen's 2012/2013 family season. The popularity of these hilariously unique performances has continued to grow since the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates began in 2009, and this year marks the first full Pirates season at the Geffen Playhouse. The nationally recognized arts and literacy group kick-off their shows on **Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 11 a.m.**, doing what they do best – transforming stories written by elementary-aged students into hilarious sketch comedy musicals. While the inspiration is always kids' creativity, each show is completely different ranging from a special performance for toddlers to a Hollywood themed musical extravaganza.

"Our family programming continues to be an integral part of our mission," said Artistic Director Randall Arney. "With this inaugural Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates season, we are not only bringing the Pirates' wonderful performances to a wider audience, but we also get to showcase the creativity of future artists - the young students whose words and ideas the artists bring to life on stage."

In 2009, the Geffen Playhouse partnered with the founders of the Story Pirates to develop the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates, a comprehensive education program that engages students in under-resourced Los Angeles public schools. Based on the principle that kids' ideas, words and stories are important, the group's cornerstone in-school Play/Write Program begins with a series of creative writing workshops and culminates with a musical sketch comedy performance by professional actors comprised entirely of stories written by kids. After three years, the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates have brought high-quality arts programs to over 20 Title 1 schools, as well as entertained countless families with their Saturday morning family performances.

Tickets for individual shows are \$20 general admission at the door, \$15 in advance and subscriptions (which package four or more shows) are available for under \$50. All tickets can be purchased through the Geffen Playhouse box office and online at geffenplayhouse.com. And please note: While all the Story Pirates shows are written by kids and performed for kids, these shows are grown-up friendly too!

This year's complete Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates season includes:

SAT, OCT 13, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. in the Gil Cates Theater

Hooray for Hollywood (recommended for ages 3 to 12)

Watch out Hollywood! There are some new young voices making their way down the red carpet, and

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they've got the most exciting ideas in town. In *Hooray for Hollywood*, kids' ideas for the silver screen take center stage as the Story Pirates adapt movie ideas written by youngsters in the audience into a hilarious sketch musical.

SAT, OCT 27, NOV 10, DEC 15, 2012; JAN 12, FEB 2, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in **Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater**

The Flagship Show (recommended for ages 3 to 12)

While many children's theater troupes tell stories to kids, the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates believe that every child has a story to tell – especially yours! The process begins by collecting stories from local kids, and whether it's a world where cats can fly or a rock opera about fuzzy alien tickle monsters, the Pirates will turn any short story into a hilarious sketch comedy musical. Described as "Monty Python meets Schoolhouse Rock," this show is never the same twice. Pitched perfectly to grown ups and kids alike, *The Flagship Show* can set sail with your whole family on board.

SAT, DEC 1, 2012 and JUNE 15, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the **Gil Cates Theater**

Story Pirates Toddler Show (recommend for ages 2 to 5)

Are you little? Do you have trouble sitting still? If so, we have the show for you! The Story Pirates will sing, dance and encourage even the littlest of you to get involved with the action. With stories and songs that are based on participation from kids in the audience, *Story Pirates Toddler Show* is specially calibrated for the tiniest of attention spans. So don't just sit there! Sing and dance along, why doncha?

SAT, MAR 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the **Gil Cates Theater**

Create-A-Show (recommended for ages 6 to 13)

When the Pirates take the stage, you'll be amazed at what happens next... and so will they! That's because the 45-minute show they're performing has not been written! The Pirates will steal your kids' ideas and incorporate them on the spot into an interactive show that validates the imagination of every child in the audience. Laugh as your sons and daughters invent monsters, dancing ninjas, superhero tomatoes – or any other idea they call out – and watch as Story Pirates bring their ideas to life. *Create-A-Show* is as crazy, hilarious and unexpected as kids themselves.

SAT, APR 13, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. in the **Gil Cates Theater**

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The details of this special production are still in the works, but keep your calendars cleared; you won't want to miss it!

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

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ABOUT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

The Geffen Playhouse has been a hub of the Los Angeles theater scene since opening its doors in 1995. Noted for its intimacy and celebrated for its world-renowned mix of classic and contemporary plays, provocative new works and second productions, the Geffen Playhouse continues to present a body of work that has garnered national recognition. Honored with more than 40 regional theater awards, the playhouse is also a proud recipient of grants

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from the Edgerton New American Play Foundation and the Steinberg Charitable Trust, enabling the theater to continue contributing to the cultural canon by commissioning new works. Named in honor of entertainment mogul and philanthropist David Geffen, who made the initial donation to the theater, the company was founded by Gilbert Cates, and is currently helmed by Artistic Director Randall Arney, Managing Director Ken Novice and Chairman of the Board Frank Mancuso. Proudly associated with UCLA, the Geffen Playhouse welcomes an audience of more than 130,000 each year, and maintains an extensive education and outreach program, designed to engage young people and the community at large in the arts. For more information, please visit geffenplayhouse.com.

ABOUT THE STORY PIRATES

Story Pirates has been committed to providing high quality arts education to children since 2003. Their Play/Write Program began as a pilot in a single low-income Harlem school and has grown to become a nationally respected creative writing and drama curriculum in place annually at over 150 schools across the country. Their assemblies and performances have been recognized and sponsored by partners such as Penguin Books, theaters like the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and on respected television programs such as The Daily Show on Comedy Central. Story Pirates' curriculum focuses on core elements of national standards for Arts Education and English Language Arts, while providing rich cultural experiences that push the boundaries of traditional enrichment to tackle substantive educational goals like vocabulary development, story structure, revision and confident self-expression. Over the past eight years, Story Pirates has invited tens of thousands of students to see their own words and ideas come to life on stage, and watched as, one by one, these children began to call themselves writers.

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