



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT: Amanda Russell

PHONE: 301-634-2267

BOX OFFICE: 301-634-2270

EMAIL: arussell@adventuretheatre.org

ADVENTURE THEATRE ANNOUNCES ITS 60th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
*8 WORKS WILL BE PRODUCED IN 2011-2012: INCLUDES INTERNATIONAL TOURING
PRODUCTION AND 3 WORLD PREMIERES*

GLEN ECHO, MD – [Adventure Theatre](http://www.adventuretheatre.org), the longest-running children's theatre in the Washington, D.C. area, announces its 60th Anniversary Season. This very special season includes an international touring production, a partnership with Rockville's Musical Theatre Center and 7 main stage productions featuring three world premieres. The 60th year celebration continues Adventure Theatre's commitment to the highest quality children's literature brought to life through captivating performances.

The fun begins with ***Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse*** starring Helen-Hayes nominated Felicia Curry (*Mirandy and Brother Wind*) as Lilly. For the holiday season, Adventure Theatre is debuting the world premiere of Tony-Award Nominated and Olivier Award Winning Ken Ludwig's ***'Twas The Night Before Christmas***, based on the poem of the same title and directed by Jerry Whiddon. Adventure Theatre's initiative to bring diversity to the stage, "African American Adventures," continues with the 50th Year Anniversary production of Ezra Jack Keat's ***The Snowy Day***, based on the first children's book to feature an African American as the main character. This musical is adapted by Helen Hayes Winning playwright, David Emerson Toney with music and lyrics by Darius Smith. The fun continues with ***Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day***, featuring Broadway and Washington, D.C. favorite Sandy Bainum as Alexander's mother, directed by Gail Humphries Mardirosian. Having completed a successful in-school tour in 2011 (over 13,000 students served), Adventure Theatre is pleased to bring back its production of ***Just A Dream: The Green Play*** in spring 2012. *Just A Dream: The Green Play* is also scheduled for an overseas run with Singapore Repertory Theatre's The Little Company (TLC), in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia- August 4 – September 25, 2011, marking Adventure Theatre's first international production. Adventure Theatre's final world premiere for the anniversary season is ***Five Little Monkeys @***, based on the series of books by Eileen Christelow and directed by Karin Abromaitis. AT also presents its fourth play of Laura Numeroff's *If You Give* series with, ***If You Give A Moose A Muffin***, starring DC favorite Michael Russotto as the Moose and directed by Jeremy Skidmore, in which a friendly but messy moose visits the little boy for even more mischievous fun. Finally, Adventure Theatre is partnering with Rockville's Musical Theatre Center for the premiere of the theatre for young audiences version of ***Big, The Musical***, starring DC favorite, Kurt Boehm; adapted for the stage by Jeff Frank (First Stage Milwaukee) and Michael J. Bobbitt, directed by Michael J. Bobbitt.

Also, look for Adventure Theatre's 60th Anniversary Gala in Spring of 2012.

As an anniversary incentive, Adventure Theatre is offering a special VIP package to its patrons to include a full-year subscription, discounts for education classes, a full set of books for the season and discounts

to AT community business partners. For more information about Adventure Theatre, call 301-634-2270 or visit www.adventuretheatre.org.

2011-2012 60TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

LILLY'S PURPLE PLASTIC PURSE

September 23 – October 31, 2011

From the book by Kevin Henkes

Adapted for the stage by Kevin Kling

Directed by Nick Olcott

Starring Felicia Curry

All Ages

Lilly loves all sorts of things. She loves school, she loves dressing up, and she even grows to love her "stinky baby brother," Julius. In fact, Lilly loves everything! At least, she loves everything most of the time. Even Lilly has some bad days, but when you have movie star sunglasses and a purple plastic purse, how bad can it be?

A World Premiere

Ken Ludwig's

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

November 18, 2011– January 2, 2012

A new children's play by Broadway's Ken Ludwig

Based on the poem by Clement Clarke Moore

Directed by Jerry Whiddon

Ages 4 and up

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse." But wait! A mouse is stirring - because Santa missed his house last year. Before you can say "Merry Christmas!", we're off on the wild adventures of a mouse, an elf and a spunky little girl who just won't take no for an answer. Don't miss this joyful tribute to the holiday season from three-time Tony nominee and Olivier Award winning playwright Ken Ludwig.

A World Premiere

THE SNOWY DAY

January 20 – February 12, 2012

Based on the Caldecott Award Winning book by Ezra Jack Keats

Book by Helen Hayes Winner David Emerson Toney

Music and Lyrics by Darius Smith

Directed by Jessica Burgess

All Ages

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the first American picture book that featured an African-American child as the main character. The simple tale of a boy waking up to discover that snow has fallen during the night is brought to life in the magical world premiere. Peter celebrates the snow-draped inner city with a day of adventures-experimenting with footprints, knocking snow from a tree, creating snow angels, and trying to save a snowball for the next day.

ALEXANDER AND THE TERRIBLE, HORRIBLE, NO GOOD, VERY BAD DAY

March 2 – April 9, 2012

Based on the book by Judith Viorst

Book and Lyrics by Judith Viorst

Music by Shelly Markham

Directed by Gail Humphries Mardirosian

Featuring Sandy Bainum

Ages 4 and up

Alexander is having a bad day. A terrible day. A horrible day. To be quite honest, it's a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. But then, everybody has bad days, sometimes. Not only does Alexander wake up with gum in his hair, but his mother forgets to pack him dessert, and his best friend decides he's not his best friend anymore. And if that's not bad enough, Alexander's brothers don't have any cavities but—he does. And just when it can't get any worse, there are lima beans for supper and —yuck!—kissing on TV. It is enough to make anyone want to go to Australia. Uuuugggghhh.

JUST A DREAM: THE GREEN PLAY

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION: August 4 – September 25, 2011

SPRING TOURING PRODUCTION: April 10 - May 11, 2012

Based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg (The Polar Express & Jumanji)

Adapted by Sandra Eskin

Directed by Michael J. Bobbitt

For grades K- 5

A World Premiere

FIVE LITTLE MONKEYS ©

April 27 – June 3, 2012

Based on the series of books by Eileen Christelow

Adapted for the stage by Ernie Nolan

Directed by Karin Abromaitis

All ages

Going shopping...baking cakes...sitting in trees...JUMPING ON BEDS!!! In this zany play, all in cumulative verse, five silly simian siblings insist on doing things their own way and heedless of admonitions – much more monkey mayhem ensues. And maybe a call from a doctor.

IF YOU GIVE A MOOSE A MUFFIN

June 22 – September 2, 2012

Based on the book by Laura Numeroff

Adapted for the stage by Steve Garfinkel

Directed by Jeremy Skidmore

Starring Michael Russotto

All Ages

What is a moose came to your house and asked for a muffin? Yikes. In this sequel to If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, a moose will almost always be a bigger problem than a mouse. If you give him a some jam...you may wind up in a jam!

In Partnership with Musical Theater Center

BIG, THE MUSICAL – TYA

Location TBA, Dates TBA

Book by [John Weidman](#)

Music by [David Shire](#)

Lyrics by [Richard Maltby, Jr.](#)

Based on the motion picture 'Big,' written by Gary Ross and Anne Spielberg; produced by Twentieth Century Fox

TYA Adaptation by Jeff Frank, First Stage and Michael J. Bobbitt, Adventure Theatre

Directed by Michael J. Bobbitt

Ages 7 and up

The 1987 hit movie bursts onstage in this vibrant, funny and touching musical. When frustrated adolescent Josh Baskin wishes he were "big" and wakes up the next morning a 30-year-old man, he discovers there's much more to being an adult than he's bargained for-and learns we must all grow up at our own pace, in our own time. Come see this new version created specifically for Young Audiences.

ABOUT ADVENTURE THEATRE

Founded in 1951, Adventure Theatre is the longest-running children's theater in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region. Our mission is *to cultivate new generations of audiences and artists by creating memorable theater experiences in an intimate and interactive environment.* Adventure Theatre offers a wide variety of activities including live performances of classic and contemporary classic children's stories, theater classes and camps (which complement in-school learning), workshops, birthday parties, and community engagement projects. The Theatre reaches over 50,000 children and families annually from Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, and beyond. Adventure Theatre is supported in part through the generous support of the [Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County](#), the [Maryland State Arts Council](#) and the [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

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