

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 8, 2008



MEDIA CONTACT
Kathy Graves, (612) 928-7003
kathy@parenteaugraves.com

BOX OFFICE: (612) 874-0400 or
www.childrenstheatre.org

**Monstrous Fun Comes to
The Children's Theatre Company Stage
with Musical Adaptation of the Award-Winning Picture Book**

**THE
GRUFFALO**
January 16–February 22

Minneapolis, MN – The charming and monstrously fun tale of **THE GRUFFALO** comes to The Children's Theatre Company stage January 16–February 22 (previews begin January 13). The critically acclaimed show, created by Tall Stories Theatre Company, has played to sold-out audiences from London's West End and the Royal National Theatre to New York's New Victory Theatre.

In this irresistibly charming musical adaptation of the award-winning picture book, Mouse sets off on an adventure through the deep, dark woods. Mouse can scare hungry animals away with tall stories of the terrifying Gruffalo, but what happens when he comes face-to-face with the very creature he imagined? A triumphant trio of performers, directed by Tall Stories co-founder Olivia Jacobs, fill the forest with colorful characters and toe tapping, sing-along songs, beautifully capturing the magic of the book by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler.

The *Times* of London called THE GRUFFALO "irresistibly charming"; NYTheatre.com said, "This theatrical adaptation of a popular British children's book dazzles the minds and eyes of children and fellow-travelers alike," and the *New York Times* said, "This colorful, tuneful adaptation of the tale of a clever mouse outwitting predators in a deep, dark wood goes beyond the book in admirable ways, not least the enlistment of the audience in the proceedings."

THE GRUFFALO features lyrics by **Jon Fiber** and **Olivia Jacobs**, music by **Fiber** with **Robyn Price** and **Andy Shaw**, and performances by **Karina Garnett** as Mouse, **Alan Park** as The Gruffalo, and **Alex Scott Fairley** as The Predators.

Previews for THE GRUFFALO begin Tuesday, January 13, with opening night on Friday, January 16. The musical plays on the UnitedHealth Group Stage through February 22. (*A full performance schedule follows on page 3.*) The show is most enjoyed by ages 4 and older. Tickets range from \$20–\$35 for adults and \$14–\$29 for children (17 & under), students and seniors. Single tickets and subscription packages are now on sale at (612) 874-0400 or www.childrenstheatre.org.

About The Children's Theatre Company

The Children's Theatre Company (CTC) creates extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge and inspire. CTC is the first theatre for young people to win the coveted Tony® Award for Outstanding Regional Theater (2003). Founded in 1965, CTC serves over 300,000 people annually and is one of the 20 largest theater companies in the nation. The company is noted for defining worldwide standards for youth theatre with an innovative mix of classic tales, celebrated international productions and challenging new work.

About Tall Stories Theatre Company

Tall Stories was founded in 1997 by Olivia Jacobs and Toby Mitchell. The company has grown to become a highly acclaimed, internationally touring non-profit organization, presenting old, new and timeless stories in a physical, visual style, always acknowledging the presence of the audience (children and adults). *The Gruffalo* was first devised in 2001. Current and future projects include: *Room on the Broom* (UK and US tours 2008-9), *How the Giraffe Got its Neck* (UK tour 2008-9), *The Gruffalo's Child* (UK 2008), *Monster Hits* (UK 2008), and *The Snow Dragon* (UK 2008).

#



"The nation's leading theatre for young audiences"
—*New York Times*

The Children's Theatre Company

THE GRUFFALO

Performance Schedule

Tickets: (612) 874-0400 or www.childrenstheatre.org

Tue Jan 13	7pm (preview)	Tue Feb 3	7pm
Wed Jan 14	7pm (preview)	Fri Feb 6	7:30pm
Thu Jan 15	7pm (preview)	Sat Feb 7	11am & 2pm
Fri Jan 16	7:30pm (opening)	Sun Feb 8	2pm & 5pm
Sat Jan 17	2pm & 7:30pm	Wed Feb 11	7pm
Sun Jan 18	2pm & 5pm	Thu Feb 12	7pm
Thu Jan 22	7pm	Fri Feb 13	7:30pm (ASL/AD)
Fri Jan 23	7:30pm	Sat Feb 14	2pm & 7:30pm
Sat Jan 24	11am & 2pm	Sun Feb 15	2pm & 5pm
Sun Jan 25	2pm & 5pm	Tue Feb 17	7pm
Tue Jan 27	7pm	Wed Feb 18	7pm
Thu Jan 29	7pm	Thu Feb 19	7pm
Fri Jan 30	7:30pm	Sat Feb 21	11am & 2pm
Sat Jan 31	11am & 2pm	Sun Feb 22	2pm
Sun Feb 1	2pm & 5pm		

Creative

Olivia Jacobs (Director) trained at Central. Other directing credits for Tall Stories include *How the Giraffe got its Neck*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, *Monster Hits*, *Them with Tails*, *Mum and the Monster*, *Something Else*, *Snow White* (UK, Broadway and USA), *The Happy Prince* and *Rumpelstiltskin*. For Camden People's Theatre: *The Monkey's Paw* and *The Necklace*. She is co-founder and joint artistic director of Tall Stories.

Toby Mitchell (Creative Producer) trained at Cambridge and Central. Directing credits for Tall Stories include *The Snow Dragon* (UK and USA), *Does a Monster Live Next Door?*, *Cat and No Mouse*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *The Egg* and *Alice and Mr Dodgson*. Recent acting/devising work includes *A British Guide to French Pop*, *The Island of First Loves* and *Pandemonium*. He is co-founder and joint artistic director of Tall Stories.

Shock Productions: Jon Fiber and Andy Shaw have been creating music and sound since 1997. Recent work includes *And All the Children Cried* (BAC, London), *Change of Heart* (New End Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Riverside Studios). They have also written songs and music for *The Gruffalo's Child*, *The Snow Dragon*, *Monster Hits*, *Snow White* and *The Owl and the Pussycat*, all for Tall Stories. Shock also compose and record music for TV (BBC2, Discovery Channel, HSBC, Ericsson and Johnnie Walker).

Isla Shaw (Designer) Credits include *How the Giraffe got its Neck*, *Monster Hits*, *The Gruffalo's Child*, *Mum and the Monster*, *Snow White* and *Something Else* (Tall Stories); *La Rondine* (Peacock Theatre); *The Wedding Singer* (UK tour); *Copenhagen* (The Watermill); *The Argument*, *Three Dark Tales* (Theatre O); *Desire Under the Elms* (RSC); *Phaedra* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh); *The Barber of Seville* (Denmark); *Maria de Buenos Aires* (Norwich Theatre Royal); *The Strauss Gala* (UK Tour).

Cast

Karina Garnett (Mouse) trained at Middlesex University with John Wright. Theatre credits include *Arabian Nights... And Days* (Shifting Sands); *Hanging Around*, *Fool House*, and *Island* (Trestle); *Inamorata*, *Yarn*, and *And The Rain Falls Down* (Fevered Sleep); *Tempting Fate* (Trading Faces); *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pinocchio* (Kazzum); *Unfolding Andersen* and *Lighten Up* (theatre-rites); *The Gruffalo's Child* (Tall Stories).

Alan Park (The Gruffalo) trained at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. Theatre credits include *How the Giraffe got its Neck* (Tall Stories), *Lord of the Flies* (Pilot Theatre), *The Stars Look Down*, *Quay Moments*, *Alex and the Warrior* and *Rumpelstiltskin* (NTC). Screen credits include *Llafur Cariad* and *Bilingual*.

Alex Scott Fairley (*The Predators*) Credits include *Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus* (US tour), *Blood Brothers* (Phoenix/national tour), *Barefoot in the Park* (Sidmouth Rep), *Enjoy* (York Theatre Royal), *The Tempest* (Winchester Theatre Royal) and *Macbeth* (Union). He has also toured with *The Gruffalo's Child*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The BFG*. Alex studied English and Latin at Jesus College, Oxford.