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From a World Without Hope to a World of Possibilities

**The Children's Theatre Company Presents the
World Premiere of IQBAL
March 3–March 28**

Minneapolis, MN – The Children's Theatre Company (CTC) brings the true story of the internationally celebrated Pakistani boy Iqbal Masih to the stage this March. A tale of amazing courage and spirit, **IQBAL** celebrates the life of the 12-year-old hero who took thousands of children from a world without hope to a world of possibilities.

Written by Jerome Hairston and based on the book *Iqbal* by Francesco D'Adamo, the world premiere production is directed by Peter C. Brosius. **IQBAL** opens Friday, March 6, (previews begin Tuesday, March 3) and runs through March 28.

Sold into slavery at the age of four to work in a rug factory, Iqbal became an ardent and compelling spokesperson against child labor after his escape at the age of ten. CTC's production tells his story from the perspective of Fatima, a child who worked with him in the carpet factory. Under the stern eye of a factory master, the children have managed to find ways to laugh but they have forgotten how to dream. But when Iqbal joins their ranks and dares to rebel, he inspires in them the courage to reach for a better life.

"IQBAL challenges all of us—but especially young people—to find their voice, to summon their courage, and to stand up for what is right all over this country and the world," says Brosius. "With this production, written by a wonderful storyteller of great humor and humanity, we at CTC seek to deepen our understanding and our embrace of this planet we share."

IQBAL grew out of a theater class project with CTC's Neighborhood Bridges program. Students used stories of their own lives and the work they were expected to do and mixed them with stories of children laboring in rug factories and brick kilns around the world. "The result

was a wonderful piece of theater that led me to explore the realities of children who are living lives so different from those of children in the U.S.,” says Brosius. He found such a tale in a dynamic book of the life of Iqbal Masih written by Italian author Francesco D’Adamo.

Brosius subsequently commissioned the renowned playwright Jerome Hairston to adapt the book for the stage. Hairston has developed and presented work at the at Humana Festival at Actors Theatre of Louisville, Playwrights Horizons, Atlantic Theater Company, Hartford Stage, Arena Stage, New York Stage and Film, Sundance Theater Lab, and Eugene O’Neill National Playwrights Conference. In addition, Hairston has received commissions from The Kennedy Center, Centerstage in Baltimore, Public Theater/NYSF, and Manhattan Theatre Club.

This production welcomes back to the stage Jack Wyatt Jue (Iqbal), who starred as Pepito in CTC’s *Madeline and the Gypsies*. He is joined by Isabella Dawis (Fatima), who appeared in CTC’s *Disney’s High School Musical* and *The Magic Mrs. Piggie-Wiggle*, and several newcomers to the CTC stage: Alaina Lucy Rivera, Rahul Dev, Jordan Gabriel Aritt, Parth A. Shukla, Shaan J.P. Bijwadia, Kurt Kwan, Duncan Frost and Tim Reddy. Jemar Rovie-Frenchwood (*Disney’s High School Musical*) and Emil Herrera (*Anon*) are also featured.

Victor Zupanc composed the music for **IQBAL**. Scenic and costume design are by G.W. Mercier with lighting design by Marcus Dilliard.

Previews begin Tuesday, March 3; the production opens Friday, March 6, and plays on the UnitedHealth Group Stage through March 28. (*Full performance schedule follows on page 3.*) The show is most enjoyed by ages 9 and older. Tickets range from \$20–\$35 for adults and \$14–\$29 for children (17 & under), students and seniors. Tickets are available at (612) 874-0400 or www.childrenstheatre.org.

About The Children's Theatre Company

The Children’s Theatre Company (CTC) is the first theatre for young people to win the coveted Tony® Award for Outstanding Regional Theater (2003). 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.

“The nation’s leading theatre for young audiences”

—New York Times

The Children's Theatre Company
IQBAL

Performance Schedule

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

Tue Mar 3	7pm (preview)
Wed Mar 4	7pm (preview)
Thu Mar 5	7pm (preview)
Fri Mar 6	7:30pm (opening)
Sat Mar 7	2pm
Sun Mar 8	2pm & 5pm
Wed Mar 11	7pm
Fri Mar 13	7:30pm
Sat Mar 14	11am & 2pm
Sun Mar 15	2pm & 5pm
Tue Mar 17	7pm
Sat Mar 21	11am & 7:30pm
Sun Mar 22	2pm & 5pm
Tue Mar 24	7pm
Thu Mar 26	7pm
Fri Mar 27	7:30pm
Sat Mar 28	2pm & 7:30pm

Iqbal is supported by The Puffin Foundation Ltd. and
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