

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACTS:
Kathy Graves, (612) 928-7003
kathy@parenteaugraves.com
Anne Q. Ulseth, (612) 824-1614
anne@aquamn.com

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

The Wondrous World of Narnia On Stage for the Holidays
The Children's Theatre Company Presents the Epic Adventure
THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE
November 11–January 3

Minneapolis, MN – The wondrous world of Narnia comes to life on the CTC stage when Peter, Susan, Lucy and Edmund embark upon their incredible adventures in a new production of C.S. Lewis's **THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE**.

The show, adapted by **Adrian Mitchell** and directed by **Rebecca Lynn Brown**, features the music of **Shaun Davey** and choreography of **Joe Chvala**. It opens Friday, November 14, (previews begin November 11) and runs through Saturday, January 3.

The epic journey begins when the four children step through the wardrobe into the once-beautiful but now frozen land where the White Witch reigns. There, the children must find the courage and faith to join Aslan the Lion in a valiant battle to restore beauty and hope—and to earn their places as kings and queens of Narnia.

This production reunites director Rebecca Lynn Brown with scenic designer Ricardo Hernandez and lighting designer Matt Fry. The trio previously created *Esperanza Rising*, one of CTC's most critically acclaimed shows.

"This is a beautiful adaptation of a classic story," says CTC Artistic Director Peter Brosius. "It conveys such a generosity of spirit and a sense of hope—in the power of Aslan, the unity of the human and animal world, and the restoration of a once-extraordinary land."

Director Lynn Brown says the show asks: "How do we make good choices, even in the darkest of times? It is not always easy to do the right thing or sometimes even to know what the

right thing is. This is a story of children valiantly helping to transform a poisoned world into a life-affirming landscape.”

THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE features **Will Von Vogt** as Peter, **Teresa Doran** as Susan, **Erin Hampe** as Lucy and **Nathan Barlow** as Edmund. They are joined by **Ansa Akyea** as Aslan, **Dean Holt** as Tumnus, **George Keller** as Mrs. Beaver, **Autumn Ness** as the White Witch, **Reed Sigmund** as Mr. Beaver and an ensemble of 15 cast members.

Previews for THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE begin Tuesday, November 11, with opening night on Friday, November 14. The musical plays on the UnitedHealth Group Stage through January 3. (*A full performance schedule follows on page 3.*) The show is most enjoyed by ages 6 and older. Tickets range from \$24–\$40 for adults and \$18–\$34 for children (17 & under), students and seniors. Tickets available 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.

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“The nation’s leading theatre for young audiences”
—*New York Times*

The Children's Theatre Company
THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE
Performance Schedule

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

Tue Nov 11	7pm (preview)	Tue Dec 9	7pm
Wed Nov 12	7pm (preview)	Wed Dec 10	7pm
Thu Nov 13	7pm (preview)	Fri Dec 12	7:30pm (ASL/AD)
Fri Nov 14	7:30pm (opening)	Sat Dec 13	2pm & 7:30pm
Sat Nov 15	2pm & 7:30pm	Sun Dec 14	2pm & 5pm
Sun Nov 16	2pm & 5pm	Tue Dec 16	7pm
Thu Nov 20	7pm	Wed Dec 17	7pm
Fri Nov 21	7:30pm	Fri Dec 19	7:30pm
Sat Nov 22	11am & 2pm	Sat Dec 20	11am & 2pm
Sun Nov 23	2pm & 5pm	Sun Dec 21	2pm & 5pm
Tue Nov 25	7pm	Mon Dec 22	11am & 5pm
Wed Nov 26	7pm	Tue Dec 23	11am & 5pm
Fri Nov 28	2pm & 7:30pm	Fri Dec 26	11am & 5pm
Sat Nov 29	11am & 2pm	Sat Dec 27	11am & 2pm
Sun Nov 30	2pm & 5pm	Sun Dec 28	2pm & 5pm
Tue Dec 2	7pm	Mon Dec 29	11am & 5pm
Wed Dec 3	7pm	Tue Dec 30	11am & 5pm
Fri Dec 5	7:30pm	Wed Dec 31	11am & 5pm
Sat Dec 6	11am & 2pm	Fri Jan 2	2pm & 7:30pm
Sun Dec 7	2pm & 5pm	Sat Jan 3	11am & 2pm

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Adrian Mitchell (Playwright) was born in London in 1932 and educated in Wiltshire and at Christ Church, Oxford, before becoming a reporter for several papers writing about books, pop music and television. He received the Eric Gregory Award for Poetry in 1961, the P.E.N. Translation Prize in 1966 and the Tokyo Festival Television Award in 1971. He has been resident writer with the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, Billericay Comprehensive School, and the Unicorn Theatre for Children. He has held fellowships at Lancaster, Wesleyan and Cambridge Universities, is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and was awarded the Gold Medal of the Theatre of Poetry, Varna, Bulgaria. He was the 1995 Dylan Thomas Fellow in the U.K. Year of Literature and Writing. Adrian has adapted and created numerous plays for adults and youth including Kipling's *Mowgli's Jungle*, Dylan Thomas's *A Child's Christmas In Wales*, *The Government Inspector* for the National Theatre, as well as lyrics for Peter Hall's *Animal Farm* by George Orwell for the National Theatre. His stories for children include *Baron Munchausen* and *Our Mammoth* and versions of *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*, *Maudie*, *The Green Children*, *Gynormous!* *A Book for Giants*. His books of poems for children include *The Thirteen Secrets of Poetry* and the acclaimed anthology *The Orchard Book of Poems*.

Rebecca Lynn Brown (Director) returns to CTC having stage the world premiere of *Esperanza Rising*. Other credits include *Cecilia's Last Tea Party* (Todd Mountain Theatre Project), *Salsandia* (La Jolla Playhouse), *The Yellow Wood* (The York), *Honey Bo And The Gold Mine* by Will Power (La Jolla Playhouse), and *Splash Hatch On The E Going Down* by Kia Corthron (Pillsbury House). New play development credits include *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl (McCarter Theatre), *Amazons And Their Men* by Jordan Harrison (Playwrights' Center), *The Lake's End* by Anton Dudley (New York Theatre Workshop), *Tight Embrace* by Jorge Ignacio Cortiñas (Repertorio Espagnol), *The Magician's Wife* by Rosanna Staffa (Playwrights' Center) and *Summer-A-Go-Go* by Ann Marie Healy (Clubbed Thumb). She has also directed works by Charles L. Mee, Eve Ensler, Caryl Churchill, Sarah Daniels, Caridad Svich, William Shakespeare and has created original works at Intermedia Arts. Rebecca was the recipient of a 2003 TCG New Generations Grant and was Artistic Associate at The Children's Theatre Company from 2003-2005. She has taught acting, movement and cultural studies at major Canadian and American Universities and is a certified OM Yoga instructor and a Usual Suspect at New York Theatre Workshop.

Joe Chvala (Choreographer) is the founder and artistic director of the highly acclaimed percussive dance company, the Flying Foot Forum. He also has directed, choreographed, and been commissioned to create new works for a variety of theater and dance companies including the Guthrie Theater, Walker Art Center, Ordway Center, Minnesota Opera, CTC, Gothenburg's Balettakademien, Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, Great American History Theater, Alpine Theater Project, Park Square Theatre, and Zenon Dance Company. He has been the recipient of both Ivey and Sage awards for theater and dance, numerous "Best of the Year" honors from various US newspapers and periodicals, and numerous choreographic and interdisciplinary awards, fellowships, and grants from such organizations as the National Endowment for the Arts, the Minnesota State Arts Board, Target, and the McKnight Foundation.

Victor Zupanc (Music Director, Sound Design) grew up in Canada and started studying music at age six. He earned his Masters Degree in Music Composition at UC San Diego. Since then Victor has done over 200 productions as composer, musical director and sound designer all over the country. His music has been heard in China, Japan, South America, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. He won two Hollywood DramaLogue Awards and two Theatre Critics Circle Awards. He is a three-time McKnight Fellow and is a 2005 Bush Foundation Artist Fellow. Victor has been the Music Director at CTC for 17 seasons composing dozens of scores including *The Hobbit*, *The Monkey King*, *Korczak's Children*, *A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings*, *BFG* and *Bud, Not Buddy*. He particularly enjoyed conducting a Chinese orchestra in Shanghai, China doing *Dr. Seuss' The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* in Chinese. Victor lives in South Minneapolis with his wife Dianne and daughters, Luisa and Lydia, who love coming to rehearsals with their dad.

Riccardo Hernandez (Scenic Design) designed Tony Kushner's *Caroline, or Change* on Broadway (also Royal National Theater, 2007 Olivier and 2006 Evening Standard Awards for Best Musical), *Topdog/Underdog* (also Royal Court, 2002 Pulitzer Award for Best Play), *Elaine Stritch; At Liberty* (also Old Vic), *Noise/Funk*, *The Tempest*, all directed by George C. Wolfe, *Parade*, Hal Prince director (Tony, Drama Desk nominees), and *Bells Are Ringing*. New York credits include over 20 productions at New

York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater, BAM, Lincoln Center, Cherry Lane, New York Theatre Workshop, and Manhattan Theater Club. Notable regional theater credits include American Repertory Theater (collaborations with Janos Szasz, Arthur Nauzyciel, Gadi Roll, Robert Brustein, Ron Daniels), Guthrie, Goodman, and Mark Taper. Opera credits include *The Lost Highway*, directed by Diane Paulus for English National Opera/Young Vic, London; *Appomattox*, composed by Philip Glass, libretto by Christopher Hampton for San Francisco Opera; and *Haroun*, directed by Mark Lamos New York City Opera, as well as productions for Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Santa Fe Opera, and Los Angeles Opera. Internationally, his work has been seen at Det Norske Teatret in Oslo, Centre Dramatique National/Orleans in France, and Akasaka ACT Theater in Tokyo. Education: Yale School of Drama.

Anita Yavich (Costume Design) designed *Anna In The Tropics* on Broadway. Other credits include *New Jerusalem* at Classic Stage; *Being Alive* at Philadelphia Theater Company; *Iphigenia 2.0* at The Signature; *Peel* with David Parsons Dance; *The Wooden Brecks* at MCC; *Measure For Pleasure*, *Kit Marlowe*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Civil Sex*, and *Pericles* at The Public; *Coriolanus* and *Svejk* at Tfana; *Caravansari* and *Orfeo For Ballet Hispanico*; *Orphan Of Chao* at Lincoln Center Festival; *Snow In June* at ART; and *Peach Blossom Fan* at Frank Gehry Music Center, all directed by Chen Shi Zheng. Opera credits include *Cyrano* at La Scala, Met and Royal Opera, Covent Garden; *Les Troyens* at The Met, Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* at Tanglewood; *The Gambler* at Opera Zuid, Holland; *Hildegard*, *A Measure Of Joy* With Chanticleer; Steve Reich's *Three Tales* at Vienna Festival and International Tour; *Fidelio*, *Die Walkure* and *Das Rheingold* at Washington Opera; *Arsace II* at San Francisco Opera; *Madame Butterfly* at Houston Grand Opera and Grand Theatre De Geneve; *Der Fliegende Hollander* at Spoleto Festival; *The Silver River* at Spoleto and Lincoln Center Festival. She won a 2006 Obie Award for Sustained Excellence in Design.

Matt Frey (Lighting Designer) designed *Esperanza Rising*, *Brooklyn Bridge*, *Tale of a West Texas Marsupial Girl*, and *The Hobbit* with The Children's Theatre Company. Recent work includes *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* with Corn Exchange, Dublin, Ireland; *Tragedy: A Tragedy* for Berkeley Rep with Les Waters directing; *Frau Margot* at Fort Worth Opera; *Gorecki's Symphony No. 3* with the Ridge Theater and Brooklyn Philharmonic at BAM; Tan Dun's *The Gate* also at BAM; Bach's *St. John Passion* with Robert Spano and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Other work includes David Lang's opera *The Difficulty of Crossing a Field* also with Ridge Theater; Steve Reich and Beryl Korot's *The Cave* at The Barbican, London, and Cité de la Musique, Paris. Mr. Frey's work has been seen at New Group, Playwright's Horizons, Manhattan Class Company, New York Theatre Workshop, Signature Theater, Theatre For A New Audience and regional theaters around the U.S. and theaters abroad.