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From Sesame Street to Hip Hop, from the Nez Perce to India, The Children's Theatre Company Celebrates Stories Around the World

2009-2010 Season Features Three World Premieres, Beloved Classics and Tales that Span the Globe

(Minneapolis, MN) — The Children's Theatre Company today announced its 2009–2010 season, a celebration of stories worldwide. From the first-ever theatrical production featuring Sesame Street's Bert & Ernie to the dynamic hip hop rhythms of the Mayhem Poets, the line-up of eight productions—including three world premieres—spans this country and the globe.

In making the announcement, Artistic Director Peter Brosius said, "I am thrilled to bring to the Twin Cities extraordinary theatre that celebrates the diverse communities of this planet, brings classics to new life, creates the smallest piece of theatre that CTC has ever produced with *The Biggest Little House in the Forest*, and of course has Bert and Ernie singing on our stage for the very first time."

The 2009-2010 season kicks off in September 2009 with the world premiere of **Bert & Ernie, Goodnight!** and continues through June 2010 with seven productions:

Bert & Ernie, Goodnight! (world premiere)

Sept 8–Oct 25 • UnitedHealth Group Stage

It's bedlam with the beloved Sesame Street duo in this song-filled theatrical debut. When Bert wants to sleep and Ernie tries to help, the wild ride begins.

Adapted for the stage by Barry Kornhauser

Presented by special arrangement with Sesame Workshop and VEE Corporation

Directed by Peter C. Brosius

Featuring Bradley Greenwald and Reed Sigmund

“Sesame Workshop is thrilled to be working with the Children's Theatre Company,” says Peter van Roden, Vice President of Themed Entertainment for Sesame Workshop. “These two iconic characters are in great hands and will have a wonderful new audience thanks to CTC’s creative efforts. We just hope Bert can get some sleep!”

Mayhem Poets

Oct 13–Nov 8 • Cargill Stage

Hip-hop rhythms lead the way, spoken word tells the tales, and audience participation keeps it real in this dynamic work that brings performance poetry—and imagination—to new heights.

Cinderella (holiday show)

Nov 10–Jan 2 • UnitedHealth Group Stage

Far from your typical *Cinderella*, CTC’s production spins a gorgeous and thoroughly fresh tale filled with outrageous characters, spectacular scenery and crazy physical comedy.

*By John Davidson, with Original music by Victor Zupanc
Directed by Peter C. Brosius*

Mr. McGee & The Biting Flea

Jan 12–Feb 21 • UnitedHealth Group Stage

Australia’s celebrated Patch Theatre transforms Pamela Allen’s clever stories into a theatrical feast, told in gorgeous, smart harmonies.

*By Pamela Allen
Directed by Dave Brown with music by Timothy Sexton
Created by Patch Theatre Company*

According to Coyote

Feb 9–Mar 21 • Cargill Stage

Coyote, the legendary trickster from Native American lore played by the virtuosic Gene Tagaban, takes audiences on a hilarious and moving journey with a collection tales passed down through generations of the Nez Perce people.

*By John Kauffman
Originally commissioned by The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Directed by Sheila Daniels
Featuring Gene Tagaban*

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Iron Ring (world premiere)

Mar 9–Apr 10 • UnitedHealth Group Stage

A thrilling Indian epic of daring adventure, dazzling dance, and deep humanity, this production, commissioned by CTC, is co-created with Ragamala Music and Dance Theatre.

*Adapted by Charles Way from the book by Lloyd Alexander
Directed by Peter C. Brosius*

Disney’s Mulan Jr.

Apr 27–Jun 13 • UnitedHealth Group Stage

One of China’s great stories, this action-packed stage adaptation travels to the legendary days of ancient China in a musical celebration of honor and the fighting spirit.

*Music and lyrics by Matthew Wilder and David Zippel, Stephen Schwartz, Jeanine Tesori
and Alexa Junge
Music adapted and arranged and additional music and lyrics by Bryan Louiselle
Book adapted and additional lyrics by Patricia Cotter
Based on the 1998 Disney film “Mulan” and the story “Fa Mulan” by Robert D. San Souci*

The Biggest Little House in the Forest (world premiere)

Apr 27–Jun 13 • Cargill Stage

One amazing actor with delightful puppets creates theatrical magic in this tale of animals who band together to build a house, proving that there is always enough room for a new friend.

*Adapted by Rosanna Staffa from the book by Djemma Bider
Directed by Peter C. Brosius
Starring Autumn Ness*

Season tickets for the Children’s Theatre Company 2009-2010 season go on sale to the public March 16. For more information, visit www.childrenstheatre.org or call the Ticket Office at 612.874.0400.

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