

DESERT FOOTHILLS THEATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 7, 2023

CONTACT: Sandi Carll, 480.488-1981, Sandi@azfcf.org

DESERT FOOTHILLS THEATER PRESENTS 2023-2024 Community Theater Season

Arts opportunities and quality entertainment at Desert Foothills Theater

SCOTTSDALE, AZ—Desert Foothills Theater (DFT) welcomes back valley theater patrons, actors, designers, directors, musicians, families, and stage crew eager for the 2023-2024 season.

Producing Artistic Director, **SANDI CARLL**, is thrilled to announce the upcoming season lineup. With three youth shows, a special teen production, and a finale musical starring both teens and adults, this year's offerings feature quality entertainment for the entire family.

"We're calling this season, A Ticket to Treasure," exclaimed Carll. "The greater Phoenix area has an enormous affection for theatre and we are proud to present our 48th season! The shows chosen this year celebrate growth and learning, joy, fun, and personal discovery. This year, we're in the business to create treasured family memories and inspire a life-long love for the arts."

Please make your plans to join DFT again and again this coming year.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Musical - A special summer TEEN DREAM project!

Teens ages 13-19 are welcome to audition

Auditions: July 7-8, 2023

Eight Shows: August 18-27, 2023

The Holland Center

Directed by Sebastian Stallone

Producing Artistic Director, Sandi Carll, will serve as advisor and supporter to this ALL-TEEN production. Directed, staged and acted by a cast and crew of local talented teens, this show kicks off DFT's season with a spectacular musical theater favorite!

Winner of the Tony and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced, wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescenters vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Kids, Musical

DFT hosts this “No-Cut” performance opportunity open to children ages 6-12.

All participants will be cast in the show and children will build skills in singing, dancing and acting.

No experience necessary.

After-school rehearsals begin, August 28

Five Shows: September 28-October 1, 2023

The Holland Center

Directed by Mackenzie Moller

Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir is a golden ticket to adventure. The delicious adventures experienced by Charlie Bucket on his visit to Willy Wonka's mysterious chocolate factory light up the stage in this captivating adaptation of Roald Dahl's fantastical tale. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder, in addition to a host of fun new songs, Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS is a scrumdilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whomever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. Four of the five winning children are insufferable brats, but the fifth is a sweet young lad named Charlie Bucket, who takes the tour in the company of his equally amiable grandfather. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory — or suffer the consequences.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka Kids is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Disney's Aladdin Jr., Musical

Kids 10-16 welcome to audition

Auditions: October 2-3, 2023

Eight Shows: November 10-19, 2023

Cactus Shadows Fine Arts Center, Black Box Theater

Director: TBD

Disney's Aladdin JR. is based on the 1992 Academy Award®-winning film and the 2014 hit Broadway show about the “diamond in the rough” street rat who learns that his true worth lies deep within.

The story you know and love has been given the royal treatment! Aladdin and his three friends, Babkak, Omar, and Kassim, are down on their luck until Aladdin discovers a magic lamp and the Genie who has the power to grant three wishes. Wanting to earn the respect of the princess, Jasmine, Aladdin embarks on an adventure that will test his will and his moral character.

Disney's Aladdin Jr. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Seussical Kids, Musical

DFT hosts another “No-Cut” performance opportunity open to children ages 6-12.

All participants will be cast in the show and children will build skills in singing, dancing and acting.

No experience necessary.

After-school rehearsals will start January 2, 2024
Five Shows: February 1-4, 2024
The Holland Center
Director: TBD

Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of your favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in *Seussical KIDS*, a fantastical musical extravaganza from Tony-winners, Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty (Lucky Stiff, My Favorite Year, Once on This Island, Ragtime).

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat, our narrator, tells the story of Horton, an elephant who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos, including Jojo, a Who child, who gets in trouble for thinking too many "thinks." Horton's challenge is twofold — not only must he protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, but he must also guard an abandoned egg that's been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger, kidnapping and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant!

Disney's Seussical Kids is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Disney's Freaky Friday, Teen and Adult Musical

Teens 12+ & Adults are welcome to audition
Auditions: February 29- March 3, 2024
Six Shows: April 11-20, 2024
The Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion
Directed by Sandi Carll

The musical, *Freaky Friday*, is based on the beloved 1972 novel by Mary Rodgers.

When an overworked mother and her teenage daughter magically swap bodies, they have just one day to put things right again. *Freaky Friday*, a new musical based on the celebrated novel by Mary Rodgers and the hit Disney films, is a heartfelt, comedic, and unexpectedly emotional update on an American classic. By spending a day in each other's shoes, Katherine and Ellie come to appreciate one another's struggles, learn self-acceptance, and realize the immeasurable love and mutual respect that bond a mother and daughter.

Disney's Freaky Friday is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

Neil Simon's The Odd Couple, Adult Play

Adults 18+ are welcome to audition
Auditions: TBD
Five Shows: Spring, 2024 (exact dates TBD)
The Holland Center
Director: TBD

This classic comedy opens as a group of the guys assemble for cards in the apartment of divorced Oscar Madison. And if the mess is any indication, it's no wonder that his wife left him. Late to arrive is Felix Unger, who has just been separated from his wife. Fastidious, depressed, and none too tense, Felix seems suicidal, but as the action

unfolds, Oscar becomes the one with murder on his mind when the clean freak and the slob ultimately decide to room together with hilarious results as *The Odd Couple* is born.

The Odd Couple was first presented on Broadway by Saint Subber at the Plymouth Theatre in New York City on March 10, 1965. It was directed by Mike Nichols.

Neil Simon's *The Odd Couple* is presented through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals. All authorized performance materials are also supplied by Concord Theatricals, 250 W. 57th Street 6th Floor, New York, NY 10107-0102

For more information on Desert Foothills Theater events, performances, productions, children's camps and more, visit dftheater.org or call 480-488-1981.

###

About Desert Foothills Theater

Desert Foothills Theater is an award-winning theater that has been presenting work north Scottsdale since 1975. Theater changes lives and we invite all community members to be part of that life-changing experience by providing performance, volunteer, education and attendance opportunities for everyone!