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Starlight Announces Performance Series for Young Audiences as Part of Capital Campaign



In 2024, two titles will come to the Indoors stage at Starlight.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – As part of Starlight’s \$40 million capital campaign, Uniquely KC, announced in October, the historic theatre is piloting five new Community Engagement programs to enhance the Starlight tradition and extend it to new, diverse participants of all ages. Phase I includes a Performance Series for Young Audiences to launch in Spring 2024.

Today, Starlight announced that limited tickets are now on sale for the Spring 2024 launch, with *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* playing two public performances on March 2, and *GRIMMZ Fairy Tales* playing two public performances on April 13. All tickets in all seating sections are on sale now for \$15 each, and all performances will be held inside the climate-controlled Cohen Community Stage House

The Performance Series for Young Audiences provides the inspirational benefits of live theatre to community students and families and ensures young people have opportunities to experience the magic of Starlight. Each production includes weekday matinee performances dedicated to school-aged groups, followed by weekend matinee performances with tickets available to the public for purchase. Starlight is working alongside Kansas City school districts to arrange tickets for thousands of elementary students to attend the student matinees, where they will experience the wonder of a live performance and have the opportunity to extend their learning in the classroom through school resource guides.

“Something we heard often during the development of new programs was that community members are eager for young people in their lives to have the same type of meaningful Starlight

MORE

experience that they have had,” Alex Jones, Starlight’s V.P. of Community Engagement, said. “These performances provide an accessible opportunity for families and community students to explore theatre and are another step towards Starlight being the home of live arts experiences for all generations.”

The 2024 Performance Series for Young Audiences at Starlight includes:

The Boy Who Cried Wolf

March 2, 2024 - Public Performances 11 a.m. + 2 p.m.

Written by playwright Mike Kenny and inspired by Aesop’s famous fable, this is a beautiful wintery tale about a boy who learns that “nobody believes a liar, even when they’re telling the truth.” A gifted ensemble of actor-musicians play instruments and sing live as they embody all the delightful characters, including hilarious sheep and perhaps a scary wolf or two, all set in a village of knitters with fingers flicking, needles clicking, and where every new jumper tells a tale! *The Boy Who Cried Wolf was developed for young people ages 4-8 and is designed for children and adults to enjoy together.*

GRIMMZ Fairy Tales

April 13, 2024 - Public Performances 11 a.m. + 2 p.m.

A hip-hop revelation for the younger generation! Meet two modern-day hip-hop street performers, Jake and Will, who bring the stories of the Brothers Grimm to life with a contemporary spin, as they and a few of their friends turn records and dance circles around some of the most beloved and well-known fairy tales collected by the famous German brothers of old. Featured tales include “Cinderella,” “Hansel and Gretel,” “The Frog Prince,” “Rapunzel,” “Snow White & the Seven Shawties,” “The Brave Little Tailor,” “The Six Swans,” and “The Elves and the Shoemaker.” These tales include R&B, pop, reggae, and rap, with a little Run-D.M.C.-inspired rock and roll. *GRIMMZ Fairy Tales was developed for young people ages 7-12 and is designed for children and adults to enjoy together.*

How to Purchase Tickets:

Tickets for the public performances of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* and *GRIMMZ Fairy Tales* are on sale now for \$15 each and available online at kcstarlight.com, by calling (816) 363-7827, or by visiting the ticket office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City Mo., 64132. For more information, including show content considerations, please visit kcstarlight.com.

Please note that kcstarlight.com is the only official ticket source for all shows in the Performances Series for Young Audiences. If you purchase tickets from another website or ticket broker, we cannot guarantee those tickets are legitimate.

About Starlight

Opened as a theatre in 1950 and a nonprofit organization in 1951, Starlight is the largest and oldest performing arts organization in Kansas City, Missouri, and connects our community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences of all ages. Offering diverse programming year-round, Starlight presents Broadway musicals, concert events, and extensive community

MORE

engagement programming, including classes, scholarships, and one of the largest high school musical theatre award programs in the nation. Located on 16 acres in Swope Park, the historic, city-owned venue is the second-largest outdoor producing theatre in the country with almost 8,000 seats.

Follow Starlight on social media @kcstarlight and visit kcstarlight.com for more information.

Starlight is supported in part by the City of Kansas City, Missouri Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund.

About Uniquely KC

In October 2023, Starlight announced a \$40 million capital campaign, Uniquely KC, a plan that will connect the community through live arts experiences that entertain, inspire, and engage and create accessible live arts experiences for all generations at one of Kansas City's most unique outdoor venues.

The campaign will make capital improvements across the entire Starlight campus including construction of a new production truss and light bridge, a state-of-the-art seating canopy, renovated restrooms and additional family restrooms, health and nursing rooms, and a renovated catering kitchen. The campaign will also help launch five new community programs, designed to fill gaps in important arts programming across Kansas City and make the Starlight experience more accessible to all generations.

To learn more about the campaign, visit www.kcstarlight.com/uniquelyKC.

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