

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Starlight's Performances for Young Audiences Series Returns This Fall



All performances are held inside the climate-controlled Cohen Community Stage House.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Starlight Theatre is excited to announce the return of its Performances for Young Audiences Series, featuring international, award-winning theater companies to inspire and engage elementary aged youth. Tickets are available online at kcstarlight.com, by calling (816) 363-7827, or by visiting the ticket office at 4600 Starlight Road, Kansas City, Mo., 64132. The Performances for Young Audiences Series is brought to you by Children's Mercy.

Developed for young people ages 4-10 and designed for children and adults to enjoy together, this series provides young audiences the inspirational and developmental benefits of live theatre to community students and families. School matinee performances and weekend family shows ensure young people and their families have opportunities to experience the magic of Starlight.

"It's a thrill to bring these fresh and imaginative productions to our stage," Alex Jones, V.P. of Community Engagement at Starlight, said. "One of our core goals at Starlight is to connect young people with the magic of live theatre. These engaging shows spark creativity, foster emotional growth, and build lasting memories for families and students alike."

In chronological order, the Performances for Young Audiences Series at Starlight features:

SUGAR SKULL! A Día de Muertos Musical Adventure
October 25, 2025

SUGAR SKULL! A Día de Muertos Musical Adventure is a touring bilingual/bicultural musical for young audiences and families that uses traditional regional music and dance from Mexico to tell the

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story of twelve-year-old Vita Flores. Vita thinks her family has gone loco planning a celebration for deceased loved ones. Why throw a party for the dead? But when a spirited candy skeleton suddenly springs to life, Vita finds herself on a magical, musical journey to unravel the true meaning of Día de Muertos.

Meet Sugar Skull, a charismatic skeleton with a secret or two. With her skeletal new friend, Vita dances with ancient ancestors, sings with a sorrowful sorceress, escapes the trickster Chaneques, and even meets the famous Catrina Calavera. But can this clever youth gather the missing pieces needed for her family ofrenda before it's too late?

Hare & Tortoise
April 11, 2026

Meet two competing friends in this fantastic adaptation of Aesop's classic fable.

Hare is ready to race, but Tortoise has many things to do before it's the right time. And time moves so slowly! From sun-shining spring to snow-falling winter, the duo go through all four seasons. Does Hare have the patience? When will they actually start the race? Brimming with charming characters, live music and singing, and wonderful physicality, Tutti Frutti brings you this much-loved story about opposites and friendship.

"The real pleasure here is the touchingly drawn friendship between [the] gangly, over excitable Hare and [the] careful and methodical Tortoise," – The Guardian Winner of the Writer's Guild of Great Britain Award for Best Play (Children & Young People)!

How to Purchase Tickets:

Tickets for each show are on sale now 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, please visit kcstarlight.com.

Discount prices for groups of 10 or more are available by contacting Starlight's group sales department at 816-997-1137 or groups@kcstarlight.com. Please note that kcstarlight.com is the only official ticket source for all shows in the Performances for Young Audiences Series. 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 engagement programming, including arts access initiatives, scholarships, school partnerships, and one of the most well-regarded 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.

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

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