



advancing theatre, enlivening culture

NEWS RELEASE
CALENDAR LISTING

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A TRADITION IN THE MAKING:

**WORLD PREMIERE PANTO SLEEPING BEAUTY MARKS
KENN MCLAUGHLIN'S PLAYWRITING DEBUT**

Stages' Second Panto Offers Fresh, Houston-Centric Take On Holiday Entertainment

HOUSTON, TX – Stages Producing Artistic Director Kenn McLaughlin makes his playwriting debut with the world premiere of *Panto Sleeping Beauty*, the first Pantomime-style musical written specifically for the Houston community. Following on the glass heels of last season's wildly successful *Panto Cinderella*, Stages' second foray into the world of British-style Pantomime offers fresh, inventive holiday fun for audiences of all ages. With music by David Nehls (*The Great American Trailer Park Musical*) and orchestrations by Houston musical mainstay Steven Jones, *Panto Sleeping Beauty* keeps Stages on the leading edge of the emerging Pantomime tradition in the United States. *Panto Sleeping Beauty* runs in Stages' Yeager Theater November 18, 2009 – January 3, 2010.

The British form of Pantomime (not to be confused with silent actors in whiteface) finds its roots in the Commedia traditions of the Italian Renaissance in which traveling players often presented a production for children prior to offering the fare intended for adults. By the time the tradition arrived in the London, the plays had adopted a decidedly adult sensibility while still managing to simultaneously entertain the children. Today Pantomime—affectionately known as Panto—continues as a holiday sensation throughout the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada. Stages is among the first theatres in the U.S. to introduce the form, which is finally gaining popularity on this side of the Pond.

Panto Sleeping Beauty whisks audiences between a humorous version of Houston (complete with landmarks like the Skystonian) and the magical world of Pantoland, inhabited by all the characters from every story ever told, from classic literature to popular television. And at the heart of *this* story is Nadia Respite, sent as a baby from Pantoland to Houston in an attempt to escape a terrible curse. But while it draws its basic structure from the classic fairy tale, McLaughlin's version turns the familiar story on its ear, with surprises at every turn. Expect feminist fairies, dancing tree sprites, a nod to Michael Jackson, a chipmunk striptease, and plenty of local humor!

3201 Allen Parkway, Suite 101
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www.stages theatre.com

Audiences can also expect the largest cast in Stages' history, filled with familiar Houston faces like Carolyn and Jim Johnson, Melodie Smith, Chris Zelko, and Houston mainstay Jimmy Phillips in a star turn as actress wannabe Lily Longweed. Ryan Schabach reprises his much-lauded role as Buttons, and Brit Genevieve Allenbury returns as rhyming guide Mrs. Makeitup. *Panto Sleeping Beauty* continues Stages internship program with the Sam Houston State University Department of Theatre and Dance, featuring some of SHSU's top musical theatre talent. McLaughlin directs and choreographs, with musical direction by Steven Jones.

For this year's world premiere, Stages will also provide an inside look at the process of creating a brand new piece of theatre, offering audiences a look behind the scenes through a special photo and video exhibit and ongoing updates on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. Patrons may also partake of the traditional British refreshments that typically accompany Pantomime, with "sweeties" provided by British Isles in Rice Village.

PANTO SLEEPING BEAUTY **An Outrageous Family Musical**

Book and Lyrics by Kenn McLaughlin
Music by David Nehls
Orchestrations by Steven Jones

Following on the glass heels of last season's wildly successful *Panto Cinderella*, this hilarious holiday romp finds Sleeping Beauty happily at home in Houston...except there's a nasty curse on her head, her father is busy running a gigantic oil company, her nanny is a former nun seeking glory on the stage, and the love of her life just left town. Will she find a happy ending or slumber forever? Packed with sharp wit, wild fun and original music, this unusual twist on a magnificent classic is spectacular fun for grownups and kids alike!

November 18, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Tuesdays (12/22 & 12/29 only), Wednesdays & Thursdays 7:00 PM
Fridays 7:30 PM
Saturdays 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM
Sundays 3:00 PM

Tickets \$35-\$45

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES

Panto Family Picnic – November 22 at 2:00 PM

Chaired by Cabrina and Steven Owsley

This full day of family festivities includes a picnic dinner buffet plus activities with the cast like a Panto Sing-and-Dance-Along, storytelling, crafts and more. Tables of 10 \$1000 or \$2500, family four-packs \$175, individual tickets \$50. All proceeds benefit Stages.

Christmas Eve Matinee – December 24 at 3:00 PM

Stages kicks off the holiday a little early with this special matinee performance followed by punch and cookies with the cast.

New Year's Eve Naughty Panto – December 31 at 10:00 PM

This ADULTS ONLY version trades subtle innuendo for outrageous raunchy fun! One night only, with champagne toast and dessert at midnight. Tickets \$60.

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Stages Repertory Theatre

Stages Repertory Theatre is a not-for-profit professional theatre that advances theatre and enlivens culture by producing new work, presenting established work in new ways, and nurturing talent for the performing arts field. Stages is one of only two theatres in Houston that offer year-round employment for actors, designers and theatre technicians through professional unions. Stages brings a level of artistic excellence to Houston that lifts the national profile of the whole community, improves the quality of life in the region, and offers residents and visitors thrilling live performances.

In addition to its MainStage season of plays, Stages presents the EarlyStages series, introducing young audiences to the power and magic of live theatre. Stages also offers a range of additional education and outreach programs that encourage conversation about important ideas and issues, provide insight into other cultures and viewpoints, and help develop each new generation of citizens, artists and audiences. Now in its 31st season, Stages is a member of the Fresh Arts Coalition and a constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theatres. Stages operates under an agreement with Actor's Equity Association (AEA), the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.

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STAGES REPERTORY THEATRE FACT SHEET

The World Premiere of PANTO SLEEPING BEAUTY

Book and Lyrics by Kenn McLaughlin

Music by David Nehls

Orchestrations by Steven Jones

DIRECTOR/CHOREOGRAPHER: Kenn McLaughlin

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: Steven Jones

CAST:

<i>Buttons</i>	Ryan Schabach
<i>Mrs. Makeitup</i>	Genevieve Allenbury
<i>Lord Respite/Keenan Kingsley</i>	Jim Johnson
<i>Nadia Respite</i>	Nyseli Vega
<i>Trini</i>	Kay Allmand
<i>Queenie/ Amanda Wingfield</i>	Melodie Smith
<i>Meanie</i>	Carolyn Johnson
<i>Lily Longweed</i>	Jimmy Phillips
<i>Prince Charming</i>	Chris Zelko
<i>Peter Powerbutton</i>	Garret Storms
<i>Laura Wingfield</i>	Susan Draper
<i>Dale/Scrooge</i>	Kregg Dailey
<i>Chip/Nutcracker</i>	Kendrick Mitchell
<i>Snow White/Bass Player</i>	
<i>with The Charmers/Tree Sprite</i>	Chelsea McCurdy
<i>Alice in Wonderland/Keyboard</i>	
<i>With The Charmers/Tree Sprite</i>	Lindsey Edwards
<i>Peter Pan/Drums with</i>	
<i>The Charmers/ Tree Sprite</i>	Michael Keeney
<i>Dog/Pinocchio/Tree Sprite</i>	Calvin Hudson
<i>Librarian/Dorothy/Tree Sprite</i>	Christina Stroup

PRODUCTION:

<i>Scenic & Properties Design</i>	Jodi Bobrovsky
<i>Lighting Design</i>	Jeremy Choate
<i>Sound Design</i>	Andrew Harper
<i>Costume Design</i>	Tiffani Fuller
<i>Production Stage Manager</i>	Julie Marie Paré
<i>Assistant Stages Manager</i>	Andrea Wright

DATES:

Previews:	Wednesday, November 18, and Thursday, November 19
Opening:	Friday, November 20, 2009
Close:	Sunday, January 3, 2010

TIMES:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday:	7:00 p.m.
Friday and Saturday:	7:30 p.m.
Saturday Matinees:	3:00 p.m.
Sunday Matinees:	3:00 p.m.

Special Performances:

Panto Family Picnic 11/22	2:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Matinee 12/24	3:00 p.m.
New Year's Eve Naughty Panto 12/31	10:00 p.m.

No performances on December 25 or January 1

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TICKETS:

Regular: \$35- \$45
Naughty Panto \$60

Panto Family Picnic (Tickets available on website or elaporte@stagestheatre.com)
\$50 Solo Seat, \$175 Family Four-Pack, \$1000 or \$2500 Table of 10

Discounts available for groups of 10 or more.

BOX OFFICE:

713.527.0123

Tickets available online at www.stagestheatre.com

Stages is located 3201 Allen Parkway one block west of Waugh Drive

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