



For Immediate Release

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Valley Youth Theatre announces its fantastic 15th season

Phoenix (May 20, 2003) – Valley Youth Theatre proudly announces the 2003-2004 season. Productions take place at Valley Youth Theatre's space at 525 N. First. St. (SE corner of First & Fillmore Streets) in Copper Square. VYT's 2003-2004 season opening and closing shows are on Center Stage at the Herberger Theater Center, located at 222 E. Monroe Street in downtown Phoenix.

Titanic (musical) at the Herberger Theater Center, August 8 through 24, 2003

The popular Broadway musical, winner of five Tony Awards, comes center stage at the Herberger Theater Center. *Titanic* examines the human stories underlying the mesmerizing drama of the "unsinkable" ship that set sail to New York from London in 1912. The musical focuses on the individuals of each class who boarded with hopes and dreams, some of which were shattered that fateful night. Story and book by Peter Stone, and music and lyrics by Maury Yeston – winners of five 1997 Tony awards (Best Musical, Best Book, Best Score, Best Orchestrations and Best Scenic Design)!

Charlotte's Web (musical) at Valley Youth Theatre, October 10 through 26, 2003.

A musical version of the classic story features Charlotte, a spider who teaches a pig names Wilbur the true meaning of friendship. Musical adaptation of E.B. White's beloved story features music and lyrics by Charles Strouse, who also penned *Annie*, and book by award-winning playwright, Joseph Robinette. Produced by arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company.

A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail (musical) at Valley Youth Theatre, December 5 through 23, 2003.

Our popular holiday tradition is back for another year. Share the spirit of the season with good friends of Hundred Acre Wood, Pooh, Rabbit, Tigger and the rest of the gang as they find themselves caught up in the hilarious search for Eeyore's tail. This musical version is sure to send parents and children alike home with a smile on their face and a song in their heart. Based on the stories of A.A. Milne with music and lyrics by James W. Rodgers, and produced by The Dramatic Publishing Company.

The Hobbit at Valley Youth Theatre, January 23 through February 8, 2004.

Before Frodo's famous journey to destroy the Ring, Bilbo Baggins lived his own adventure with the legendary wizard Gandalf. Based on Tolkien's story, Bilbo battles evil and danger in this prequel to the popular "Lord of the Rings" movies. J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* dramatized by Patricia Gray. This dramatization of *The Hobbit* is authorized by Professor J.R.R. Tolkien. Produced by arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (musical) at Valley Youth Theatre, March 5 through 21, 2004.

Experience a day in the life of the Peanuts gang including, Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Sally, Schroeder, and of course, Snoopy in a revised version of the original musical show. Based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz with book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner. Additional dialogue by Michael Mayer and additional music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa.

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Pinocchio at Valley Youth Theatre, April 23 through May 9, 2004.

Pinocchio, the puppet who dreams of becoming a boy, struggles with truth, bravery and selfishness. Along the way his nose grows when he lies, he finds other mischievous adventures, but ultimately is reunited with his father Geppetto. Based on the Carlo Collodi novel. Adapted by Michele L. Vacca. Produced by arrangement with On Stage!

Annie (musical) at the Herberger Theater Center, June 11 through 27, 2004.

This fun-loving musical is the beloved story of the downtrodden orphan, who, against all odds in Depression-era America, makes her way into the heart of billionaire Oliver Warbucks, all the while keeping the faith that "the sun'll come out tomorrow." Join Annie, Miss Hannigan, Sandy, and the rest of the cast at the Herberger Theatre Center. Book by Thomas Meehan. Music by Charles Strouse. Lyrics by Martin Chamin. Based on Little Orphan Annie® by permission of Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Season packages are currently on sale through the Valley Youth Theatre Box Office. VYT offers full season packages, as well as smaller packages, including a "pick-your-own" package. For more information call 602.253.8188, ext. 2.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization that targets youths aged 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. Its positive impact on youth provides them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company voted "Rep's Best Children's Theatre" in 2001 and received 32 ariZoni Awards for theatrical excellence in the 2000-2001 season. Valley Youth Theatre is supported in part by the Arizona Commission on the Arts with funding from the State of Arizona and the National Endowment for the Arts. Partial funding also is provided by the Phoenix Arts Commission through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

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