

# valley youth theatre

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Valley Youth Theatre  
2007-2008 Season

The Valley Youth Theatre 2007-2008 season is off to a roaring start beginning with their 20<sup>th</sup> performance in the Herberger Theater Center with *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Offering Valley theatre enthusiasts a mix of musical favorites, classic tales and a Valley holiday tradition for the entire family, this season promises do delight young and old alike with professional quality performances by the top youth performers from across the Valley.

**Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**

***Musical***

*August 10 through 26, 2007*

Herberger Theater Center

222 E. Monroe

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber,

Lyrics by Tim Rice

Presented by Special Arrangement with MTI International, New York, NY

Sponsored by APS

Based on the biblical tale of Jacob's son Joseph and his 11 brothers, this light-hearted, entertaining and endearing musical is the most "colorful" of all time. As the first performed collaboration of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice this family classic will please every generation.

**The Prince and the Pauper**

***The Arizona Premiere of the hit Off-Broadway Musical***

*October 12 through 28, 2007*

Music by Neil Berg

Lyrics by Neil Berg and Bernie Garzia

Presented by Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc, New York, NY

Sponsored by the Andrew Family Foundation

The musical version of Mark Twain's classic tale of two boys, who in trading clothes for a day, end up trading lives. A young pauper suddenly finds himself living a life of royalty and the Prince of Wales learns of life through the eyes of his poverty-stricken subjects. The adventures that follow leave both of them changed forever.

**A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail**

***Musical***

*November 30 through December 23, 2007*

Based on A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" stories

Book, Music and Lyrics by James W. Rodgers

Presented by Special Arrangement with Dramatic Publishing Company, Woodstock, IL

This fun-filled musical is a beloved story celebrating friendship and holiday spirit. As an annual tradition Valley families love, A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Tail is in its 12<sup>th</sup> season.

**The Princess and the Pea**

*February 1 through 17, 2008*

Presented by Special Arrangement with Classics On Stage!, Chicago, IL

An ingeniously hilarious and highly entertaining version of Hans Christian Andersen's tale, a young prince sets out to find a true princess and discovers that true nobility requires more than a pretty face.

## **Little Shop of Horrors**

### ***Musical***

*April 4 through 20, 2008*

Music by Alan Menken

Book and Lyrics by Harold Ashman

Presented by Special Arrangement with Music Theatre International, New York, NY

Torn between his love for sweet Audrey and his extremely needy pet plant, Audrey 2, nerdy hero Seymour has his hands full. This campy, fun-filled musical turns everyday phobias on their ear.

## **Cinderella**

### ***Musical***

*June 6 through 22, 2008*

Herberger Theater Center

Music by Richard Rodgers

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Presented by Special Arrangement with R & H Theatricals, New York, NY

A timeless musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein tells the classic fairytale of the girl in the cinders who has one magical night. With a little help from her fairy godmother and a slipper made of glass, Prince Charming makes Cinderella's dreams come true.

Valley Youth Theatre begins and ends each season with shows at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E Monroe in Copper Square. All other performances are on the Valley Youth Theatre Mainstage at 525 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St (at Fillmore). For more information about the Valley Youth Theater season, visit [www.VYT.com](http://www.VYT.com) or contact Carolyn McBurney at [Carolyn@VYT.com](mailto:Carolyn@VYT.com) or 602-253-8188 x 301.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization that targets young people age 7 – 19 for participation in and attendance at quality live theatre productions. VYT's mission is to inspire young people to be the best that they can be by providing them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. VYT is an award-winning theatre company whose Alum include American Idol, Jordin Sparks and Broadway Star, Max Crumm. 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.

## **About Valley Youth Theatre**

Established in 1989, Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) is dedicated to having a positive impact on the community's children through a wide variety of performing arts opportunities. Every Valley Youth Theatre program offers unique educational and cultural opportunities to virtually thousands of the community's future leaders. It is our mission that through these experiences, children will learn life lessons that will serve them well as adults; that they will develop a lasting interest in the arts; and that they will take with them the inspiration to be the very best they can be!

VYT produces six mainstage shows each season. We believe children deserve the opportunity to be treated as serious individuals and the same standards of excellence that apply to adult theatre apply in our programming. We hire professional directors, choreographers, and technicians to train the cast and crew of each show. Participation in our shows is fee-free, opening the door to all young people who have an interest. Almost 900 children, representing all socio-economic backgrounds and almost every community in the Valley, audition for our mainstage shows each season. More than 350 young people participate as actors, technicians and musicians. This high standard of excellence has led to Valley Youth Theatre's inclusion in Theatre Communications Group. In addition, VYT hosts Performance Troupes, Fall, spring and summer Workshops, and VYTeens, a community service group.

Each season, more than 4,600 inner-city students attend a VYT mainstage performance and are given free books through our highly successful "**Literacy and The Arts**" outreach program. The **VYT After School Playhouse**, held at a Phoenix inner-city school, is a 36-week after school program bringing the complete theatre arts experience to at-risk children grades 4 through 8.

Six hundred or more children, representing numerous social service organizations throughout the Valley, attend a free performance and are given a complimentary lunch through our annual "**Sponsor-A-Seat**" program.

The **VYT Performance Troupes** outreach the importance of theatre to the community and bring another performance experience to children at VYT. Young people, ages 8-18, audition for the three Troupes consisting of 15-20 children each, and they participate - fee-free - for the entire season. The Troupes perform on our stages throughout the year. The touring company of the Troupes performs in schools Valley-wide.

Fall, spring and summer **Workshops** at VYT offer children ages 3 and up a myriad of opportunities to develop and expand upon their theatrical talents and creativity. From improvisation to developing technical skills, VYT's workshops are designed to again complement our mission of helping children be the very best they can be. At least one-needs based scholarship is offered to each workshop. Our "**VYT For Free**" program provides a fee-free workshop every December to a minimum of 45 children, ages 7-18.

In 2003, **VYTeens** was created. This group is made up of students who are 12 years of age and older who have been active in Valley Youth Theatre. They are our most experienced students, so if you have any questions about how Valley Youth Theatre works, you can always ask a VYTeen member! They work on several special projects each year, and produce their own shows.

Valley Youth Theatre offers their performance space at no cost to other companies who reach out to children; e.g. Essential Theatre, which serves as a Phoenix drop-in center and youth outreach program; and Opera-tunity, which brings the magic of opera to children in need.

For each VYT performance, our theatre walls are hung with artwork created by children through a partnership with Young Arts Arizona, an organization which helps disadvantaged and abused children express and respect themselves through the exhibition of their artwork.

### **Looking Toward the Future**

As part of a voter-approved 2001 bond issue, our theatre and the property on which it sits at 525 North First Street is in the process of being purchased by the City of Phoenix, giving VYT its first permanent home ever. In the fall of 2002, VYT purchased an office building at 807 North Third Street to house its administrative offices, further investing in the future of Valley Youth Theatre.

Valley Youth Theatre's long-range plans include expansion of our theatre site to create a youth performing arts complex in the heart of downtown Phoenix. The proposed development not only addresses the long-term facility needs of Valley Youth Theatre, but presents an expanded economic and cultural opportunity to downtown Phoenix and its redevelopment efforts. This unique center would make Phoenix a benchmark in the nation as a city dedicated to the future of its youth and in its support of the performing arts.

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