



For Immediate Release
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Valley Youth Theatre presents "A Year with Frog and Toad"
The Critically-Acclaimed Musical

March 10-26

(Phoenix)- Many a parent has spent time reading to his or her child from the beloved series of Frog and Toad books by Arnold Lobel. Conceived by his daughter Adrienne Lobel, *A Year with Frog and Toad* was adapted to the stage, making its way to Broadway in a whimsical musical set to a jazzy score which lovingly captures the spirit of Lobel's classic stories. Follow tried and true friends Frog and Toad as they navigate through an adventure-filled year, joined by some colorful companions along the way as this unlikely friendship blossoms and grows.

But you don't need to worry about it if you haven't read the books! Brothers Willie and Robert Reale, writing the book and lyrics and music respectively have done everything possible to put enough in the show to entertain everyone of every age and level of theatre experience. On Broadway, the show was nominated for Tonys for Best Original Score, Best Book of a Musical and Best Musical. *A Year with Frog and Toad* gloriously celebrates the idea that having a very best friend is about as good as life gets.

Directed by Valley Youth Theatre Producing Artistic Director Bobb Cooper, with musical direction by Mark Fearey, the charming Frog and "worry-wart" Toad will capture your imagination, along with Snail, Mouse and the rest of the animal gang for some kite-flying, sled-racing and cookie-munching fun! This amphibian odd couple comes to life with hilarious and heart-warming songs inspired by jazzy '40s style music, as they explore the challenges, rewards and tenderness of friendship.

Cast members include several VYT veterans from across the Valley: Kimiko Glenn, Michelle Vezilj, Allison Maloney, and Todd Mollenberg of **Ahwatukee**; Jeff Reynolds of **Glendale**; Chad Gilbert and Jerome Lowe of **Tempe** and Heather Duckworth of **Scottsdale**.

A Year with Frog and Toad opens to the public, Friday, March 10 and runs through March 26, 2006 at the **Valley Youth Theatre** mainstage, 525 N. First Street, Phoenix. Fridays at 7:00pm; Saturdays 12:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. and Sundays at 12:30 p.m. and 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$15 per person, adults and children two and up, and can be ordered through **Valley Youth Theatre's** box office at 602-253-8188, ext. 2. For more information about Valley Youth Theatre and *A Year with Frog and Toad* visit www.vyt.com.

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. 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 most recently winning 31 ariZoni Awards for theatrical excellence in the 2004-2005 season.

"A Year with Frog and Toad" is sponsored in part by Target and Ironwood Lithographers. 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 Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

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