



For Immediate Release
January 4, 2006

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Valley Youth Theatre's *James and the Giant Peach*
To be a Visual Feast for Audiences

(Phoenix) – When *James and the Giant Peach* opens at Valley Youth Theatre on January 27, audiences will be treated to a bigger-than-life revolving peach in which the story unfolds live on stage. Based on the beloved children's book by Roald Dahl, *James and the Giant Peach* is popular with teachers for the lessons it teaches about acceptance and its use of imagination to excite young readers.

When young James Henry Trotter is orphaned, he goes to live with his cruel aunts. In this unhappy existence, he is visited one day by a wise old man who gives James a bag of magic crystals which, after spilling, cause the peach tree in the yard to grow a peach of gigantic proportions. James escapes his unhappy world by crawling through a secret passage that takes him inside the peach and he is befriended by a menagerie of unusual insects, bugs and fantastic new friends.

“We are excited to bring this children's classic to the stage” says Bobb Cooper, producing artistic director. “Our audiences have come to expect big things of us and the fantastic set, the wild costumes and colorful characters will satisfy youth and parents alike.” The set design is the brainchild of valley designer Dori Brown and costumes designed by VYT's Karol Cooper, whose hair, makeup and costume designs over the years have won 20 ariZoni awards. VYT veteran and artistic and education associate, Katie Rex is directing.

Cast members include youth from across the Valley including 6 west valley residents, 10 North Valley/Scottsdale youth, and 5 from the East Valley.

James and the Giant Peach opens to the public, Friday, January 27 and runs through February 12, 2006 at the **Valley Youth Theatre** mainstage, 525 N. First Street, Phoenix. Fridays at 7:00pm; Saturdays and Sundays at noon and 3:00 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 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. “James and the Giant Peach” is sponsored in part by the Andrew Family Foundation. 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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