



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Hercules* comes to the Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre stage**

(LITTLE ROCK, AR) – The Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre will premiere *Hercules*, an original Children's Theatre production, on January 25, 2008, and will continue through February 10, 2008.

An original Children's Theatre production written by Keith Smith and directed by Kristi Schultz, *Hercules* examines the exciting life and times of this great mythical hero while offering the important life lesson that virtue, moral courage and perseverance in the face of hardship can sometimes yield rewards beyond measure.

“This modern production of *Hercules* redefines what a hero truly is,” said Director Kristi Schultz. “In Ancient Greek times, a hero was defined as someone with strength and masculinity. Today's definition of a hero has shifted to someone who is completely selfless. This new definition of a hero gives the traditional story of *Hercules* a fresh, modern twist.”

Hercules will be the first Children's Theatre production directed by Kristi Schultz. Schultz resides in Los Angeles where she is the Artistic Director for Zoo District, an experimental, physical acting ensemble. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University at Conservatory where she specialized in musical theatre. She is originally from Arkansas and began her career in theatre as an actress for the Arkansas Arts Center Children's Theatre. Schultz taught at Summer Theatre Academy, an extensive six-week acting program for students ages 10 to 18, at the Arkansas Arts Center in 2006.

"I was thrilled when I was asked to direct *Hercules*," said Schultz. "When I taught at Summer Theatre Academy a couple years ago, I was amazed at the great talent of the Children's Theatre company. *Hercules* allows me to utilize the Children's Theatre company to their fullest capacity, and the play really showcases all the great talent that the Children's Theatre has to offer."

Hercules is written by Keith Smith and directed by Kristi Schultz with scene design by M. A. Hare, costume design by Erin Larkin, technical direction by Jimi Brewi, lighting design by Adam Britt, stage management by Amy Allyson Dorsey, production stage management by Courtney Dorsey-Burris and set construction by Mark Hansen and Jimi Brewi. Miranda Young is the properties master for *Hercules*.

The cast for *Hercules* includes: Austin Blunk as Hercules; John Isner as Zeus; Heather Dupree as Hera; Ashley Wright as Athena; Samantha Davis as Priestess and Chorus; Katie Greer as Priestess and Chorus; Kristy Barrington as Alcmene and Chorus; Katie Campbell as Head Priestess; Courtney Dorsey-Burris as Megara and Chorus; Mark Hansen as Amphitron, Creon, Atlas and Chorus; Josh Rice as Rhadamanthys, Augeus,

Charon and Chorus; Brett Ihler as Apollo, Linus, Eurystheus and Chorus; and Taylor Walker, Madison Sullivan, George Elrod and Antwon Staton as Chorus.

Performance times for *Hercules* are Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Before each Saturday performance from 2 to 3 p.m., children attending the play can paint pottery. The Children's Theatre Guild will host this special pottery painting activity in the Lecture Hall Lobby. A ticket to *Hercules* is required to participate.

Hercules is recommended for older children and teens. Tickets to *Hercules* are \$14 for adults and \$11 for children. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 501-372-4000 or visit www.arkarts.com.

The 2007-08 Children's Theatre season is sponsored by Target.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Production Run: January 25 – February 10, 2008

Performance Times: Fridays 7:00 p.m.; Saturdays 3:00 p.m.; Sundays 2:00 p.m.

Contact: 501-372-4000

Location: Arkansas Arts Center – 9th and Commerce, Little Rock, AR 72202

Season Sponsor: Target

Media Partner: Little Rock Family magazine

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