



FIRST STAGE

CHILDREN'S THEATER • IN-SCHOOL EDUCATION • THEATER ACADEMY

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First Stage Children's Theater opens its 24th season with Wendy and her brothers and their adventures in Neverland in PETER PAN AND WENDY

Adapted by Doug Rand
From the novel by J.M. Barrie

Directed by Jeff Frank

Media sponsor: Fox 6

**Todd Wehr Theater, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
October 15 – November 14, 2010**

This play is most appreciated by adults, teens and children ages five and older.

Milwaukee, Wis. (August 18, 2010) – First Stage Children's Theater opens its 24th season with this fast-paced adaptation of the classic tale of Wendy and her brothers' journey through Neverland in PETER PAN AND WENDY, running October 15 through November 14, 2010 at the Todd Wehr Theater in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water Street in downtown Milwaukee. Single tickets go on sale August 23 and may be purchased in person at the Marcus Center Box Office at 929 N. Water Street, by phone at (414) 273-7206 or online at www.FirstStage.org.

When the carefree and careless Peter Pan flies into the nursery of the Darling home, Wendy follows her instincts for maternity and adventure, bringing her little brothers

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PETER PAN AND WENDY open First Stage's 24th season/add one

along to the magical Neverland to take care of the motherless Lost Boys. Soon the Darling children embark on an incredible adventure filled with swashbuckling pirates, fabulous mermaids and the fearsome Captain Hook. In the end, Wendy must choose between staying with the lost boys forever and facing the adventure of a lifetime: growing up.

“PETER PAN AND WENDY promises to be an amazingly theatrical production,” said Jeff Frank, First Stage artistic director. “We’ll have actors and set pieces manipulated in the tradition of Japanese Bunraku – multiple puppeteers dressed completely in black to manipulate the puppets, or in this case the actors themselves. This will allow us to have actors fly through the clouds, travel to magical places and engage in spectacular battles with marauding pirates – all within the confines of our theater space,” continued Frank.

Peter Pan is a character created by Scottish novelist and playwright J. M. Barrie (1860–1937). A mischievous boy who can fly and magically refuses to grow up, Peter Pan spends his never-ending childhood adventuring on the small island of Neverland as the leader of his gang the Lost Boys, interacting with mermaids, fairies and pirates, and from time to time meeting ordinary children from the world outside. The character’s best-known adventure debuted on December 27, 1904 in the stage play PETER PAN, or THE BOY WHO WOULDN'T GROW UP. The play was adapted and expanded as a novel, published in 1911. Peter Pan has appeared in numerous adaptations, sequels and prequels since then, including the widely known 1953 animated feature film Walt Disney’s “Peter Pan,” various stage musicals and live-action feature films.

Director Jeff Frank has been First Stage’s artistic director since February 2003. Previously he had served as education director/associate artistic director. Jeff is a native Wisconsinite who earned a BFA in theater from UW–Whitewater and went on to the University of Utah, earning an MFA in child drama. Over the past 13 seasons Jeff has

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PETER PAN AND WENDY open First Stage's 24th season/add two

directed many First Stage productions, including THE THIEF LORD, THE NEVERENDING STORY, SLEEPING BEAUTY, TOM SAWYER, THE HOBBIT, A MIDNIGHT CRY, PERSEUS BAYOU, A CHRISTMAS STORY and THE GIVER. Jeff currently serves on the Board of Directors for Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA)/USA, the national service organization promoting the power of professional theatre for young audiences.

Author Sir James Matthew Barrie, 1st Baronet, OM, more commonly known as J.M. Barrie was a Scottish author and dramatist. The ninth of ten children, Barrie heard tales of pirates from his mother, who read her children adventure stories in the evenings. After moving to London, he met his friends the Llewelyn Davies boys, who inspired him in writing about a baby boy who has magical adventures in Kensington Gardens, then to write “Peter Pan.” This became his best-known work, credited with popularizing the name Wendy, which was very uncommon previously.

The adult actor cast of PETER PAN includes **Todd Denning** (member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers, as Mr. Darling/Captain Hook), **Alison Mary Forbes** (as Mrs. Darling/Ensemble), **James Fletcher** (member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers, as Starkey/Ensemble), **Drew Brhel** (member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers, as Smee/Ensemble), **Tim Linn** (as Pirate 1/Ensemble) and **Ron Lee** (member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers, as Pirate 2/Ensemble).

Young performer roles are double-cast. The young performers in the “Light” cast of PETER PAN AND WENDY includes **Emma Bronson** (as Ensemble 4) from Whitefish Bay; **Mitch Bultman** (as Ensemble 6) from Wauwatosa; **Michelle Desien** (as Ensemble 1) from Whitefish Bay; **Julian Green** (as Curly) from Milwaukee; **Emily**

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Harris (as Young Wendy) from Milwaukee; **Nick Jerred** (as Nibs) from Oconomowoc; **Eliza Lore** (as Ensemble 5) from Milwaukee; **Emilie Lozier** (as Ensemble 3) from Shorewood; **Dylan McCool** (as Pockets) from Whitewater; **Conner Mills** (as Michael) from Greendale; **Anna Reisterer** (as Twin 1) from Germantown; **Emily Reisterer** (as Twin 2) from Germantown; **Katie Shelledy** (as Wendy) from Milwaukee; **Henry Shotwell** (as John) from Madison; **Sam Skogstad** (as Peter) from West Allis; **Matt Steege** (as Ensemble 7) from Milwaukee; **Sean Voves** (as Tootles) from Mukwonago; **Mathew Wade** (as Bumbershot) from Milwaukee; **Holland White** (as Ensemble 2) from Malone, Wis.; **Joey Wurm** (as Ensemble 8) from Waukesha; **Arjuna Yelanjian** (as Slightly) from South Milwaukee and **Arianna Imperl** (as Ensemble 9) from Oconomowoc.

The young performers in the “Shadow” cast of PETER PAN AND WENDY includes **Maura Atwood** (as Ensemble 3) from Brookfield; **Gena Davis** (as Ensemble 4) from Hartland; **Balen Essak** (as John) from Shorewood; **Lawrence Hapeman** (as Michael) from Muskego; **Richard Heim** (as Nibs) from Kenosha; **Jordan Horne** (as Peter) from Wauwatosa; **Seth Horne** (as Slightly) from Wauwatosa; **Max Huenink** (as Bumbershoot) from Wauwatosa; **Paris Karstedt** (as Wendy) from Pewaukee; **Emmie Mandel** (as Ensemble 9) from Mequon; **Piper Meisinger** (as Ensemble 5) from Shorewood; **Luke Mizer** (as Ensemble 6) from Wauwatosa; **Sebastian Palmer** (as Ensemble 8) from Sheboygan; **Ashley Patin** (as Ensemble 1) from Muskego; **Georgina Pink** (as Young Wendy) from Milwaukee; **Gavin Rangel** (as Tootles) from Germantown; **DeAndre Sabatino** (as Curly) from Milwaukee; **Sydney Salter** (as Twin 1) from Germantown; **Alexandra Salter** (as Twin 2) from Germantown; **Corwin Weeks** (as Ensemble 7) from Milwaukee **Holland White** (as Ensemble 2) from Malone, Wis. and **David Zetley** (as Pockets) from Milwaukee.

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PETER PAN AND WENDY open First Stage's 24th season/add four

The Artistic Staff for PETER PAN AND WENDY includes: **Todd Denning** (Fight Choreographer), **Kelly Anderson** (Choreographer), **Sarah Hunt-Frank** (Scenic Designer), **Brandon Kirkham** (Costume Designer), **Laura Mroczkowski** (Lighting Designer), **Jason Knox** (Sound Designer), Heather Sanderson (Dialect Coach), **Michele Hand** (Stage Manager, member of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional Actors and Stage Managers) and **Jolyn Sherman** (Assistant Stage Manager).

Tickets for PETER PAN AND WENDY start at \$11.50. Tickets may be purchased online at www.FirstStage.org or through the Marcus Center box office, in person at 929 N. Water Street in downtown Milwaukee or by phone (414) 273-7206 or toll free at (888) 612-3500. The number for TDD (for deaf and hard of hearing patrons) is (414) 273-3080.

Performance dates: PETER PAN AND WENDY opens Friday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. Other performances are held: Saturday, October 16 at 3:30 and 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, October 16 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, October 23 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, October 24 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.; Friday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, October 30 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, November 6 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.; Sunday, November 7 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.; Saturday, November 13 at 3:30 and 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, November 14 at 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Special events for PETER PAN AND WENDY

Opening weekend: Friday, October 15 through Sunday, October 17: Immediately following our opening weekend performances, a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to Rainbow Booksellers will be held. Gift certificates may be redeemed for a book purchase at the First Stage merchandise counter in the lobby during the show, or at -

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PETER PAN AND WENDY open First Stage's 24th season/add five

Rainbow Booksellers location at 5704 West Vliet Street in Milwaukee. One winner at each performance will be selected.

Friday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.: Following the opening night performance, First Stage

invites all patrons to attend the Opening Night Reception at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut Street, approximately one mile from the Marcus Center. Patrons will have the opportunity to meet and mingle with the cast and crew of PETER PAN AND WENDY while enjoying refreshments, courtesy of First Stage.

Friday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.: Join First Stage for a “Pirates and Fairies Party” during the performance of PETER PAN AND WENDY! Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite character from PETER PAN. Prizes will be awarded for the “Scariest Pirate” and “Most Magical Fairy.”

FACT SHEET

Theater: Todd Wehr Theater, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water Street, downtown Milwaukee

Dates: Friday, October 15 through Sunday, November 14, 2010

Description: Journey to Neverland in this fast-paced adaptation of the classic tale. Promising to be a mother for Peter and the Lost Boys, Wendy and her brothers embark on an incredible adventure filled with swashbuckling pirates, fantastic natives and the fearsome Captain Hook. In the end, she must choose whether to stay with the Lost Boys forever or face the adventure of a lifetime: growing up.

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PETER PAN AND WENDY open First Stage's 24th season/add six

Performances:

Friday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 16 at 3:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 17 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 23 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 24 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Friday, October 29 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 30 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 6 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 7 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 13 at 3:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 14 at 1:00 & 3:30 p.m.

Ticket prices: Start at \$11.50.

Tickets and information: Single tickets go on sale August 23. Call (414) 273-7206 or online at www.FirstStage.org.

First Stage Children's Theater is Milwaukee's premier, professional family theater. Founded in 1987, the mission of the company is to provide professional theater productions for young people and their families that engage, enlighten and entertain, Theater Academy training that fosters life skills through stage skills and dynamic in-school education programs that provide learning through theater. First Stage is a member of TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education and Americans for the Arts, as well as Theatre Wisconsin and Milwaukee Arts Partners, and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF).

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