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**Media Contact:**

Erika Quinonez, Mueller Communications

firststage@muellercommunications.com, 414-390-5500



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**GET READY FOR A TOE-TAPPING TIME: FIRST STAGE KICKS OFF ITS  
2024-2025 SEASON WITH PETE THE CAT**

*Board the VW bus for a trip around the globe with Pete, Jimmy, and friends in this hilarious musical for the whole family!*

MILWAUKEE—[First Stage](#)—one of the nation’s leading theaters for young people and families—kicks off its 2024-2025 season with [PETE THE CAT](#)—a hilarious, toe-tapping musical for adults, teens, and children ages 3 and up!

PETE THE CAT runs Oct. 4 through Nov. 3, 2024, at the Marcus Performing Arts Center’s Todd Wehr Theater. **Tickets are available now on [FirstStage.org](#).**

“We’re so excited for Pete the Cat to bring his rockin’ energy to Milwaukee,” said Jeff Frank, First Stage Artistic Director. “This show is a high-energy, laugh-out-loud funny adventure that’s perfect for the entire family. Pete reminds all of us that sometimes you have to cast worry and doubt aside and let your creativity thrive.”

Pete is one groovy, guitar-playing cat, who likes his music cool and his coffee sweet! When Pete moves in with the Biddles, Jimmy—the most organized second grader on earth—is unsure of this cat’s antics and laid-back ‘tude. But when he draws a blank in art class, Pete’s the perfect pal to lead the mission to help Jimmy find his inspiration.

“Pete the Cat is a rocking good time full of cats, platypuses, grumpy toads, and lots of dancing!” said Bree Beelow, director and choreographer. “This show lights up your imagination, making it the perfect show to ring in the school year and our 2024-2025 season!”



**Creative Team**

Director/Choreographer ... Bree Beelow  
Music Director ... Paula Tillen  
Scenic Designer ... Martin McClendon  
Costume Designer ... Lyndsey Kuhlmann  
Lighting Designer ... Jason Fassl, USA  
Assistant Lighting Designer ... Jessica Baker  
Sound Designer ... Josh Schmidt, USA  
Production Stage Manager ... Kelly L. Schwartz\*

**Adult Performers**

Pete the Cat ... Ethan Smith  
Mom / Mrs. Creech / Roadie ... Tori Watson\*  
Dad / Cat Catcher / Roadie / Shark ... Todd Denning\*  
Understudy for Pete the Cat ... Leo Madson  
Understudy for Mom / Mrs. Creech / Roadie ... Christie Burgess  
Understudy for Dad / Cat Catcher / Roadie / Shark ... Jason Peregoy

### Young Performers

#### Groovy Cast

Jimmy Biddle ... Juan Ramon Andrade Escobedo  
Olive Biddle ... Jillian Vogedes  
Grumpy Toad ... Cole Sison  
Gus the Platypus ... Elliot Lippman  
Barnaby / Astronaut ... Julius Newman  
Eloise / Mona Lisa ... Jule Jordan Schloemer

### Young Performers

#### Cool Cast

Jimmy Biddle ... Ryan Stepanski  
Olive Biddle ... Allyson Lindberg  
Grumpy Toad ... William Swoboda  
Gus the Platypus ... Jessimia Page  
Barnaby / Astronaut ... Elias Totleben  
Eloise / Mona Lisa ... Savannah Carlson

*\* Appearing through an Agreement between First Stage and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

**Don't miss out on the rest of the season productions coming soon! Find tickets and additional information at [www.firststage.org/2024-2025-Season](http://www.firststage.org/2024-2025-Season).**

- **Nov. 9 - Dec. 29** RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER™: THE MUSICAL
- **Dec. 6 - 25** THE TEMPEST
- **Jan. 18 - Feb. 16** THE DINOSAUR PLAY
- **Jan. 31 - Feb. 16** EMILY SONG AND THE QUEEN OF THE NIGHT
- **March 8 - April 6** DISNEY & PIXAR'S FINDING NEMO
- **March 28 - April 13** RIDE THE CYCLONE: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION
- **May 2 - 18** ESPERANZA RISING

For additional information about the 2024-2025 season and to order tickets, please go to [firststage.org](http://firststage.org) or call (414) 267-2961.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:** [Download media assets and additional production information](#)

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### About First Stage

Founded in 1987, First Stage is one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families, and a driving force behind the creation of the best and most innovative plays for family audiences, theater training programs for young people, and education initiatives for its schools and community. First Stage ensures that all programming is not only accessible to its community but that it is reflective of the community it serves.

First Stage produces plays that honor the young person's point of view, include diverse and traditionally underrepresented voices, and inspire meaningful conversations. First Stage has presented more than 70 world premiere productions that address important subject matters relevant to today's youth. The Theater Academy is one of the nation's largest high-impact theater training programs for young people (3-18 years old). Through a challenging curriculum taught by professional teaching artists, the Academy nurtures life skills through stage skills and includes the Next Steps Program that tailors Theater Academy classes to the needs of young people on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. As Wisconsin's leader in arts-integrated education in schools, First Stage's dynamic Theater in Education Programs cleverly blend theater activities with standard curriculum—allowing more than 10,000 students annually to learn traditional academic subjects through creativity and self expression.

First Stage is a member of TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, Milwaukee Arts Partners and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). For more information, visit [firststage.org](http://firststage.org).