

MAGIK  THEATRE

THE SNOWY DAY

AND OTHER STORIES BY EZRA JACK KEATS



Adapted for the stage by Jerome Hairston | Based on the books by Ezra Jack Keats
Produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences

FEB 12–MAR 19
MAGIK THEATRE

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Welcome!

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to the theatre!

Live theatre creates transformational experiences for young people - something that many children have had less access to due to the pandemic. The pandemic has shown us that in-person, tangible experiences are crucial to understanding the world around us, which directly correlates with our sense of compassion, identity, curiosity, and imagination.

We are pleased to open 2022 with *The Snowy Day and Other Stories*. Based on the books by Ezra Jack Keats, these stories were the first books for young people that featured a black character as the protagonist. First published in 1962, *The Snowy Day* has never been out of print and is the most checked out book of all time at the New York Public Library.

Playwright Jerome Hairson has done a beautiful job of capturing the magic of the books while crafting a story that shows us the wonder of a child exploring the world. What I love the most about these stories is seeing black children and families in situations that we all can relate to. It is not about oppression. It is about togetherness and growth.

At Magik Theatre, we know that theatre for young people can help shape the world in the way we hope for it to be. Ezra Jack Keats shared that sentiment when he said, "if we could see each other exactly as the other is, this would be a different world."

All my best,

Anthony Runfola

Artistic Director



ABOUT THE SNOWY DAY AND OTHER STORIES FROM DARCELL BIOS' NOTES

This show comprises so much in under an hour. We are afforded the opportunity to witness an African American child, simply be. Untroubled, burdenless, and safe from any reality that is unnatural in the exploration process of growing up. I find it no coincidence that from 1962 to 1969, Ezra Jack Keats created books filled with happy endings for Black Children.

Tamir Rice met tragedy for playing in the park on a snowy day (2014); Emmitt Till met tragedy for allegedly whistling (1955); Trayvon Martin met tragedy wearing a hooded coat whilst on his way home with skittles and tea (2012). All of these children had birthdays they could no longer look forward to and parents who could no longer celebrate with them.

However, in this show we see all of these scenarios be as they should: pleasant and filled with fountains of fascination. We watch the main character (Peter), in awe of the snow, surprised at the sounds and imprints that the snow is capable of. Once mastering winter, he grasped how to whistle to impress his dog. Peter expands his imagination, creating scenarios with his best friend at the neighborhood hideout. Perhaps, most frustratingly, penning the perfect invite to his birthday party.

My hope is that you see Peter as yourself, as your child, as a child, and like his signature red snowsuit, hug yourself and your children warmly. I dedicate this show to the parents of African American children, who wish they could do the same.



@themagiktheatre



MAGIK THEATRE PRESENTS

THE SNOWY DAY
AND OTHER STORIES BY EZRA JACK KEATS

FEBRUARY 12 - MARCH 19, 2022

Estimated Run Time: Approximately 45 minutes

Directed by Darcell Bios

CAST

Myles Harris
Peter

Venny Mortimer
Dad, Willie, Pepe, Boys

Alaia Brown
Mom, Archie, Amy, Boys

CREATIVE TEAM

Michael Bruner
*Scenic & Projections
Designer*

Rachael Lorenzetti
Costume Designer

Carlos Nine
Lighting Designer

Lucian Hernandez
Property Master

Rosa Gardner
Music Director

Rebecca Lynn Dose
Stage Manager

PRODUCTION TEAM

Rebecca J. Simons
Production Manager

Pat Smith
Technical Director

Chris Boneta
Assistant Technical Director

Sabrina Lopez
Wardrobe Supervisor

David Sangiuliano
Audio Supervisor

Zachary Walsh
Audio Engineer

Lucas Sevedge
Master Electrician

Aaron Haskins,
Dave Stone-Robb
Production Electrician

Robert Cardoza
*American Sign Language
Interpreter*



ANTHONY RUNFOLA Artistic Director



Anthony Runfola (*Artistic Director*) is in his second season with Magik and is excited to be leading the company into its bright future.

His directing credits at Magik include *Maddi's Fridge*, *Snow White*, *Ella Enchanted*, and *Señor Tortuga*. Other recent productions include *The Lion*, *the Witch*, and *the Wardrobe*, *Wonderland: Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure*, *Goodnight Moon*,

Charlotte's Web, *Eric and Elliot*, *The Neverending Story*, and the world premieres of *Interrupting Vanessa* and *Rock the Presidents* (national tour). His production of *Schoolhouse Rock Live!* will be on its second national tour throughout 2021 and '22. He has been a guest artist at theatres and colleges throughout the country including Black Theatre Troupe, Actors Theatre of Phoenix, Teatro Bravo, Stray Cat Theatre, Phoenix Theatre, Gammage/ASU Public Events, Scottsdale and Mesa Community Colleges, Geva Theatre Center, and Seattle Children's Theatre.

Prior to arriving at Magik, Anthony was the Director of Production at Childsplay in Tempe, Arizona, where he oversaw the production of over 150 plays and musicals during his 20-year tenure. Additionally, he led the development of *El Puente* Festival and was a founding co-chair of the company's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion committee. In 2010, he founded the Sustainable Stagecraft Initiative researching and developing sustainable practices for theatrical production. He has been invited to speak on the subject at conferences throughout the nation.

He is a founding member of Upstairs Theatre Company in Tucson, AZ and served as the company's artistic director until 2001. In 2015, he was accepted into the inaugural cohort of ArtEquity. Theatre Communications Group selected him as one of 50 U.S. theatre practitioners to participate in *I Am Theatre*, a web series celebrating pivotal moments in the lives of theatre-makers. He is an alumnus of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and Director's Lab West at the Pasadena Playhouse.

Along with his family, he is a recent transplant to San Antonio (arriving in 2020) and is looking forward to *finally* getting to explore the city!



DARCELL BIOS Director



Darcell Bios (*Director*), energetic and animated, has been teaching theatre with Magik for the past four years. Accompanying his education and training in voice and theatre performance, he is most known for his encouraging, direct, and often hilarious directing and teaching style. His most recent performance was *Dreamgirls* at The Woodlawn Theatre in the role of Jimmy Early. He last performed on Magik's stage as Tom in *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*

and has since directed *The Addams Family* and *Charlotte's Web*. He is thrilled to bring the purity of *The Snowy Day* to the stage!

CAST



Myles Harris (*Peter*) is excited to make their Magik Theatre debut! You might recognize them from the Woodlawn's recent productions of *Elf the Musical* and *Cinderella*. They are so happy to be sharing these wonderful and colorful stories with everyone. They are forever and always thankful for their family and friends for their never-ending love and support.



Venny Mortimer (*Dad, Willie, Pepe, Boys*) is absolutely thrilled to be on the Magik stage! Venny has been involved in many previous Magik productions; he has been seen as Templeton in *Charlotte's Web*, Linus in *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and the Red Dragon in *Dragons Love Tacos*. Venny has also understudied for shows such as *Knuffle Bunny*, *The Three Javelinas*, and

The Very Hungry Caterpillar. When he's not acting, Venny loves to sing and play piano and ukulele. Venny's favorite thing to do in the snow is to build tiny snowmen, even though it makes his fingers cold!



Alaia Brown (*Mom, Archie, Amy, Boys*) is ecstatic to be back on the Magik stage with this fantastic cast for *Snowy Day*! You may have seen her in roles such as the Narrator (and others) in *Charlotte's Web* and Dame Olga (and others) in *Ella Enchanted*. She would like to thank her friends and family for their immense support.



DESIGNERS

Michael Bruner (*Scenic & Projection Designer*) is a media designer living and working in Austin, Texas. He holds an M.F.A. in Design and Technology for live performance from the University of Texas with a specialization in Integrated Media. Michael is a co-founder of Interactive Nature, a creative studio specializing in creating live experiences from digital design to physical fabrication. Recent performance credits include *(Re)Current Unrest*, *K! :D D: Ö* and *NHKS4220*, in addition to a range of ongoing collaborations.

Rachael Lorenzetti (*Costume Designer*) *Snowy Day* is Rachael's first production with Magik Theatre. Rachael received a MFA in costume design from Cal-State Fullerton, and has been a professional costume designer and college instructor for eight years. She taught and designed for multiple colleges and theaters in southern California, including Chapman University, Fullerton College, and The Chance Theater, before moving to San Antonio in 2020. Currently, Rachael is the Costume Supervisor for Ballet San Antonio, and instructor and designer at Palo Alto and San Antonio Colleges. She also designs for The Classic Theatre of San Antonio.

Carlos R. Nine (*Lighting Designer*) is based in San Antonio and is happy to be designing his first show at Magik Theatre. His recent credits include Texas State: *Guys and Dolls*, *The Tempest*, *The Crucible*. *Kings Dominion: Charlie Brown's Christmas Spectacular*, *Gravity: A Cirque Experience*, and *Unstrung*. Carlos wants to thank his partner Michelle Everidge for her love and support. He would also like to thank his Niña Oso Inez for letting him use her book. To check out other projects, visit www.cninedesign.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Rosa Gardner (*Music Director*) is happy to be part of bringing this adorable show to life! As an Associate Artist at Magik, Rosa feels incredibly lucky to have regular opportunities to cultivate new skills— she served as Music Director for last year's teen production of *The Addam's Family*, as well as Associate Director for the latest two tour productions of *Snow White*. Typically you'll find her acting on the main stage— notable roles include Olive (*Ella Enchanted*), Wilbur (*Charlotte's Web*), Snow White (*Snow White*), Woodstock (*A Charlie Brown Christmas*), and Veruca (*Willy Wonka*). In addition to performing professionally for over 8 years, Rosa has taught voice lessons, musical theatre camp classes, and audition coaching and workshops. She holds a BFA in Music Dance Theatre from Brigham Young University.



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Rebecca Lynn Dose
Resident Stage Manager

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COVID GUIDELINES

HOW MAGIK IS KEEPING YOU SAFE

- All Magik staff are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and will wear masks at all times during your visit.
- Magik's HVAC system has been updated with a UV purification system to reduce all airborne pathogens.
- Portable air scrubbers are in place in the lobbies where patrons naturally congregate (such as near concessions)
- High touch points and other surfaces will be sanitized frequently throughout your visit.
- Masks will be required of all patrons over the age of 24 months, regardless of vaccination status. Masks may only be removed while eating or drinking concessions, if available.
- Temperatures will be taken upon entry.
- The theatre is limited to 50% capacity to ensure physical distancing between each party.

SAFETY REMINDERS

- Please remember to leave your mask on during the duration of the play. Masks can be removed only while eating or drinking concession items.
- Practice good hand hygiene! Take advantage of one of the many hand sanitizing stations we have in the lobby.
- Once the show is over, please stay in your seats. The House Manager will dismiss the auditorium one row at a time to avoid crowding.



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AGES

06
-09

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AGES

10
-13

MOMENT BY MOMENT ACTING

Learn to connect with the audience

The foundation of your character is in the text of the play. But, the fun part comes when you bring that character to life by learning the "hidden dynamics" of the scene. Explore your characters' happy memories of the sweet toys they have, or the conflict they may have with their siblings. Bring their past into the present scene and watch as they "take over" and connect with your audience in ways you never thought possible!

AGES

14
-18

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Our productions are carefully selected with you in mind to include age appropriateness, themes, and curriculum connections. We can help guide what show is right for your classroom!

2021-22 Season

 **THE SNOWY DAY AND OTHER
STORIES BY EZRA JACK KEATS** 
 February 10 - March 18, 2022

 **JUNIE B. JONES:
TOOTHLESS WONDER** 
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Due to the current health climate, dates are subject to change.



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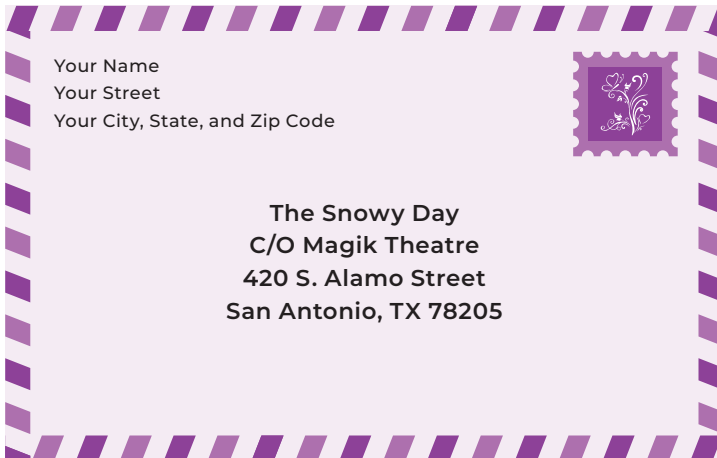
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