

AESOP'S FABLES

AESOP'S FABLES will perform at _____ on
_____ at _____ o'clock under the auspices of _____.

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Aesop's delightful fables of wit and wisdom, including The Stag at the Pool, The Tortoise and the Hare, The Fox and the Grapes, The Wind and the Sun, and The Lion and the Mouse come to life through the large and colorful puppets of nationally acclaimed puppeteer and storyteller, Jim West. We also meet Aesop himself, in his Greek toga, with his dog Moral by his side. Other beloved characters, ingeniously created from paper bags, newspaper and cardboard boxes, make their appearance to the enchanting music of Scarlatti, Beethoven, Rossini and Chopin, inspiring the child in all of us.

AESOP'S FABLES is one program under **JIM WEST PUPPET PRODUCTIONS**. Additional titles under **JIM WEST PUPPET PRODUCTIONS** include: Aesop's Fables II; Dinosaurs!; Rudyard Kipling's How the Elephant Got His Trunk & Other Animal Tales; and North, South, East & Jim West.

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JIM WEST graduated from Otterbein College with a degree in drama, and he continued his studies in New York at the Herbert Berghof Studio and at Parsons School of Design. He developed and performed the shadow puppets for the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Manon* and has appeared on "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," introducing Fred Rogers and countless children to the art of creating hand shadows. For many years, Jim worked with award-winning puppeteer, Marshall Izen. Together, Jim and Marshall co-authored *Why the Willow Weeps*, a Doubleday picture book, and recently won the Parents Choice Award for *The Dog Who Sang at the Opera*, a picture book for Harry Abrams Publishers. For over twenty years, Jim has performed nationally before hundreds of thousands of children.

(MORE...)

Theatreworks USA has a distinguished history of not only providing young audiences with their first taste of the performing arts, but also giving young actors, writers, directors, and designers an early opportunity to work in this field. A list of Theatreworks USA alumni reads like a veritable "who's who" of theatre: four-time Tony-winning director Jerry Zaks, Robert Jess Roth (*Beauty and the Beast*), Michael Mayer (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*); writers Marta Kauffman and David Crane (TV's "Friends"), Lynn Ahrens and Steven Flaherty (*Ragtime*, *Once on This Island*), Jason Robert Brown (*Parade*), Larry O'Keefe (*Bat Boy*), Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx (*Avenue Q*); and Tony-winning actors John Lloyd Young, Roger Bart, Chuck Cooper, and John Glover. Esteemed performers F. Murray Abraham, Henry Winkler, and Judy Kuhn also got their start with Theatreworks, and other actors have gone on to originate lead roles in such Broadway shows as *Avenue Q*, *Hairspray*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Rent*, *Wicked*, *Jersey Boys*, and many others.

Theatreworks USA is America's largest and most prolific professional not-for-profit theatre for young and family audiences. Since 1961, Theatreworks USA has enlightened, entertained, and instructed over 84 million people in 49 states and Canada, now performing for about three million people annually. Every year, the company tours approximately 16 shows from its ever-growing repertoire of 125 plays and musicals. In addition, Theatreworks USA also has an extensive multi-cultural guest artist roster, including storytellers, puppeteers, poets, and magicians. Under the direction of Barbara Pasternack (Artistic Director) and Ken Arthur (Producing Director), Theatreworks USA is also one of the most honored theatres of its kind. It is the only children's theatre to receive both a Drama Desk and a Lucille Lortel Award. In addition, Theatreworks USA was the recipient of a 2001 Jonathan Larson Performing Arts Foundation Award, and in May 2000, The Actors Fund of America bestowed its Medal of Honor upon its founders, Jay Harnick and Charles Hull.

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