



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Seattle Children's Theatre brings *Balloonacy*, a wordless, whimsical comedy to the stage**

**(Seattle, Wash.)** Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) is ushering in spring with the playful, feel-good *Balloonacy*, created by Barry Kornhauser and directed by SCT Artistic Associate, Rita Giomi. This highly musical, physical, and entirely wordless comedy hailed as "short, simple, silly, and superb" (Twin Cities Pioneer Press), runs from March 14–May 5, 2019.

*Balloonacy* is the story of the unexpected friendship between a lonely man and a mischievous red balloon who floats in to the man's apartment, shaking up his mundane routine. It is the old man's birthday, and the balloon is his only guest. The rascal balloon teases, hides, and plays until the exasperated old man attempts to throw the balloon out of his apartment. Throughout the course of their silent and humorous interactions, the old man discovers he has been missing something very important in his life: friendship and play.

With funding from the Bush Foundation for early childhood development, playwright Barry Kornhauser wrote *Balloonacy* specifically for children ages six and under, the first script of its kind at Children's Theatre Center in Minneapolis. The production is fully accessible to children who may be challenged with language barriers, such as immigrant or refugee young people with limited knowledge of English, or those who may be hearing impaired.

"*Balloonacy* is special in its complete inclusiveness," remarked Giomi. "Because of the wordless nature of the story and playful physical comedy, it is a story that children of all developmental levels are delighted by. Friendship is a universal language."

*Balloonacy* marks the final show that Rita Giomi will direct for SCT as she enters retirement at the close of the 2018-2019 season. Her work has been seen on SCT stages for the last 38 years, and leaves a tremendous legacy on its theatre community.

### **THE DETAILS**

**What:** *Balloonacy*

**Where:** Seattle Children's Theatre, 201 Thomas Street

**Tickets** start at \$20 and can be purchased [online](#) or by calling the Ticket Office at 206.441.3322.

**Dates & Times:** March 14–May 5, 2019. Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., & Sundays at 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

## [VIEW THE CALENDAR](#)

### [UPCOMING EVENTS:](#)

***Balloonacy* Opening Night, March 15, 2019, Seattle Children's Theatre, Eve Alvord Theatre.**

The public is invited to a post-show reception with family-friendly activities.

**Sensory Friendly Performance, *Balloonacy*, April 7, 2019, 11 a.m. at Seattle Children's Theatre, Eve Alvord Theatre.**

### [CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM](#)

The cast includes **Todd Moore (The Old Man); Vickielee Wohlbach (Understudy); Evan Barrett (Musician).**

The Creative Team includes **Rita Giomi (Director), Andrea Bush (Scenic Designer), Sarah Gordon (Costume Designer), Thorn Michaels (Lighting Designer), Chris Walker (Composer & Sound Designer), and Michael Paul (Stage Manager).**

SCT is proud to offer discounted tickets for TeenTix members, military families, foster children and families receiving state food assistance. Tickets and information on all of SCT's access programming can be found [online](#). The 2018-2019 season is sponsored by Microsoft, Shubert Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and ArtsFund.

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Seattle Children's Theatre, which celebrates its 44th season in 2018-2019, is internationally recognized as a leading producer of professional theatre, educational programs and new works for young audiences. At the close of 2018, SCT will have produced 269 plays, 115 of which are world premieres, entertaining, inspiring and educating over 4 million children. SCT's School Children Access Program provides \$1.3 million in significantly reduced or complimentary tickets for schools and community organizations in the Puget Sound area.

201 Thomas St | Seattle, WA 98109 | [www.sct.org](http://www.sct.org) | Ticket Office: 206.441.3322