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Seattle Children's Theatre brings the power of love to the stage with *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

(Seattle, Wash.) Seattle Children's Theatre (SCT) rings in the New Year with the heartwarming adaptation of the best-selling novel *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamillo. SCT's Artistic Director, Courtney Sale, directs the play and leads patrons on a transformative journey beginning January 24 through March 10, 2019.

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane shares the story of an exquisitely fashioned toy china rabbit, Edward Tulane, who experiences deep love and loss on a tumultuous 20-year journey. Edward, a self-important companion to a young girl, obsesses over his vast array of lovely outfits rather than forge new relationships. But, when unexpected forces come into play, he discovers what truly matters: to love and to be loved.

The production boasts playful and inspiring puppets, original live music, and, in addition to the adult cast, six dynamic Puget Sound based young actors who are double-cast. Alternating the role of Abilene are **Kalia Estes** and **Zoe Papadakis**; sharing the role of Bryce are **Lucas Oktay** and **Esteban Ortiz**, and alternating the role of Sarah Ruth are **Natalia Ortiz** and **Mika Wellington**. The six young performers are all seasoned veterans of the stage, and are accustomed to juggling school and other commitments along with their theatrical endeavors.

"For many years, I have been a super-fan of Kate DiCamillo's writing. Her stories hold qualities that I am on the hunt for as a theatre maker: invention, facility with language, supreme curiosity, and rich characters," said Sale, adding that one of her favorite quotes in *Tulane* is "Open your heart. Someone will come. Someone will come for you. But first you must open your heart." *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* asks us to stay open and ready for possibility. What a perfect sentiment with which to begin this New Year."

What: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

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: January 24 – March 10, 2019. Thursdays and Fridays at 7 pm; Saturdays at 1 pm and 4:30 pm, and Sundays at 11 am and 2:30 pm.

[VIEW THE CALENDAR](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Opening Night, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, January 25, 2018, (with a public preview on Thursday, January 24) Seattle Children's Theatre, Charlotte Martin Theatre. The public is invited to a post-show reception with family-friendly activities included with ticket purchase.

Sensory Friendly Performance: *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, February 17, 11 am at Seattle Children's Theatre, Charlotte Martin Theatre.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

The cast includes **Rafael Molina** (The Musician); **Lorenzo Roberts** (The Man); **Porscha Shaw** (The Woman); **Rhonda J. Soikowski** (The Traveler); **Kalia Estes** (Abilene – Green Cast); **Mika Kita Wellington** (Sarah Ruth – Green Cast); **Lucas Oktay** (Bryce – Green Cast), **Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta** (Bryce – Blue Cast); **Natalia Ortiz-Villacorta** (Sarah Ruth – Blue Cast), and **Zoe Papadakis** (Abilene – Blue Cast).

The Creative Team includes **Courtney Sale** (Director), **Carey Wong** (Scenic Designer), **Trevor Bowen** (Costume Designer), **Connie Yun** (Lighting Designer), **Rob Witmer** (Composer), **Chris Walker** (Sound Designer), **Annett Mateo** (Puppet Designer & Coach), **Jessica Bomball** (Stage Manager), **Ana Vraney** (Interim Stage Manager), **Kiera Krieg** (Production Assistant), and **Amy Jurkiewicz** (Youth Cast Supervisor).

Thirteen-year-old **Kalia Estes** has performed with SCT's Summer Season (*Lion King Jr.* and *Madagascar*), as well as ACT Theatre's *A Christmas Carol*, *SMT (South Pacific)*, and also with Village Theatre's *Kidstage*. Kalia attends the Northshore Christian Academy in Everett. **Zoe Papadakis**, 12, is a seventh grader at Magnolia's Catherine Blaine School. In addition to her work in SCT's Summer Season (*Seussical Jr.* and *Mario and the Comet*), Zoe recently appeared as Duffy in the 5th Avenue Theatre's production of *Annie*, and has also been seen on many other Seattle stages, including Book-it Repertory Theatre, Seattle Public Theatre, Driftwood Players, and Theatre Anonymous. She also sings with the Seattle Girls Choir. **Mika Kita Wellington** is a sixth grader at Assumption St. Bridget in Ravenna, where she plays the cello, the ukulele, and volleyball. She has spent her last three summers performing with SCT's Summer Season (*Seussical Jr.*, *Lion King Jr.*, and *Madagascar*), and has also been seen on the stages of Youth Theatre Northwest and Broadway Bound. 12-year-old **Natalia Ortiz-Villacorta** is also a veteran of SCT's Summer Season, having appeared in *Through the Lookingglass*, *Mario and the Comet*, and *Lion King Jr.* She also studies ballet at Pacific Northwest Ballet, and is a trained singer and pianist. Natalia attends Pine Lake Middle School in Sammamish. **Esteban Ortiz-Villacorta** is a tenth grader at Skyline High School in Sammamish who has also performed with SCT's Summer Season in *Rent: Student Edition*, *Humor Games: A Parody*, and *Into the Woods: Jr.* **Lucas Oktay**, a tenth grader at The Northwest School on Capitol Hill, has performed on SCT's Mainstage in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, as well as in *A Christmas Carol* at ACT Theatre. Lucas also has a number of film and television credits, including the series *The Librarians*. He is also a skilled musician and sings and plays guitar with the indie-pop band, Nightloops.

Sale, who describes herself as passionate about new works and devised theatre, joined SCT as Artistic Director in August 2016 where last season she directed *The Little Prince*. In April, she will direct *Tiny Beautiful Things* at Seattle Repertory Theatre. Previously, she served three years as Associate Artistic Director at Indiana Repertory Theatre (IRT). IRT directing credits include *Jackie and Me*, *The Giver*, and *Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Mountaintop*, and two iterations of *A Christmas Carol*. As a director, Courtney has developed plays with New Plays for Young Audiences at NYU/Provincetown Playhouse, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Write Now, Dorset Theatre Festival, Denver Center Theatre Company's New Play Summit, New Harmony Project, and the Orchard Project. Her playwright/director collaborations include the works of Steven Dietz, Allison Gregory, Sherry Kramer, MJ Kaufman, Kirk Lynn, Jason Gray Platt, and James Still. Select awards include Indianapolis 40 Under 40, Austin Critic's Table Award and UT Austin Continuing Fellowship. Courtney has taught at IRT Summer Conservatory for Youth, Summer at Cornish, Temple College and University of Texas at Austin. BFA, Cornish College of the Arts. She earned her MFA from the University of Texas at Austin.

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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 | Ticket Office: 206.441.3322

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