

Written by



LILLY'S PURPLE PLASTIC PURSE



BY KEVIN HENKES

Stages Theatre Company (STC) begins its 30th anniversary season with "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" adapted by beloved local playwright Kevin Kling.

The play opens Sept. 20 at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins. Written by Kevin Henkes, this story features Lilly, a young mouse that loves everything about school and the world around her.

"My hope is for audiences to be caught up in this world of exuberance and delight in the adventure that is Lilly's journey," said director Jeannine Coulombe.

Following the opening of "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" is the season kickoff event Rock the Block on Saturday, Sept. 21 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Hopkins Center for the Arts. The free event features carnival games, face painting, bouncy houses, skateboard demonstrations by 3rd Lair Skatepark, glitter tattoos, cupcake decorating and a 1 p.m. performance of "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse."

The 30th anniversary season at STC showcases nine productions for children and young adults, which includes three world premiere productions. In "The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs" audiences will decide the verdict and how the show ends. The last production on the season, "The Dandelion Seed" allows parents and children to participate in the performance with hands-on interaction geared for ages 18 months to 3-years-old.

Since 1984, STC has featured 194 productions, 50 off-site productions, 12 tours and more than

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100 world premieres.

"Each step along the way represents a cherished memory for someone who was there – youth actors, staff and parents. Yet, while it's wonderful to look back and appreciate the positives of the past 30 years, we cannot stand still. We offer you a 30th anniversary season to remember," said artistic director Sandy Boren-Barrett.

"Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse" opens Sept. 20 and ends Oct. 20, with a run time of 60 minutes and is suitable for all ages. Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.stagestheatre.org or by calling the box office at (952) 979-1111, Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children (ages 5 to 17) and seniors (60 and older). Lap passes are available for free (ages 0 to 2) and \$5 (ages 3 to 4).

Stages Theatre Company was founded in 1984 and since then has grown to become one of the largest professional theatres for young audiences in the country. The company engages young artists with themes relevant to their lives and involves them in creating works featuring young people in meaningful roles. Through theatrical productions, workshops, conservatory classes and other outreach programs, Stages Theatre Company annually serves more than 130,000 young people and their families.