

KENNEDY THEATRE

Media Release • 2014-2015 Season

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2014

Shadows Fall and Giants Tumble onto the Kennedy Stage

“The Big Friendly Giant” Combines Giants, Puppets, Shadows, and Humor

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa's Department of Theatre and Dance is proud to present “The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)” as the second Mainstage show of its 51st season. Performances will take place Nov. 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 22 at 4:30 p.m. and Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. and are recommended for ages 4 and up. Audiences will also have the opportunity to attend free pre-show events at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 22 where they can learn the craft of shadow puppetry. The 4:30 show on Saturday, Nov. 22 will also feature “Throwback Prices,” where the prices of tickets will be the same as select previous seasons.

Director Mark Branner, an assistant professor at UHM, jumped into rehearsals this Fall, straight from the production of “Eddie Wen' Go” at The Hawai'i Theatre Center this September. He's also kept himself busy here on O'ahu: last spring, Mark directed “The Very Persistent Gappers of Frip” on the Kennedy Mainstage for which he received a Po'okela award. He also worked with the dance/mask theatre company Monkey Waterfall to create the new piece “Twelve Angry Monkeys.”

“The BFG” is Kennedy Theatre's annual Theatre for Young Audiences production. The play's book was adapted for the stage by David Wood from the children's book by Roald Dahl. Dahl is more widely known for his other famous book, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” however “The BFG” is also a highly praised novel. At the time of the book's release, “The New York Times” declared that,

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‘The BFG’ is a success since it allows children recognition of the habits, dreams and humor that they alone possess.” When asked why he chose this play, Branner replied, “We were going to offer ‘A Life in the Woods’ this year – a serious and fairly faithful retelling of the ‘Bambi’ novel. But, as I read The BFG to my own kids while teaching abroad in London last year, they literally laughed themselves off of the sofa at various points and I thought, ‘What could be better than this?’ The laughter of children (and giving them stories that allow them to laugh, etc.) is not easy to pass up.” And this story will definitely allow, if not encourage, audiences of all ages to howl with laughter.

“The BFG” tells the story of the smart and precocious young girl Sophie (Janna Rose Shields, seen last in Kennedy Theatre’s *Blithe Spirit*), her Father (Joe Abraham, a recent Po'okela recipient for his role in Hawaii Shakespeare Festival's *Timon of Athens*), and her Mother (played by Rachael Chapman, previously seen on the Mainstage in *Gappers*) who also play the BFG and the Queen, respectively. At her birthday party, Sophie wants to act out the story of “The BFG,” a tale of giants and danger, adventure and theatrical magic. Expect to see giant puppets and imaginative shadows that will captivate the whole family.

The Theatre for Young Audiences, or TYA, program is coming out in full force to raise this production. From those onstage to those behind the scenes, the work of the MFA students in the TYA track will be seen this Fall. Branner says, “They light the shows (Kelsey Peacock), construct the puppets (Margot Fitzsimmons & Aubrey Watkins), make the costumes (Kim Shire)... what it shows is that TYA MFA students have a wealth of interests, backgrounds and abilities which we always try to use in producing all of our shows.” With all their talents and abilities, “The BFG” is sure to be an experience that will entertain and thrill audience members from ages 4 to 400.

Tickets for “The BFG” are available online at etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office; the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours on performance dates. Prices are \$20 regular; \$18 for

seniors / military / UH faculty and staff; \$15 for students; and \$8 for UHM students with a valid Fall 2014 UHM photo ID. Ticket prices include all service fees. Special throwback ticket prices are in effect for the 4:30 p.m. performance on Nov. 22, when ticket prices fall to \$15 regular, \$10 discount and \$5 UHM students with valid ID. For further information, please visit hawaii.edu/kennedy, or call the theatre at (808) 956-7655. For disability access, please call the theatre.

EVENT: “*The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)*” adapted by David Wood from the book by Roald Dahl

PRESENTED BY: UHM Department of Theatre and Dance

WHEN: Nov. 14, 15*, and 22* at 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 22 at 4:30 p.m.
Nov 23 at 2 p.m.
* Free pre-show event with the director and cast at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Kennedy Theatre Mainstage
1770 East-West Road, Honolulu

TICKET PRICES:
\$20 Regular
\$18 Seniors / Military / UH Faculty and Staff
\$15 Non- UHM students
\$8 UHM Students with valid UHM photo ID

Throwback ticket prices (Nov. 22 at 4:30 p.m.):
\$15 Regular
\$10 Discount
\$ 8 UHM Student with valid ID

Ticket prices include all service fees.

PURCHASE INFO:
Tickets are available online at etickethawaii.com, by phone at (808) 944-2697, at participating outlets, and at the Kennedy Theatre box office; the box office is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours on performance dates.



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