



Contact: Steve Bianchi
Nashville Children's Theatre
(615) 254-9103, ext. 212

Leigh Lindsey
McNeely Pigott & Fox
(615) 259-4000

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NCT PRESENTS *THE WITCH OF BLACKBIRD POND*
Performances to be held at Belmont University's Trout Theater

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Nashville Children's Theatre in collaboration with Belmont University's College of Visual and Performing Arts will present *The Witch of Blackbird Pond*, Oct. 4 through Oct. 27 at Belmont University's new Trout Theater.

The play follows the story of Kit Tyler who, after the death of her grandfather, moves to colonial Connecticut. Life in an early American Puritan community holds several challenges for an independent, spirited young lady, and her neighbors soon react with suspicion. Kit befriends a lonely, outcast old woman and finds herself accused – standing trial for witchcraft.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond is adapted from the Newbery Award-winning novel by Elizabeth George Speare. The cast includes Rona Carter, Patrick Waller, Henry Haggard, Peter Vann, Ross Brooks, Elijah Dies, Buddy Raper and Belmont students Jaclyn Johnson, Shanti Smith, Christine Lamborn, Natasha O'Brien, Aslan Dillon, Nicole Pearce and Brittany McManus. Scot Copeland, NCT producing director, and Julee Baber will co-direct the production. The set and lighting design is by Scott Leathers; costume design is by Patricia Taber.

Weekend performances are scheduled at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27. School performances run Monday through Friday at 10 a.m. All performances are open to the public. Individual ticket prices are \$11 per child (ages 2 to 17), \$15 per adult and free for children under 2 years old. Season passes and group discounts are also available. A sign-interpreted performance is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20, at 1 p.m.

NCT will offer half-priced tickets for its two performances on Saturday, Oct. 6. The weekend is part of the Target Family Time Series, which includes a free family reception and hands-on arts activities at 2:30 p.m.

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The newly constructed Bill and Carole Troutt Theater will open in late September and is named for a former Belmont president and his wife. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* will be one of the first performances on the theater's stage. In addition to NCT, the Troutt Theater will see a variety of performance companies this coming year including Actors Bridge Ensemble, the Nashville Shakespeare Festival and the Nashville Ballet.

For more information about tickets or how to become a season subscriber, please visit www.nashvillechildrenstheatre.org or call (615) 254-9103, ext 210.

About Nashville Children's Theatre

Nashville Children's Theatre is an ensemble of professional artists who bring unique vision and compelling voice to the creation of meaningful theater for Nashville and Middle Tennessee audiences. We strive to make the imaginative celebration of our hopes, struggles and joys a vital part of the shared experience for young people, families and our community. NCT was founded in 1931 by the Junior League of Nashville and is recognized as the oldest professional children's theater in the country. A national leader in professional theater arts and education programs for young people, NCT was ranked by *TIME* magazine as one of the top five children's theaters in the country.

NCT's 2007-08 media sponsors are *The City Paper*, Comcast Spotlight and *Nashville Parent*.

About Belmont University's College of Visual and Performing Arts

The College of Visual and Performing Arts strives to be an active community that encourages imagination, nurtures creativity and promotes intellectual and professional growth in the arts. Its departments include music, theater, art and dance. The Department of Theatre and Dance is committed to a liberal arts foundation as an effective means of preparing students who want to pursue theater as a life's work. This commitment is reflected in the system of training that stresses the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of the theatrical performance and production process.

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