

**Free Events, Activities and Refreshments Will be Part of the Fun Before and After Performances of The New York Children's Theater Festival**

***Festival kicks off with free event featuring John Tartaglia at Books of Wonder April 14***

***Festival runs April 19 to May 5***

New York, NY, April 8, 2013 - - In addition to the three exciting family productions to be showcased at the [The New York Children's Theater Festival](#) April 19 through May 5 (Marjorie S. Deane Little Theater, 10 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street at Central Park West), many special free activities will be available at the theater before and after performances for ticket holders. In addition, the festival will celebrate with a free kick-off event at Books of Wonder (18 West 18<sup>th</sup> St.). Tickets are \$18 (\$15 YMCA members) available at [newyorkchildrenstheaterfestival.org](http://newyorkchildrenstheaterfestival.org) and through Ovationtix (866-811-4111).

The Festival is also offering Premium Seating (\$25) which guarantees seats in the first three rows and includes a Goodie Bag with crayons, bookmarks, candy, and much more.

**Sunday April 14, 12 Noon to 1:00 PM**

*The New York Children's Theater Festival* at [Books of Wonder](#) (18 W.18th Street, NYC), featuring performances of scenes from all three festival shows and a special guest appearance by Tony Award nominee, Emmy Award nominee, and Drama Desk Award nominee **John Tartaglia** (*Avenue Q; Beauty and the Beast; Shrek the Musical; John Tartaglia's ImaginOcean; Disney's Johnny and the Sprites*)! Get a preview and meet the stars!

**Friday April 19, 5:30 PM**

For all ticket holders, there will be free crafts, face painting, a special silly performer and free refreshments to celebrate the start of the festival, immediately following the 5:30 PM performance of [The Tale of Jamie Freel: a Faerie Story](#).

**Saturday April 20, 12:15 PM**

Immediately following the 11:00 AM performance and right before the 1:00 PM performance of [The Tale of Jamie Freel: a Faerie Story](#), there will be a free Theater workshop with [Wingspan Arts](#), and face painting for all ticket holders!

**Sunday April 21, 1:15 PM**

Starting at 1:15 PM, free face painting will be offered. At 1:45 PM there will be an Amazing Max Magic Pre-Show, all before the 2:00 PM final performance of [The Tale of Jamie Freel: a Faerie Story](#).

**Saturday April 27 11:00 AM**

Prior to both the 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM performances of [Cheater, Cheater, Pumpkin Eater!](#), ticket holders will be treated to a very special pre-show performance from [Rosie's Theater Kids](#).

Immediately following the 11 AM show, and before the 1:00 PM performances, there will be a special appearance and short story reading by children author/illustrator [Melanie Hope Greenberg](#) from 12:15 to 12:45 PM, as well as face painting.

**Sunday April 28, 1:00 PM**

From 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM, face painting will be available to ticket holders. At 1:15, the fun continues with a [Dance Laugh Learn Workshop](#), before the 2:00 PM final performance of [Cheater, Cheater, Pumpkin, Eater!](#)

### **Saturday May 4, 11:00 AM**

Prior to both the 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM performances of [Molly Bloom Lately](#), face painting will be available, and ticket holders will be treated to a very special pre-show performance from [Rosie's Theater Kids](#).

### **Sunday May 5, 1:00 PM**

Before the 2:00 PM final performance of the festival, from 1:00 PM to 1:30 PM, face painting will be available, and at 1:15, there will be a special [Michael Karas Juggling Workshop](#).

###

### **Full Festival Listing Details**

#### **The Tale of Jamie Freel: a Faerie Story**

- **Friday, April 19, 5:30 PM**
- **Saturday, April 20, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM**
- **Sunday, April 21, 2:00 PM**

This play with music and dance, written and created by Brad Raimondo is based on *Jamie Freel and the Young Lady*, a Donegal Tale by Miss Letitia Maclintock. It tells the story of a young man's search for adventure who uncovers a world of strange events, wild creatures, and faerie magic, as well as a kidnapped young lady in need of his help. For ages 7 and up.

#### **Cheater, Cheater, Pumpkin Eater!**

- **Friday, April 26, 5:30 PM**
- **Saturday, April 27, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM**
- **Sunday, April 28, 2:00 PM**

A puppet musical written and created by Staci Rosen and Ryan Roe about honesty, friendship and believing in yourself. Maddie has to decide whether or not to cheat in order to become a star. As the story unfolds with great humor, Maddie and the audience learn the importance of integrity and being true to oneself. For ages 4 and up.

#### **Molly Bloom Lately**

- **Friday, May 3, 5:30 PM**
- **Saturday, May 4, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM**
- **Sunday, May 5, 2:00 PM**

This educational and entertaining musical, with book and lyrics by Ashleigh Catsos and music by Brian Ray Stearns, tells the story of a third grader who, after being teased for being small, must learn to not only stand up for, but also believe in herself. The story encourages a celebration of individuality and to always be kind even when others are not. For ages 5 and up.

#### **The New York Children's Theater Festival**

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in its second year, the Festival provides a birthplace in NYC for new live children's entertainment from around the globe, and serves as a platform for writers and producers who are passionate about developing innovative theatrical experiences for children. The inaugural Festival in 2012 reached over 1,000 audience members and has already seen results for its participants: *Go Green!* received Honorable Mention in the Jackie White Memorial National Children's Playwriting Contest (Columbia Entertainment Company, Columbia, MO), and *Scheme of the Super Bullies* is in the planning stages of launching a local tour through The Sarah Lawrence College Theatre Outreach Program. More at [www.newyorkchildrenstheaterfestival.org](http://www.newyorkchildrenstheaterfestival.org).

**Media Contact: Rodi Rosensweig, 203/270-8929, [Rodicompany@earthlink.net](mailto:Rodicompany@earthlink.net)**