

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 1, 2008

**THE CAPA FAMILY SERIES TO PRESENT
MAGIC TREE HOUSE[®]: *THE MUSICAL*
WITH PRE- AND POST-SHOW TALKS BY AUTHORS
MARY POPE OSBORNE AND WILL OSBORNE**

***Portion of Saturday Afternoon Proceeds
to Benefit the Dave Thomas Foundation***

Mary Pope Osborne's beloved series of Magic Tree House books have sold more than 60 million copies worldwide, and are recognized as one of the most popular and best selling children's series of all time. Now *Magic Tree House: The Musical*, a full-scale, Broadway-style musical adventure for the whole family, comes to Columbus' Palace Theatre on January 16 and 17.

Mary Pope Osborne, author of the Magic Tree House series, will personally welcome audiences with a pre-show curtain speech. At the close of each performance, Osborne will host a "talk back" session with husband Will Osborne, who adapted the book series for the stage, and the cast, offering theatre-goers the chance to get answers to all their Magic Tree House questions.

A portion of the proceeds from the 11 am performance on Saturday, January 17, will be dedicated to the locally based Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption. Created by Wendy's founder Dave Thomas, who was adopted as a child, the Foundation is a non-profit, public charity dedicated to dramatically increasing adoptions of the more than 150,000 children in North America's foster care systems.

CAPA presents *Magic Tree House: The Musical* at the **Palace Theatre** (34 W. Broad St.) on **Friday, January 16**, at **7 pm**, and **Saturday, January 17**, at **11 am** and **2 pm**. **Tickets** are \$52.50, \$32.50, \$25, and \$15 at the Ohio Theatre Ticket Office (39 E. State St.), all Ticketmaster outlets, and www.ticketmaster.com. To purchase tickets by phone, please call (614) 431-3600 or (614) 469-0939. The Palace Theatre Ticket Office will open two hours prior to the performance. This Family Series performance is made

possible through the generous support of **Wendy's** and CAPA Family Series Sponsor AEP.

Working closely with author Mary Pope Osborne to preserve the imagination-stimulating power of her *Magic Tree House* series of books, the creators of *Magic Tree House: The Musical* have developed an enchanting blend of song, story, and stagecraft that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats. The show features more than 30 life-sized (and dragon-sized!) puppets by Mary Brehmer, a three-time Daytime Emmy nominee for her work with the Muppets. The sets by Broadway designer Alexander Dodge and lighting by Matthew Richards create a spectacular, ever-changing environment that will dazzle both children and adults. Daytime Emmy winner Sarah Iams has designed wonderfully imaginative costumes to outfit the entire kingdom of Camelot, including a spectacular magician's cloak for Merlin and whimsical dance costumes for an entire troupe of Irish step dancers.

Featuring more than a dozen original songs, *Magic Tree House: The Musical* takes Jack and Annie, the series' popular brother/sister team, on their most thrilling adventure yet. To restore joy and magic to King Arthur's kingdom, they must travel to Camelot's dreaded Otherworld and return with water from the mythical Cauldron of Memory and Imagination. If they fail, Camelot will be lost and forgotten forever and the Magic Tree House will be destroyed. Rising to each new challenge with courage, humor, and resourcefulness, Jack and Annie discover that memory and imagination are gifts we can all use to fill our lives with magic.

Magic Tree House: The Musical is two hours long including a 25-minute intermission.

www.MTHmusical.com

The **Ohio Arts Council** helped fund this program with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, education excellence, and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. CAPA also appreciates the support of the **Robert Bartels, Virginia Hall Beale, and Barbara Clement Memorial Funds of The Columbus Foundation**, assisting donors and others in strengthening our community for the benefit of all of its citizens, and the **Greater Columbus Arts Council**, supporting the city's artists and arts organizations since 1973.

Owner/operator of downtown Columbus' magnificent historic theatres (Ohio Theatre, Palace Theatre, Southern Theatre) and manager of the Riffe Center Theatre Complex (Columbus) and the Shubert Theater (New Haven, CT), **CAPA** is an award-winning presenter of national and international performing arts and entertainment. For more information, visit www.capa.com.

CALENDAR LISTING

CAPA presents *MAGIC TREE HOUSE: THE MUSICAL*

Friday, January 16, 7 pm

Saturday, January 17, 11 am & 2 pm

Palace Theatre (34 W. Broad St.)

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