



media contact:
erica lewis-finein
brightbutterfly pr
brightbutterfly[at]hotmail.com

BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE YOUTH CONSERVATORY PRESENTS “HONK! JR.”

June 2-3, 2012

Music by George Stiles

Book and lyrics by Anthony Drewe

Berkeley Playhouse presents its next KidStage production, **HONK! JR.** Based on the Olivier award-winning production of *Honk!*, this charming retelling of Hans Christian Andersen’s *The Ugly Duckling* is a bright musical comedy for all ages, full of humor, charm, and a message of tolerance. **HONK! JR** tells the story of Ugly, whose odd, gawky looks instantly incite prejudice and make him a pariah with his barnyard family and neighbors. Separated from the farm, and his loving mother, and pursued by a wily Cat who wants to eat him, Ugly must find his own way in the world, and his way back home. Along the way, he not only discovers his true beauty and glorious destiny, but finds love and acceptance. **HONK! JR** reminds us that being different isn’t necessarily bad, although it isn’t always easy.

Dane Paul Andres directs **HONK! JR**, with music direction by **Nicki Adams** and assistant direction by **William Hodgson**, who was recently featured in the Berkeley Playhouse main stage production of *Lucky Duck*. The production features performances by 21 young actors enrolled in the Berkeley Playhouse KidStage program (grades 3-6), a performance section of the Youth Conservatory.

Berkeley Playhouse believes that kids and teens have the ability to command their own audiences. The company’s acclaimed Youth Conservatory gives talented students the opportunity to participate in full-scale youth-only productions of the highest quality with some of the best professional directors, choreographers, and designers in the Bay Area. Cast members of Conservatory productions receive ongoing training in acting, voice, and movement.

Nominated for eight and winner of five BATCC Awards for 2011, Berkeley Playhouse was founded by actor, director, and teacher for over 20 years, Elizabeth McKoy. Under the artistic guidance of McKoy, and Managing Director Lauren Hewitt, Berkeley Playhouse is a professional theater for all ages that presents a season of year-round musicals, providing children and families with unique and sophisticated musical theater experiences. In addition, Berkeley Playhouse has a music theater conservatory which offers a range of educational instruction classes in music performance skills. In 2009, Berkeley Playhouse made its permanent performance home at the historic Julia Morgan Theatre in Berkeley.

DATES: Saturday, June 2, 2pm and 7pm; Sunday, June 3, 12pm and 5pm

WHERE: Julia Morgan Theatre, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley

TICKETS: For tickets (\$20 Adults, \$15 Youth) and more information, the public may visit berkeleyplayhouse.org or call **510-845-8542x351**

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