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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAG&BAGGAGE ANNOUNCES NEW CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROGRAMMING

The Hillsboro-based professional theatre company expands programming to include new child-friendly theatre at the Washington County Fair and The Venetian Theatre

HILLSBORO, OR – Bag&Baggage Productions, Hillsboro's only professional theatre and one of two professional theatres in Washington County, is proud to announce a new children's theatre program which will give families in the region access to high quality, affordable family-friendly theatre performances. The company, which has recently completed their first full season of work at The Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro, will offer three family-friendly theatre productions in Hillsboro in the next month.

Scott Palmer, Artistic Director, said, "We have had a number of requests from our audiences to provide programming that is appropriate for children because there are very few opportunities for families with younger children to attend theatre productions in and around Hillsboro. We are delighted to be able to offer these shows for the huge number of families in our community who want to give their kids a chance to experience theatre at a young age."

The first two shows are special commissions by the Washington County Fair Complex and will take place from July 30 – August 2 during the 2009 Washington County Fair in Hillsboro. The first show, ***Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*** is an interactive show about what would happen if the seven dwarves of the popular fairy tale didn't show up for the performance. Directed by and starring Jen Waters (a Bag&Baggage company member who has also been director of education for the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, Oregon), the show gets the children in the audience involved in the performance by asking them to play the dwarves, the countryside, and various other characters in the story.

Waters said, "The children in the audience take all of the additional roles. They become a forest, the dwarfs, and even participate as part of the stage crew in putting together the sets. This is the ultimate in children's theatre because every member of the audience actually becomes part of the play!"

The second production is a world-premiere of a new script, written especially for the Fairground's Wild West Stage, called ***Pecos Bill and Slue Foot Sue***. Local actor and playwright Gregory Heaton wrote the script, and stars as Hollerin' Hank, the hysterical sidekick of the legendary cowboy Pecos Bill. The show tells the story of Pecos Bill and Hollerin' Hank as they compete in various feats of skill, strength and bravery. At the end, Pecos Bill discovers that his biggest competitor is, in fact, the tenacious and strong-willed Slue Foot Sue.

Heaton said, “This show is funny and interactive, but it also has a strong message; everyone has skills, strengths and talents, no matter who they are.”

The two productions will be performed 4 times daily during the Washington County Fair, and all performances are free and are included in the free admission to the Fair. For more information on dates and performance times, visit the Washington County Fair website at www.faircomplex.com.

The third planned children’s show is a co-production between Bag&Baggage and Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre, Portland’s premiere puppet theatre company and one of the most successful puppet theatres in the country. ***Stellaluna***, based on the hugely popular children’s book about a baby bat and a family of baby birds, will be performed at The Venetian Theatre in downtown Hillsboro for three performances only on August 7 (at 7:00pm) and August 8 (at 2:00pm and 7:00pm). Tickets for the show are \$8 for adults and \$5 for kids, and the performance is appropriate for children 4 years old – 12 years old. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased at www.bagnbaggage.org.

Palmer said, “We are delighted to partner with Tears of Joy for this show, and we are so happy that they are able to bring their incredible puppetry skills out to Hillsboro. This is the first time the company has been to Hillsboro, and we hope Hillsboro families come out in droves to see this show. It is just incredible.”

More information on Bag&Baggage, and listings for all performances can be found online at www.bagnbaggage.org or by calling 503 516 4840.

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Calendar Listings:

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves

July 30 – August 2, 2009 (4 shows daily, various times)
The Washington County Fair, Rockin’ Blues Stage
873 NE 34th Ave, Hillsboro OR 97124
www.faircomplex.com, (503) 648-1416

Pecos Bill and Slue-Foot Sue

July 30 – August 2, 2009 (4 shows daily, various times)
The Washington County Fair, Wild West Stage
873 NE 34th Ave, Hillsboro OR 97124
www.faircomplex.com, (503) 648-1416

Stellaluna

A Co-production between Bag&Baggage and Tears of Joy
August 7 at 7:00pm and August 8 at 2:00pm and 7:00pm
The Venetian Theatre
253 East Main Street
Hillsboro, OR 97124
Tickets: \$8 for adults and \$5 for children under 12
www.bagnbaggage.org or 503 516 4840