

The wardrobe awaits for local youngsters!

The New Vic Theatre presents

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Auditions

Auditions Saturday 6 & Sunday 7 June 2009

Summer School 24-29 August 2009

Local youngsters are getting the chance to step through the wardrobe this summer as the New Vic announce a regional search to find young talent for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The theatre is offering children a rare chance to star alongside a professional cast in the magical new adaptation, receiving its world premiere at the North Staffordshire venue this Christmas.

The New Vic is looking for boys and girls aged 10-14 to take part in a summer school, at the end of which 18 top talents will be offered parts in the production that has already sold over 14,000 tickets.

Adapted from the CS Lewis classic and directed by the New Vic Artistic Director and BBC writer, Theresa Heskins said: *"We are thrilled to have young members of the community involved in our Christmas production of The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. And this year is very special – our youngsters will not only get to enter the magical world of Narnia, but also take part in the first ever production of this brand new adaptation. We can't wait to get started!"*

The summer school will give children the chance to shine in front of top professionals including Theresa, TV and film composer, James Atherton and dance expert, choreographer Beverly Norris.

The jam-packed week of music, dance and drama will explore the magical world beyond the wardrobe and culminate in a performance for friends and family.

Have you ever wanted to step into the enchanted land of Narnia? Here's your chance! Auditions will for boys and girls will be held on Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June. To try out for a place on the summer school, which runs from 24 - 29 August 2008, you will be asked to sing an extract (up to 1 minute) from a well-known musical of your choice and take part in group dance-based activities.

You can request an application form by contacting Sarah White on 01782 717954 ext 320 or swhite@newvictheatre.org.uk or download a copy from our website www.newvictheatre.org.uk.

The summer school costs £65, with concessions available.

The New Vic is only looking for committed and enthusiastic individuals! **Children who audition for the Summer School must be available to take part in the production.** It will be a large commitment throughout Christmas and New Year with rehearsals starting in October and the show running until January 2010.

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For further press information please contact Clare Hargreaves on 01782 717954 ext 317 or e-mail chargreaves@newvictheatre.org.uk

Editors Notes

The New Vic presents

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

by C S Lewis

adapted by Theresa Heskins

Sat 21 Nov – Sat 23 Jan

Join us as the magical land of Narnia comes to spectacular life on the New Vic stage. The classic story in a dazzling production that will enchant children of all ages and their families.

Four children step through a mysterious wardrobe and find themselves in a bewitching fairytale world. But the land lies under the power of the White Witch who has cast a terrible spell: it is forever winter – but never Christmas.

With Mr Tumnus, Mr and Mrs Beaver and a host of forest friends, Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter join the great lion, Aslan, to battle the White Witch. Can they triumph? And can they bring happiness – and Christmas – to the land of Narnia once again?