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Journey with MoCo Arts Students from Narnia to the Chocolate Factory



Keene, NH - Tickets to two MoCo Arts Middle School Theatre productions are now on sale and include two extremely exciting performances by some very talented students. The Middle School Play, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, will be performed in *The Founder's Theatre* at MoCo Arts on December 2nd at 1:00pm and 4:00pm. Then on the following Sunday, December 9th, The Middle School Musical Theatre students will perform *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR.* with performances at 1:00pm and 4:00pm, also in *The Founder's Theatre*.



This new dramatization of C.S. Lewis' classic, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is set in the land of Narnia, and faithfully recreates the magic and mystery of Aslan, the great lion, his struggle with the White Witch, and the adventures of four children who inadvertently wander from an old wardrobe into the exciting, never-to-be-forgotten Narnia. The intense action features chases, duels and escapes as the witch is determined to keep Narnia in her possession and to end the reign of Aslan. All the memorable episodes from the story are represented in this exciting dramatization: the temptation of Edmund by the witch, the slaying of the evil wolf by Peter,

the witnessing of Aslan's resurrection by Susan and Lucy, the crowning of the four new rulers of Narnia, and more. The supporting characters are also here: the unicorn, the centaur and other forest animals, along with Father Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Beaver and Tumnus the Faun. This story of love, faith, courage and giving, with its triumph of good over evil, is a true celebration of life. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is sponsored in part by Monadnock Broadcasting Group.

"It has been such an extraordinary experience working on *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* with this group of talented students," says Laura Carbonneau, MoCo alumna and Director of MoCo's Middle School Play. "The play is challenging and they have risen to that challenge and embraced the show, creating something very magical."



Transforming Lives Through Movement and Creative Expression

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR. follows enigmatic candy manufacturer Willy Wonka as he stages a contest by hiding golden tickets in five of his scrumptious candy bars. Whoever comes up with these tickets will win a free tour of the Wonka factory, as well as a lifetime supply of candy. Four of the five winning children are greedy, but the fifth is a likeable young lad named Charlie Bucket, who takes the tour in the company of his equally amiable grandfather. The children must learn to follow Mr. Wonka's rules in the factory – or suffer the consequences. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder in addition to a host of fun new songs, *Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka JR.* is a scrumdilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth. *Willy Wonka JR.* is sponsored in part by Savings Bank of Walpole.

"The cast of *Willy Wonka JR.* is ready to take you on a fantastic journey through Willy Wonka's chocolate factory," says Kristen Leach, Director of MoCo's Middle School Musical. "You'll trip, laugh and have your heart warmed by Wonka's pure imagination, and these astounding kids!"

Both shows are being performed by MoCo Arts students grades 6th– 8th. **Tickets are \$12 for general admission, and are available at MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street in Keene, or by calling (603) 357-2100. To learn more about these performances or MoCo Arts, please visit www.moco.org.**

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431 or www.moco.org

Photo 1 Caption: *The cast of MoCo Arts Middle School Play, "The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe."* Photo by Colleen Manzi.

Photo 2 Caption: *Rehearsing for "Willy Wonka JR."* Photo by Colleen Manzi.

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