



Contact: Colleen Manzi
Telephone: (603) 357-2100 x208
Email: cmanzi@moco.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2019

Keene to Embark on a 'Fruit-Full' Adventure of Epic Proportions with MoCo Arts' Production of Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*



KEENE, NH -- MoCo Arts Middle School Musical Theatre class will present its "master-peach," a production of Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach JR.* on Sunday, May 12th at 1pm & 4pm in *The Founder's Theatre* at MoCo Arts. A delightfully offbeat adaptation of the classic Roald Dahl adventure, *James and the Giant Peach JR.* is a fantastical tale of a boy, his insect friends, and their amazing journey across the ocean on a giant piece of fruit. The musical was adapted to be performed by students by educational musical theatre firm iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald.

"Behind its wit and whimsy, *James and the Giant Peach* explores some sophisticated themes. How do we define our family? How do we start over after a big loss? We've always planned to make it available for performance by schools and educational theatre groups as soon as possible, because - and we think Roald Dahl would agree - young people are capable of amazing things," says Justin Paul who co-wrote the music and lyrics for the musical with Benj Pasek.

"James is a child put in a remarkable situation, and with the help and support of some new friends he is able to achieve great things. Similarly, these MoCo Arts students are working together in extraordinary ways to present this musical. We know their show is going to be great. Break a leg guys!" says Benj Pasek.

Featuring music and lyrics by the Tony-nominated songwriters Justin Paul and Benj Pasek and book by Timothy Allen McDonald, *James and the Giant Peach JR.* is based on the beloved book by Roald Dahl and tells the story of a young orphaned child who finds a loving family in a most peculiar way. Sent by his mean, conniving aunts to chop down their old fruit tree, James discovers a magic potion which results in a tremendous peach occupied by some not-so-normal characters. From the center of the gigantic fruit, James and the unlikely crew launch a journey of enormous proportions. Together they discover that while we are all born into a family, we then go on to create a family of our own.

MoCo Arts Middle School Musical Theatre will present Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach JR.* on Sunday, May 12th at 1pm & 4pm at *The Founder's Theatre* at MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street in Keene. Tickets are \$12 for general admission and may be purchased at MoCo Arts, or by calling (603) 357-2100. For more information, please visit www.moco.org.

James and the Giant Peach JR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com.



Transforming Lives Through Movement and Creative Expression

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 caption: *The cast of the MoCo Arts Middle School Musical, "James and the Giant Peach" in rehearsal. Photo by Kristen Leach.*

###