

PRESS RELEASE

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL to present
PETER PAN
or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up

The Appleton North High School Theatre Department will present the play *PETER PAN or The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up* on May 16th through the 19th in the North High School Auditorium, 5000 North Ballard Road. This new version adapted from the original J.M. Barrie play and novel by Trevor Nunn and John Caird for the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre of London enjoyed phenomenal success when first produced. The famous team known for their productions of *THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY* and the musical *LES MISERABLES* have painstakingly researched and restored Barrie's original play. ". . . a national masterpiece."—London Times. This is the beloved story of Peter, Wendy, Michael, John, Capt. Hook, Smee, the lost boys, pirates, and the Indians, and of course, Tinker Bell, in their adventures in Never Land. However, for the first time, the play is here restored to Barrie's original intentions. In the words of adaptor, John Caird: " We were fascinated to discover that there was no one single document called PETER PAN. What we found was a tantalizing number of different versions, all of them containing some very agreeable surprises. . . . We have made some significant alterations, the greatest of which is the introduction of a new character, the Storyteller, who is in fact the author himself."

North's theatre director, Ron Parker, states, "This is a very different PETER PAN than the one most people are familiar with. It is neither the

popular musical version nor the Disney animated recreation, but goes back to Barrie's original play and novel. PETER PAN was a work intended for both children and adults—full of the joys and wonderment of childhood, but also with the dark fears and bittersweet moments that inhabit our youth—and follow us into adulthood. Anyone who has read Barrie's wonderful book knows how complex the notion of growing up can be.”

North's production will be presented in a studio theatre environment with the audience seated directly on the stage to create a more intimate shared theatrical experience. Creative and imaginative staging will take playgoers back to a world where pretending could make anything possible. In addition, an original dramatic score has been created for the production by composer Charlie Williams.

Performance times are May 16, 17, 18, and 19 at 7:00 p.m. and May 18 and 19 at 1:00 p.m. Admission is \$10.00. Seating is limited to 120 per performance. Advance tickets may be purchased from noon to 4:00 p.m. on May 6th and 9th in the North commons. Remaining tickets may be purchased at the door one hour before curtain. Further information can be found on the North theatre website www.appletonnorththeatre.com or by contacting Ron Parker, theatre director, at parkerronaldc@asd.k12.wi.us

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