

Skip to Content
Search Cal Poly News
GO
California Polytechnic State University

April 7, 2008 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TICKET SALES: 805/756-2787

## Bring the Kids to Live History Musical 'Ursa Major' April 16

SAN LUIS OBISPO – History comes tune-fully alive with Mark Russell songs when Teddy Roosevelt's children hunt for treasure in TEDDY ROOSEVELT AND THE TREASURE OF URSA MAJOR, presented by Cal Poly Arts on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 with an early 7 p.m. curtain in the Cohan Center.

The Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences' tour of Teddy Roosevelt... is the final offering in Cal Poly Arts' popular, low-cost Family Event Series, with all seats only \$14 for students/\$18 for general public.

In this special project co-commissioned with the White House Historical Association, the Kennedy Center imagines stories about the children of our nation's Presidents – beginning with this exciting new musical inspired by Theodore Roosevelt and his family, creating tales of the children who've lived at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

It's the summer of 1904 and young Kermit, Ethel, and Archie Roosevelt stumble upon a real-life treasure map hidden in their library's copy of "Treasure Island."

Following clue after clue, the threesome untangles a decades-old mystery that leads them from the Red Room to the President's Office to the Lincoln Bedroom.

But will their father's loyal valet or the new English governess foil their quest?

This clever, comical production features songs by Washington satirist Russell, whose PBS specials have led TV Guide to call him "the funniest man on television."

In a special piece to The Washington Post, Jane Horwitz recounts:

"The prim (and fictional) English governess in the White House...despairs of taming the boisterous antics of Ethel, Archie and Kermit Roosevelt and reacts as every good musical character does: She bursts into song. 'I came to this Yankee Doodle house, no duty shirking, little did I know 'twould be a zoo where I was working.'"

"I've been writing juvenile material for years," Russell jests, "but never for other people to perform.

"As in all children's productions, we have some goodies for the parents. We take a few slaps at Congress, but all in good taste – which these days can be a bit of a challenge," he says.

The book is written by acclaimed playwright and University of Minnesota-Duluth theatre professor Tom Isbell. "I can't think of anybody more fascinating, with the exception of Lincoln," asserts Isbell.

The show is recommended for adults and children aged 8+.

1 of 2 8/4/08 12:58 PM

For more than 35 years, the Kennedy Center Education Department has provided quality arts experiences for students, teachers, families, and the general public throughout the United States, with a focus on producing, presenting, and touring performances and educational events for young people and their families.

The programs of the Education Department have become models for communities across the country and have unlocked the door to learning for millions of people.

This has been accomplished by fostering creativity, teaching discipline, improving self-esteem, and challenging people to think in new ways, as well as offering them experiences in the pure enjoyment and excitement of the performing arts. For more information, visit the Center's web site at <a href="https://www.kennedy-center.org/education">www.kennedy-center.org/education</a>.

Tickets for this family show may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

To order by phone, call 805/756-2787; to order by fax: 805/756-6088.

Order on-line at www.calpolyarts.org.

For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit <a href="https://www.calpolyarts.org">www.calpolyarts.org</a>.

- 30 -

CP Home • CP Find It Get Adobe Reader • Microsoft Viewers

Events • Recent Releases • Cal Poly Magazine
• Cal Poly Update E-newsletter • Contact Public Affairs • Alumni • Giving • Athletics

Cal Poly Public Affairs
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407
805.756.7266
polynews@calpoly.edu

2 of 2 8/4/08 12:58 PM