



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

21 OCTOBER 2011 - KIDS PERFORMING REPERTORY THEATRE (KPRT) brings back the magic of “NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE” with 21 shows commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November and running till 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 at the Suntec Convention Center Theatre. This musical production will take everyone to a fun-filled adventure through the winter and spring seasons of Narnia, a magical world where all manner of flora and fauna become divine and alive at Aslan's command.

Based on the fictional masterpiece by C. S. Lewis, KPRT reprises this musical extravaganza involving a cast of about 60 performers this time. July 2009 saw the formation of KPRT as an extension of the work of Kids Performing™ in Singapore to support young talents and Narnia The Musical was first staged in December 2009. All 3 shows at the DBS Arts Centre sold out completely and requests for the beautiful production did not subside even after a year. This convinced the Founder and Artistic Director of Kids Performing, Kuo Po, to reprise this production.

Says Kuo Po: “NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE is a heart-warming tale that reinforces the value of repentance, forgiveness, loyalty and bravery and is a show that both the young and old will enjoy! The young cast were put through rigorous performance training since April 2011, chalking up more than 150 hours of training and rehearsals in vocals, choreography and acting - they will debunk the myth that theatre can be professional only if played by adult actors. Playing the coveted-role of Jadis, the White Witch is child-prodigy Julia Abueva, who has sung for head of states, performed in two globally-aired SEA Games in 2005 and 2009, and was featured by Oprah Winfrey as one of the world’s most talented kids. Julia is only 15 years of age!”

KPRT aims to showcase year-long musicals and straight plays featuring young musical theatre and performing arts students from Kids Performing™. The objective of the theatre is to provide selected students of Broadway Kids, Musical Theatre for Teens, and other performance training programs a

platform to experience a full-scaled musical taking their lesson from the classroom directly to a professional theatre.

Narnia The Musical is based on C S Lewis' best-known book "Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe" and revolves around 4 siblings: Susan, Lucy, Peter and Edmund who arrive at the Professor's house to escape the War. They stumble into a Wardrobe and enter a magical world of ice and snow, meeting mythical creatures like Tumnus, a half man, half goat character as well as Jadis, the White Witch. Narnia is also best-known by millions of cinema-goers when Disney made the book into an award-winning movie: "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe."

Executive Producer of Narnia The Musical Joanne Leow says: "A musical is a huge undertaking as the cast needs to be well-versed in acting, singing as well as choreography. Narnia with its young cast, has been challenging for the Director to work with, to say the least. But Kids Performing with its proven track record of training young kids in the arena of performing arts for 7 years and placing our talents in many of the biggest events in Singapore, it was only fitting we conquer the ambitious world of musical theatre! Singapore deserves to have high quality theatrical entertainment. Narnia, with its positive messages, is truly a great musical that everyone should come and experience this holiday season."

Other notable actors in the cast are 13-year old Nathania Ong, who made her name when she sang "Majullah" at the Closing Ceremony of the inaugural 2010 Youth Olympic Games and was seen by millions here and around the world. Nathania also performed at ChildAid 2010 and sang at the launch of the Marina Bay Sands Skating Rink last December, which was launched by Olympic skater Michelle Kwan. Nathania's performing "career" started when she clinched the title of "Popstar of the Year", a singing competition organised by Kids Performing. She plays the lead role of older sibling Susan whilst understudying the role of Jadis.

Susan's younger sister in the Musical Lucy, is played by Nadya Tan, who wowed the audience when she performed at ChildAid 2010 at the tender age of 9. And for the second time, the role of Aslan, is played by a girl. Powerhouse vocalist Eirene Enriquez played the half-man half-goat character Tumnus in 2009 and will this time, play the central role of Aslan, the Lion who fights the forces of evil. Nathania Ong, Julia Abueva, Eirene Enriquez and Nadya Tan are all

formidable young singers who will become household names in Singapore in only a few years to come.

Joining these young actors are professional trained actors like Vocal Director Terence Guillermo, who will alternate the role of Aslan with Eirene, who is also interestingly, his vocal student. Terence's music albums are distributed in more than 60 countries around the world and has performed in many theatrical and TV productions. The coveted role of Tumnus will be played by Jejie Esquerra, who also has taught and performed for more than 10 years and joins Narnia The Musical right after almost 2 months of performing with Ocean Park Hong Kong. The role of Professor is played by real-life SMU Associate Professor Chris Boesch, who also plays Father Christmas in the Musical.

Narnia The Musical also sees the collaborative efforts between Kids Performing and theatre company I-Theatre. Its Founder Brian Seward is Creative Consultant to the Musical.

Tickets for Narnia The Musical are available through SISTIC. Prices of tickets are \$70 (CAT A) and \$50 (CAT B). For children below 12, tickets are \$35 only. Show times are 11am, 4pm and 8pm most days. More details are available at [www.sistic.com](http://www.sistic.com) or [www.kidsperforming.com/kprt](http://www.kidsperforming.com/kprt). Corporate bookings to see the Musical can be directed to Tel: 6836 5008. Donors are also being sought for tickets for welfare and children's homes to see the Musical. Interested parties may buy special priced tickets at Tel: 9109 1923.

"NARNIA, The Musical" is a family show for 3 year-olds and above, and to all young at heart.

## **MORE ABOUT KIDS PERFORMING REPERTORY THEATER (KPRT)**

**Mission:** To teach young and aspiring actors theater skills using professional productions.

**Vision:** To produce world-class young actors for the theater and arts scene in Singapore and the world.

Formed in 2009, Kids Performing Repertory Theater is a musical theater program developed by Kids Performing. Singapore's Premier Performing Arts School, to develop and train young potential actors for musical theaters and plays. Each program lasts 3 to 8 months leading to a full-fledged production in a theater.

KPRT hires professional actors, creative and production teams in these productions working alongside with student actors. This will provide realistic theater training to children who are seeking to experience stage productions in the professional world.

Kids Performing and Kids Performing Repertory Theatre are wholly owned by Precious Talents International, a talent management agency formed since 2004. Precious Talents International manages artistes like chikd-prodigy Julia Abueva and Nathania Ong.

### **KIDS PERFORMING REPERTORY THEATRE PRODUCTIONS:**

2009: NARNIA THE MUSICAL : 20-21 Dec, DBS-Arts Centre

2010: EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES : 17-20 June, Genexis Theater, Fusionopolis

2011: NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE, 24 November-1  
December, the Suntec Convention Center Theatre