

Village Theatre

KIDSTAGE

PRESS RELEASE

December 16, 2010

For Immediate Release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Michelle Sanders

PR & Communications

(425) 392-1942 x124

msanders@villagetheatre.org

VILLAGE THEATRE KIDSTAGE TEENSELECT ROCKS OUT WITH *FOOTLOOSE*

Issaquah, Wash. — Village Theatre KIDSTAGE TeenSelect produces *Footloose*, running January 8-16, 2011, at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

Based on the popular 80's movie of the same name, the stage version of *Footloose* is a high-powered, exhilarating musical. With hit tunes right off the solid gold soundtrack such as "Holding Out for a Hero," "Let's Hear it For the Boy," and "Almost Paradise," this is one show guaranteed to have you dancing in your seat! Teenage Ren moves from the big city to a very religious and small farming town. Things heat up when he insists the high school hold a dance. *Footloose* blends teenage rebellion, the wisdom of youth, and an explosion of good old-fashioned, down-home dance.

Directed, designed and produced by adult theatre professionals, this particular TeenSelect production employs the skills of Mainstage actor Faith Russell as director as well as new-to KIDSTAGE music director, Nathan Young. A long time KIDSTAGE instructor, frequent director at Studio East, and most recently seen in *Saint Heaven* (2008), this is Russell's first directorial project for KIDSTAGE. Infused with the vision and energy of these new team members, KIDSTAGE production coordinator Helen Voelker commented, "Having a professional, well-respected actress is a great example for the kids. Faith offers a wealth of positive energy and great professional guidance. We couldn't be more excited to have these two take the KIDSTAGE reins along with the talented KIDSTAGE alumni and choreographer, Eia Waltzer.

Together Russell, Young, and Waltzer work as a creative team to plan intensive rehearsals including script analysis, character development, choreography, and vocal coaching. This program offers students from ages 10 to 18 years with a well-round theatre arts education.

KIDSTAGE TeenSelect's production of *Footloose* is a full scale musical with scenic design by Pat Leo (*High School Musical*); lighting design by former KIDSTAGE student Joseph Bennett (*High School Musical*); costume design by Amanda Hunt (*West Side Story*); and sound design by Nick Suda (*Ragtime: School Edition*).

The cast members are from: Auburn, Bellevue, Burien, Covington, Issaquah, Kirkland, Maple Valley, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Snoqualmie, and Woodinville. For more information or to schedule individual interviews, please contact Michelle Sanders, Communications Manager at (425) 392-1942 x124 or msanders@villagetheatre.org. Pre-production photos are available online now.

- What:** *Footloose*
Stage Adaptation by Dean Pitchford and Walter Bobbie
Music by Tom Snow
Lyrics by Dean Pitchford
Additional Music by Eric Carmen, Sammy Hagar, Kenny Loggins and Jim Steinman
- Where:** Theatre at the Meydenbauer Center
11100 NE 6th St Bellevue, WA 98004
- When:** January 8-16, 2011
Fridays and Saturdays 7:30PM
Sundays 2:00PM
Sunday Jan 9th - 7:30PM
Saturday Jan 15th - 2:00PM
- Tickets:** \$18 General | \$16 Youth & Senior – ON SALE NOW
Box Office: (425) 392-2202
www.villagetheatre.org

About Village Theatre KIDSTAGE:

Designed to encourage teamwork, personal integrity, self-esteem, and a life-long appreciation for live theatre, KIDSTAGE is a year-round performing arts training program in Issaquah and Everett for young people ages 3-20. KIDSTAGE students participate in classes, workshops and full-scale KIDSTAGE productions. All performances are by KIDSTAGE students and classes are taught by professional theatrical instructors.

KIDSTAGE is made possible, in part, by 4Culture, ARTSUnited, Bellevue Arts Commission, City of Everett Cultural Commission, City of Issaquah, Continental Airlines, Detlef Schrempf, Lombardi's Neighborhood Italian, Microsoft, ParentMap, Snohomish County, Tulalip Tribes, US Bancorp, Washington State Arts Commission.

###