



News/Media Release

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THE TIMELESS TALE OF “MUFARO’S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS” COMES TO PIKES PEAK CENTER ON FEBRUARY 3

-- “...of utmost importance to children of all races and ages” --

Colorado Springs, CO – Imagination Celebration continues its Over the Moon Family Theater season with **Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale** on **Friday, February 3, 2012 at 7:00 pm**. The production, from the highly acclaimed Dallas Children’s Theater Company, is based on John Steptoe’s Caldecott Award-winning book. Imagination Celebration is presenting literacy-based theater works for its 11th season on the **Pikes Peak Center stage in downtown Colorado Springs**.

Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters is a modern fable of pride going before a fall and the realization of one’s beauty within, in keeping with the moral of the African folktale that is its inspiration. When a great African king desires a wife, only the most perfect maidens in the land are invited to meet him. Mufaro’s pride and joy, his two beautiful daughters of very different dispositions, embark on a challenging journey to be presented to the king. Along the way, they encounter and adapt to situations that test their courage, kindness and strength of spirit.

The story of Mufaro’s daughters teaches lessons about character, positive values and principles, and compassion. The story’s key virtues of kindness, love, unselfish care for others, graciousness, citizenship, hard work and humility shine through. Veteran actor Rick Spivey is the eyes of the play, portraying the storyteller and narrator of the production. He states, “I think it is of utmost importance to children of all races and ages that we show a traditional story in a so called untraditional light. And for children of African American descent, I think it’s even that much more important because of the positive images that it displays.”

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(2) Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters Coming to Pikes Peak Center

Spivey feels that persistent issues remain in the 21st century, regarding the lack of a consistent stream of positive images of both young women and men of African descent in the media and entertainment industry. He is elated about the performance of the play, but equally pleased about displaying a more accurate and upright depiction of African culture. "It's of utmost importance, especially as African Americans, to know our history," he said. "I'm proud to do my part."

Combining authentic African drumming, powerful choreography, breath-taking set design and thrilling music, the splendor of Zimbabwe and the energy of the African land will burst onto the Pikes Peak Center stage in **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** on February 3.

As with each Over the Moon Family Theater experience, families are encouraged to don their favorite story appropriate costumes or jammies and join us at 6:00 pm (one hour before showtime) in the Pikes Peak Center lobby to engage in family fun. Activities will include Imagination Celebration's signature hands-on projects, meeting special surprise guests, and exploring activity stations throughout *Imagination on the Mezzanine*. Each child will be given a FREE keepsake IC PlayBook packed with more activities to do at home. The live stage performance of **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** will be followed by free Sinton's natural milk and delicious Otho's freshly-baked cookies in the lobby, along with the opportunity to meet the cast and gain valuable autographs!

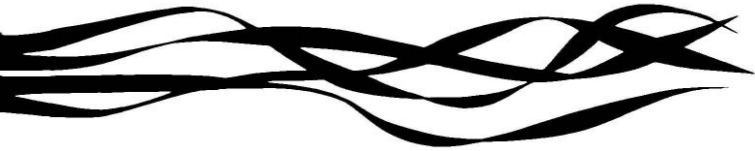
Over the Moon Family Theater individual show tickets range from \$8.00 to \$15.00 per seat, with **great seats now available** for **Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters** and Over the Moon's final production on April 23, **Stuart Little**, at the Pikes Peak Center Box Office, by phone at 719-520-SHOW, or online at www.pikespeakcenter.com. Tickets for both productions are also available at Imagination Space at The Citadel mall (upper level of Burlington Wing) from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Dallas Children's Theater has been designated an **American Masterpieces Touring Artist** by the National Endowment for the Arts. Recognized by *Time Magazine* as one of the top 5 children's theater companies in the US, and the only one of that group to tour nationally, Dallas Children's Theater travels coast to coast with professional large-scale productions designed to stir the heart, stretch the mind and promote education.

Imagination Celebration is connecting people to the brain-stimulating, community-building, life-enhancing power of creativity by inspiring artistic and intellectual curiosity; instigating community collaborations; and promoting life-long experiential learning that helps us thrive in a changing world.

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(3) Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters Coming to Pikes Peak Center

What others have said about the Dallas Children's Theater production of Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters:

“Loved the show!!! Teachers and students in awe! I heard “best thing I’ve ever seen here.” – *Sarah Terrell-Fiedler, Manager of Education Programs, Paramount Center for the Arts, Peekskill, NY*

“The show was spectacular and received only praise from those that attended.” – *Cathleen Stephen, Director, Miller Center for the Arts, Reading, PA*

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters was extraordinary in every aspect. The children just loved it and did not want to leave the theatre. This was definitely one of the finest shows we have ever presented for children at the Brooks Center.” – *Mickey Harder, Director, Brooks Center, Clemson, SC*

“From the first note to the curtain call, Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters had our audience enthralled. Here is a show with the power to create a life-long love of live theater.” – *Zita Christian, Education and Community Relations, The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, Hartford, CT*