

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 09/09/15**

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**SUU'S DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS & DANCE  
SEEKS YOUNG PERFORMERS  
FOR *TOYLAND: THE HOLIDAY FAMILY MUSICAL TREAT***

**Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah:** SUU's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance is looking for talented young performers to audition for *Toyland, The Holiday Family Musical Treat*. Directed and created by Peter and Kirsten Sham, SUU educator and long-time actor and director/choreographer (respectively) with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Festival, the production team is holding auditions for youngsters ranging from ages **5 to 13**. All children will be asked to sing and dance at the audition. Children will audition on **Saturday, September 19**, in SUU's **Auditorium Theatre** from **10am-1pm and 2pm to 5pm**. Youngsters are asked to prepare either a Broadway standard or a popular Christmas song (bring sheet music as accompanist will be provided) and to wear clothes that they can move in such as dancewear or loose fitting clothes and dance shoes or sneakers. For additional information, please call **435-865-8676**. There is no pay.

The show is scheduled for performances on December 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, 11, 12 at 7:30pm with matinees on December 5 and 12 at 2pm. The show will be performed at the Randall L. Jones Theatre. Rehearsals will begin in October.

The roles include three sisters of various ages ranging from 6 to 13, Raggedy Ann, and a children's ensemble who play multiple roles including Toys, Bedbugs and Bad Children. All roles are open.

Conceived and written by Peter and Kirsten Sham, lyrics and additional music by Peter Sham and vocal arrangements and orchestrations by Brandon Scott Grayson, *Toyland* features numerous favorite and beloved holiday songs as well as original ones. The show tells the story of three squabbling sisters on the night before Christmas. Together, they take a magical journey encountering nearly every myth of childhood including, nasty bedbugs, "things" that go bump in the night and a dance-happy "Boogie" Man!

The three sisters are abducted to Toyland, and soon find out it's not such a nice place. Toyland, they quickly discover, is the place where toys go that are lost or mistreated and where bad children are taken to be the "toys" of the evil Toy Master, a mad jack-in-the-box! But this musical fairytale has many more surprises up its sleeve and a very happy ending indeed. Toyland shows how knowledge, friendship and compassion are the keys to growing up.

Said Sham, "I have been following the extraordinary work of our community kids for many years now, through their involvement in amazing productions produced by the Cedar City Children's Musical Theatre and USF's Playmakers, and am so looking forward to working with them on a project near and dear to my heart!"

### **ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

The **Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts** is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration and the new Center for Shakespeare Studies. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College's affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, Utah Shakespeare Festival and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, visit [www.suu.edu/pva/arts](http://www.suu.edu/pva/arts).

### **FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: YOUNG PERFORMERS AUDITIONS FOR *TOYLAND, THE HOLIDAY FAMILY MUSICAL TREAT***

**WHAT:** SUU's Department of Theatre Arts and Dance is looking for talented young performers to audition for *Toyland, The Holiday Family Musical Treat*. Directed and created by Peter Sham, SUU's head of Acting and Directing and Utah Shakespeare Festival, has announced auditions for youngsters ranging from ages 5 to 13.

**WHO:** Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 19, 10am-1pm, 2-5pm

**WHERE:** Auditorium Theatre, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

**INFO:** (435) 865-8676