Theatre for Young Audiences
2018/19 Season • Julianne Argyros Stage

Nate the Great

Nov 2–18, 2018

Based on the book by Marjorie Sharmat
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Book & lyrics John Maclay
Music & lyrics by Brett Ryback
Orchestrations & arrangements by Brett Ryback
Directed by Kari Hayter
The Theatre for Young Audiences program is made possible in part by a major grant from THE SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION

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presents

NATE THE GREAT

BASED ON THE BOOK BY MARJORIE SHARMAT

BOOK & LYRICS JOHN MACLAY
MUSIC & LYRICS BY BRETT RYBACK
ORCHESTRATIONS & ARRANGEMENTS BY BRETT RYBACK
DIRECTED BY KARI HAYTER

SET DESIGNER FRED KINNEY
COSTUME DESIGNER KAITLYN KAUFMAN
LIGHTING DESIGNER KARYN D. LAWRENCE
SOUND DESIGNER JEFF POLUNAS
DRAMATURG ANDY KNIGHT
ASSOCIATE PRODUCTION MANAGER HOLLY AHLBORN

CASTING JOANNE DENAUT, CSA
STAGE MANAGER PAT LOEB

HONORARY PRODUCERS
LEONA ARONOFF-SADACCA • PHYLLIS & LARRY HOGLE

 CORPORATE HONORARY PRODUCERS

BANC OF CALIFORNIA

HASKELLWHITE

Commissioned and first produced by South Coast Repertory and First Stage.

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Be sure to check out our website for the Nate the Great study guide, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources. scr.org
NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED. Everyone must have a ticket; children under the age of four will not be admitted to Theatre for Young Audiences performances. To cause the least disruption, SCR patrons who have not entered the theatre when the performance begins will be asked to watch the show on lobby monitors until an appropriate break in the performance. Latecomers, as well as those who leave the theatre anytime during the performance, may be assisted to alternate seats by the House Manager at an appropriate interval and may take their assigned seats at intermission. SCR accepts no liability for inconvenience. Special seating arrangements may be made in advance for disabled patrons by calling South Coast Repertory’s Ticket Services Department at (714) 708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons and the actors, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins. The photographing, videotaping or other video or audio recording during the performance is strictly prohibited.

For Your Information

The Cast

Nate ....................... DANIEL BELLUSCI
Rosamond .................. LUZMA ORTIZ
Annie ...................... DOMONIQUE PATON
Mom/Fang/the Hexes ...... ERIKA SCHINDELE
Harry/the Hexes .......... XAVIER WATSON

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors’ Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.
Nate the Great likes pancakes—a lot. Maybe as much as he likes solving a good mystery. What about you? Do you like pancakes? If you do, have you ever tried to make your own? Well, here’s your chance. Use the simple recipe below to make your own exciting, magnificent, stupendous…pancakes! (Oh, but before you start cooking, make sure you have an adult handy to supervise.)

**INGREDIENTS**
- 2 cups of all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons of baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- 1 tablespoon of sugar (optional)
- 2 eggs
- ½ cups of milk

**DIRECTIONS**
1. In a large bowl, mix together all the dry ingredients: flour, baking powder, salt and sugar (if you’re using it).
2. In a separate bowl, beat the eggs into the milk.
3. Gently stir the eggs/milk mixture into the dry ingredients. Mix it all together, but not too much; a few lumps are okay. If the batter seems too thick, add another ½ cup of milk.
4. Heat a large skillet over medium-low heat. When it’s hot, add a teaspoon of oil or butter.
5. Spoon the batter into the hot skillet (making pancakes of any size you’d like).
6. Flip your pancake when you see the surface bubbling. This usually happens between 2-4 minutes, depending on the heat and size of the pancake.
7. Cook the second side for a couple of minutes, until it’s golden brown.

After you’ve made your stack of pancakes, enjoy them with butter and syrup…or any topping you like best!

Are you a fan of blueberry pancakes? Easy! Just fold ½ cup of fresh blueberries into the batter before you start cooking.

How about gluten-free pancakes? That’s easy, too! Simply use a gluten-free all-purpose flour instead. And make sure your baking powder is gluten-free, too. (Many are, but be sure to check the label.)
Can you spot the ten differences between the two pictures? Write them down in the space provided, and keep these clues in mind as you try to figure out who stole your breakfast.

1. ______________________________
2. ______________________________
3. ______________________________
4. ______________________________
5. ______________________________
6. ______________________________
7. ______________________________
8. ______________________________
9. ______________________________
10. ______________________________

Solution: Pancakes are missing; flour was knocked over and spilled onto the floor; the stool has been knocked over as well; the vase is a different color; the frying pan is a different color too; there’s a tennis ball on the counter; spatula is on the floor; mixing bowls are on the floor; drink has spilled; paw prints are on the floor and countertop
Born in Portland, Maine, in 1928, MARJORIE SHARMAT (Author) dreamed of becoming a writer. Little did she know that she would be the author of more than 130 books for children of all ages, which have been translated into 17 languages. Another of her childhood dreams, that of becoming a detective, has also been realized in her most popular Nate the Great series, begun in 1972. Many of Sharmat’s books have been Literary Guild selections and chosen as Books of the Year by the Library of Congress. Several have been made into films for television, including Nate the Great Goes Undercover, winner of the Los Angeles International Children’s Film Festival Award. Nate the Great Saves the King of Sweden has been named one of the New York Public Library’s 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing. She lives with her husband in Tuscan, Arizona.

Who’s Who in the Cast

DANIEL BELLUSCI (Nate)
I started acting in the 8th grade and my early mentors and drama teachers were hugely influential to me. They helped me find and cultivate a love for theatre, as well as develop an early sense of professionalism. I also just really love music, so musicals quickly became one of my favorite things. Since finishing school, I’ve performed in many musicals including Ella Enchanted here at South Coast Repertory. I got to play Prince Charmont and I had so much fun getting to share that story. When I’m not performing, I love to read and play the piano.

LUZMA ORTIZ (Rosamond)
I grew up in a very musical family. My father is Alfredo Rolando Ortiz, a world-renowned harpist and composer so, as a kid, I was always singing and dancing. My parents decided to put me in private voice lessons and, eventually, I realized that what I liked most about singing was when I pretended to be someone else. I decided to become an actress. I studied musical theatre at AMDA in New York City and received my BFA in musical theatre locally from UC-Irvine. Some favorite roles that I’ve played include Maria from West Side Story, Jan in Grease, Eva Peron in Evita, and Dora in Dora The Explorer Live! When I’m not performing, I teach musical theatre, singing and acting privately right here in Orange County. I dedicate this performance to my son, James Alfredo, who is 5 ½ years old. For more information, visit my website at LuzmaOrtiz.com.

DOMONIQUE PATON (Annie)
I am so happy to be performing at SCR for the first time. I have seen many young audiences shows and I’m so glad to finally take part in one. Currently, I am a full-time princess—you can find me at Disneyland’s California Adventure playing Princess Anna in Frozen—Live at the Hyperion. I’m so lucky to have worked in many different theatres in Southern California. You may have also seen me in the recent production of UMPO’s Clueless at Rockwell Table & Stage. Many thanks to my amazing friends and awesome family: DMP4, JJS and AH. domoniquepaton.com

ERIKA SCHINDELE (Mom/Fang/the Hexes)
Since I can remember, I’ve loved playing in a world of make-believe. As an actor, I’ve been able to meet people and visit places I could only imagine. I was shipwrecked in Twelfth Night and married to Thomas Jefferson in 1776. At SCR, I have been seen as Belle in A Christmas Carol and I was a bride chasing after her husband who was trying to find An Italian Straw Hat. Last season, I got to dance with giants and cast spells as the flighty fairy godmother in Ella Enchanted and, before that, I swept the stage floors as Cinderumplesfistskin in The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales, showed my stripes in Jane of the Jungle, was a girl with long braids in Sideways Stories from Wayside School, a princess in Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! and Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business, made new friends in The Brand New Kid and spent A Year with Frog and Toad (twice!). Though I’ve encountered many people in my theatrical journeys who have touched my life, my dad and mom will always be my heroes. For my prince, Brent.

XAVIER WATSON (Harry/the Hexes)
When I was 12 years old, I got bitten by the acting bug. Growing up, I always loved playing with my stuffed animals and toys, acting as if they were real people. I also played lots of sports in school, wrote poetry and did some drawing. When I was 18, I went to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts to study acting and graduated with the school’s award for best actor. I’ve done a few commercials and, if you watch Nickelodeon, you may have seen me and my horse friend, Thunder, on the show, “Henry Danger.” I’ve performed with kids, for kids and even put kids in huge bubbles. Who says you have to grow all the way up?

Artist Bios

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JOHN MACLAY (Book and lyrics)
I've loved theatre since I was very young and originally wanted to be an actor in musical theatre. I went to Lawrence University in Appleton, WI, to study singing and play football. That’s where I realized I loved Shakespeare and went to school again to study classical acting at the University of Illinois. Since then, I realized that I wanted to write the plays myself. I started adapting children’s books I love into plays and musicals. And I’ve written or co-written Anatole, Goosebumps: Phantom of the Auditorium, Robin Hood, Just a Little Critter Musical (also with my friend Brett Ryback), Geronimo Stilton: Mouse in Space and Nancy Drew and Her Biggest Case Ever. Later this year my newest show, The Legend of Rock Paper Scissors will open in Portland!

BRETT RYBACK (Music, lyrics, orchestrations and arrangements)
I was five years old when I started acting. I grew up composing songs and writing stories, and eventually I studied music composition at UCLA. This is my first time working with SCR as a writer, but I've worked here a few times as an actor. My first show here was a young audiences production of Junie B. Jones, as well as Seussical, Into the Woods and once. I went to college at California State University, Fullerton, where I earned a BA in Theatre and an MFA in Directing. I also went to college to earn a teaching credential and Masters Degree in Education so that I could be a teacher and teach students like you! My favorite plays to direct are musicals because I love to sing and dance. Parade and Urinetown are two musicals I directed recently, and they were both nominated for Ovation and Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle Awards. When I am not directing, I love to walk my two dogs, Jackson and Toby, around the lake and watch them chase after the ducks and squirrels.

KARI HAYTER (Director)
I am so grateful to have the opportunity to work on this production with such a fun and fabulous team. Here at SCR, I have assistant directed Noises Off!, Ben and the Magic Paintbrush and Once. I went to college at California State University, Fullerton, where I earned a BA in Theatre and an MFA in Directing. I also went to college to earn a teaching credential and Masters Degree in Education so that I could be a teacher and teach students like you! My favorite plays to direct are musicals because I love to sing and dance. Parade and Urinetown are two musicals I directed recently, and they were both nominated for Ovation and Los Angeles Drama Critic Circle Awards. When I am not directing, I love to walk my two dogs, Jackson and Toby, around the lake and watch them chase after the ducks and squirrels.

FRED KINNEY (Set Designer)
I build the models and create the drawings that carpenters and painters make into the scenery that you see on stage today. This is my ninth production at SCR; I also designed the marsh for A Year With Frog and Toad, the scaffold playground that lit up for Pinocchio, the forest for Robin Hood, The Elephant for The Emperor’s New Clothes, New Duck City for Lucky Duck and three worlds and an evil brain for A Wrinkle in Time. When I was just a small boy, I thought I might become a painter, sculptor or an architect. In high school, I started to design the scenery for school productions and really enjoyed it, and I still do. I’m the proud father of Kate and Gigi who will be seeing Nate the Great.

KAITLYN KAUFMAN (Costume Designer)
Growing up I was inspired by the stories that clothing tells and the fun everyone has getting dressed up. Theater is the perfect place where I get to do those things every day. I studied Costume Design at UC-Irvine where I learned how to make masks, hats, how to paint on clothes and all sorts of things so I could become a Master of Fine Arts. Some of my favorite shows that I’ve worked on are Orlando, Oliver, Mamma Mia, and A Midsummer Nights Dream. I work all over Southern California and am so excited to share Nate the Great (my first design on the Argyros Stage) with all of you. I hope you enjoy the mystery!

KARYN D. LAWRENCE (Lighting Designer)  I am a theatrical lighting designer, which means I love to paint with light! I fell in love with lighting design while studying acting at UC-Irvine. From magical twinkle lights to flashy rock ‘n’ roll strobes, I have fun making pretty pictures on stage. I have designed numerous plays and events at SCR including the Theatre for Young Audiences productions of Junie B. Jones, Ella Enchanted, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Flora & Ulysses, The Light Princess, Ivy + Bean: The Musical and Anastasia Krupnik. During the summer, I love designing for SCR’s Summer Players, which I have done for the last seven years. I attended San Diego State University and UC-Irvine, where I earned degrees in theatre and sound design. I love what I do and have designed for productions from San Francisco to San Diego. I enjoy taking the sounds we hear and creating something magical from them.

JEFF POLUNAS (Sound Designer)
I’m so excited to be sound-designing this production at SCR. I have designed many young audiences shows including Ella Enchanted, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Flora & Ulysses, The Light Princess, Ivy + Bean: The Musical and Anastasia Krupnik. During the summer, I design for SCR’s Summer Players, which I have done for the last seven years. I attended San Diego State University and UC-Irvine, where I earned degrees in theatre and sound design. I love what I do and have designed for productions from San Francisco to San Diego. I enjoy taking the sounds we hear and creating something magical from them.

PAT LOEB (Stage Manager)
I’ve worked all over the world and all over California, on plays and musicals for kids and adults, with singers and dancers and actors from all over the world. I am a stage manager—we make sure lights and sound and sets and costumes all happen at the right time and in the right place. As a kid, I wrote and performed puppet shows, and I still sing—my caroling company is celebrating its 36th year. I’ve toured the country teaching people about recycling, and visited schools and community centers with several children’s theatre companies, performing with and for young people. And I get to do outdoor Shakespeare. One of the special groups I’ve worked with is Deaf West; many of my shows have been with disabled artists, and I especially love working with deaf actors in sign language. Finally, I am a proud member of my union, Actors Equity.
Now that you’re on the case of the missing pancakes, why not dress the part of a detective? Nate the Great wears a classic look—a trench coat and a hat—but what would you choose? Draw your detective look in the space above.

With your look complete, it’s time to learn the lingo. Match these words used by detectives with their definitions.

1. MOTIVE
2. SUSPECT
3. WITNESS
4. ALIBI
5. DEDUCE
6. BREAKTHROUGH
7. RED HERRING

a. A discovery that helps solve the crime
b. A reason a person might commit a crime
c. A claim that one was elsewhere when a crime was committed
d. A false clue that throws a detective off track (Also a smoked fish…)
e. A person thought to have committed the crime
f. A person who saw the crime take place
g. To draw a conclusion using logic

(Shhhhh, if you get stuck, you can find an answer key on the last page of the program.)
Have you figured out who stole your pancakes yet? Like any good detective, if you connect the dots (in this case, literally), you’ll catch the culprit!

**Word Search**
Can you find the words in the word search below? They can go horizontally, vertically or diagonally. Don’t get confused by red herrings!

- **Motive**: P S U S P E C T W
- **Suspect**: D A M O T I V E I
- **Witness**: E L N P A N C P T
- **Alibi**: D I A C L U E E A N
- **Deduce**: U B T P A N C N E
- **Clue**: C I E L P K A C S
- **Discovery**: E P A O C Q E A S
- **Logic**: C A K G A R H S L
- **Pancakes**: K N E I K P C E N
- **Discovery**: D I S C O V E R Y

**Hot on the Trail**
You’ve found the trail of the pancake thief — make your way through the maze as quick as you can before the suspect gets away!

(The solutions are on the last page of the program.)
When he’s not eating pancakes, Nate the Great spends his time solving mysteries. As a detective, he looks for clues in the world around him and interviews witnesses and suspects. Then he uses all the information he’s gathered to draw conclusions as to what happened and why.

That’s a lot like performing. Before stepping on stage, actors do their own investigations. They analyze the play and look for clues about their characters. These clues provide insight into the characters’ likes and dislikes, their personalities and, ultimately, why they do the things they do. In a way, performing a role starts with good detective work!

Once they’ve made these discoveries, the actors are ready to take the next step. With their deep understanding of their characters (and a lot of imagination), they get on their feet—and finally bring their roles to life.

How about you? Are you naturally inquisitive? Does creating a character from the ground up sound like an exciting challenge? If so, you can learn more about the building blocks of performance in SCR’s Theatre Conservatory. Check out our website at scr.org/classes or call (714) 708-5577.
Thank You

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