



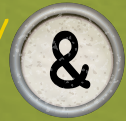
# South Coast Repertory

## Theatre for Young Audiences

2016/17 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE



# Flora & Ulysses



a play by John Glore  
adapted from the book by Kate DiCamillo  
directed by Casey Stangl  
Feb. 3-19, 2017





# South Coast Repertory

## Theatre for Young Audiences

Julianne Argyros Stage • February 3 - 19, 2017

presents the world premiere of

# Flora & Ulysses

A PLAY BY

**JOHN GLORE**

ADAPTED FROM THE BOOK BY

**KATE DICAMILLO**

SET DESIGNER

**FRANÇOIS-PIERRE  
COUTURE**

COSTUME DESIGNER

**SARA RYUNG  
CLEMENT**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**JOSH  
EPSTEIN**

SOUND DESIGNER

**JEFF POLUNAS**

PUPPET DESIGN &  
DIRECTION

**LYNN JEFFRIES**

PROJECTION DESIGNER

**KAITLYN PIETRAS**

DRAMATURG

**ANDY KNIGHT**

PRODUCTION MANAGER

**JACKIE S. HILL**

CASTING

**JOANNE DENAUT, csa**

STAGE MANAGER

**JULIE ANN RENFRO**

DIRECTOR

**CASEY STANGL**

**LISA AND RICHARD DE LORIMIER KATIE AND JIM LOSS**

EDUCATION HONORARY PRODUCERS

**HASKELL**

**&**

**WHITE**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
AND BUSINESS ADVISORS

CORPORATE HONORARY PRODUCER

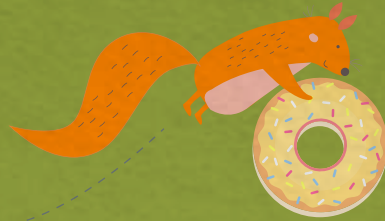
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**THE SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION.**

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# Welcome!

Be sure to check out our website for the *Flora & Ulysses* study guide, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources.

[scr.org](http://scr.org)





# The Cast

(in order of appearance)



Tootie Tickham/Rita ..... JENNIFER PARSONS  
 Flora ..... EMILY JAMES  
 Ulysses ..... ALEX SUHA  
 Phyllis Buckman ..... ANN NOBLE  
 George Buckman/  
 Alfred T. Slipper ..... NICHOLAS MONGIARDO-COOPER  
 William Spiver ..... RUDY MARTINEZ  
 Donald Tickham/Ernie/Dr. Meescham ..... CELESTE DEN

## Acknowledgment

Special thank you to Kimberly Colburn, Stephanie Draude, Crystal Johnson, Andy Knight, Kristina Leach, Kate McCall, Nicholas Pilapil and Jeff Rockey; and to Stan Foote, Marci Crowson and Oregon Children's Theatre

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.

## For Your Information

**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 monitors in the lobby 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 for disabled patrons in advance by calling South Coast Repertory's Ticket Services Department at (714) 708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this performance is strictly prohibited.



# South Coast Repertory

MARC MASTERSON  
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI  
Managing Director

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON  
Founding Artistic Directors

JOHN GLORE  
Associate Artistic Director

BIL SCHROEDER  
Marketing & Communications Director

LORI MONNIER  
General Manager

SUSAN C. REEDER  
Development Director

JOSHUA MARCHESI  
Production Manager

## These folks are helping run the show backstage

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Kathleen Barrett  
 COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT: Sarah Timm  
 ASSISTANT SCENIC DESIGNER: Hye Sun Lee  
 ASSISTANT LIGHTING DESIGNER:  
 Ginevra Lombardo  
 ASSISTANT SOUND DESIGNER: Maggie Williams  
 ASSISTANT TO THE PUPPET DESIGNER:  
 Stephanie Nemazee  
 STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS:  
 Julia Bates, Kayla Lindquist  
 LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Dan Gold  
 SOUND BOARD OPERATOR: Sam Levey

AUTOMATION: Amber Caras  
 DRESSER: Jessica Larsen  
 ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF: Lalena Hutton,  
 Kaitlyn Kaufman, Megan Knowles  
 ADDITIONAL SCENE SHOP STAFF: Dan Petrich,  
 Steve Baker  
 HOUSE MANAGER:  
 David Vien  
 Nguyen



## And these folks helped get it ready for you

**THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY**  
 Jon Lagerquist, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
 John Gaddis IV, ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
 Amanda Horak, MASTER CARPENTER  
 Alex Johnson, Matt MacCready, SCENIC CARPENTERS  
 Judy Allen, LEAD SCENIC ARTIST  
 Jennifer Stringfellow, Christine Salama,  
 SCENIC ARTISTS

**THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS**  
 David Saewert, PROP MASTER/ PROPERTY  
 SHOP MANAGER  
 Byron Bacon, PROPS BUYER  
 Brianna Catlin, Rachel Bennick, PROPERTIES ARTISANS

**THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES**  
 Amy L. Hutto, COSTUME SHOP MANAGER  
 Laurie Donati, FULL CHARGE COSTUMER  
 Catherine J. Esera, CUTTER/DRAPER  
 Laura Caponera, WIG AND MAKEUP SUPERVISOR  
 Bert Henert, WARDROBE SUPERVISOR  
 Gillian Woodson, WIG AND MAKEUP TECHNICIAN

**THIS GROUP DEALS WITH LIGHTS & SOUND**  
 Lois Bryan, MASTER ELECTRICIAN  
 Andrew Stephens, Dan Gold, STAGE ELECTRICIANS  
 Will McCandless, SOUND AND VIDEO SUPERVISOR  
 Danielle Kisner, Sam Levey, SOUND ENGINEERS  
 Vincent Quan, PRODUCTION SUPPORT TECHNICIAN

# The Art of the Squirrel

Ulysses is no ordinary squirrel—he's a superhero. While the average squirrel may not have Ulysses' special powers, the rodent is known for its intelligence and sensitive nature. Check out the interesting facts about squirrels below!

- Squirrels are great planners. Throughout the year, they bury nuts and seeds in various locations so that they will have something to eat during the winter months, when food is scarce.
- When squirrels run, they use an irregular path. This helps them throw off potential predators at all times.
- There are more than 40 species of flying squirrels. But despite the name, these squirrels don't actually fly. Instead, they glide through the air using a flap of skin that stretches from their wrists to their ankles. It's sort of like a parachute!

After the play, do some research on your own. What other facts about squirrels can you find? Write on this page what you discover.



*"They were good words, Ulysses thought. But they weren't a poem yet. Just a list of words that could become a poem, once he arranged them, put them in the order of his heart."*

—The Squirrel,  
Flora & Ulysses

When Ulysses writes a poem, he begins by making a list of words.

The words on this list might include the things he's seen while perched on Flora's shoulder, the smells he's smelled while riding in the car, the things he's heard the people around him say...or even the things he likes to eat the most.

Compile your own list of words, based upon what you have experienced this week. What did you see? What did you smell or hear? What did you feel? After you've heard Ulysses' poems in the play, try arranging your list of words into your own poem.





# Create Your Own Superhero!

Flora's favorite comic book is *The Illuminated Adventures of the Amazing Incandesto!* It follows an unassuming janitor named Alfred T. Slipper who develops special powers after he falls into a vat of cleaning solution called Incandesto. When someone commits a crime, Alfred declares, "This malfeasance must be stopped!" and he transforms into Incandesto, a villain-fighting pillar of light that terrifies all wrongdoers.

Create your own superhero by illustrating within the two outlines below. Take some time to think about your hero's everyday identity and how it differs from his or her superhero identity. And don't be afraid to let your imagination run wild!



Costume reimagining of Alfred T. Slipper and Incandesto by designer Sara Hyung Clement





# Who's Who in the Cast



## CELESTE DEN

(Donald Tickham/Ernie/Dr. Meescham)

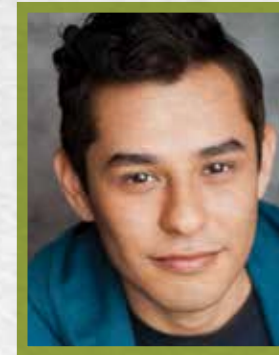
My favorite place in the world is the theatre because there is nothing more fun than making people laugh and cry through stories. It's a great joy to be able to play pretend for a job, especially when it takes me to places I've never been, like London, San Francisco, Oregon and Hong Kong. But, no matter how far I go, I am always grateful to return home to SCR's stages, where I was last seen in the young audiences show, *OZ 2.5*. I also was at SCR in *Trudy and Max in Love*, *Death of a Salesman* and *Chinglish*—that last one is where I got to speak my first language, Chinese, on stage! It takes a lot of bravery to stand up tall and use your voice to speak the truth—in acting and in life—so I thank my family and friends for showing me what courage looks like and teaching me what strength feels like.



## EMILY JAMES

(Flora)

This is my second show at SCR and I'm thrilled to be back! The first show I did was called *Mr. Wolf*, where I played a 15 year old. In today's show, I play a 10-year-old girl, even though I'm actually 23 years old! In fact, the very first show I did, I played a 50-year-old woman! It was called *Papa Was a Preacher* and my character had zero lines, but I was so nervous I almost didn't go on! Even though acting scared the bejesus out of me, I forced myself to continue. When I was 17, I transferred to the Youth Performing Arts School in my home state of Kentucky, where I majored in theatre and got to perform for a few hours each day. I had many teachers and friends who inspired me to play challenging roles and stretch my



## RUDY MARTINEZ

(William Spiver)

I am so excited to be back at South Coast Repertory in this fantastic play! The last time I acted here, I played a boy named Herb in *Junie B. Jones: Jingle Bells Batman Smells*. I love acting! Being on stage or in front of a camera are my favorite things in the world. I've even acted in TV shows on the Disney Channel and Nickelodeon. I also love reading and I can't get enough of my favorite book series, *Harry Potter*! I recently took a trip to London to see the play *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, which was one of the best plays I've ever seen. Some of my hobbies are reading, drawing in my sketchbook, puppetry, playing my ukulele and listening to music.



## NICHOLAS MONGIARDO-COOPER

(George Buckman/Alfred T. Slipper)

I can't believe this is my NINTH show here at South Coast Repertory! Hmm...let's see if I can remember them all: *The Light Princess*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, *The Night Fairy*, *The Borrowers*, *Lucky Duck* and *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*. Whew! That's a lot of shows, but boy were they fun! I've also performed for some other young audiences—like when I played the lead role in *Ferdinand the Bull* at the Main Street Theatre. I spend a lot of time going back and forth between California and New York City, where I was born. There, I get to do plays by Shakespeare, musicals (where I play guitar!), a ton of other new plays and even more musicals. I went to New York University for college and the High School of Performing Arts before that. I'm so lucky to have had so many terrific teachers, plus my mom and dad and everyone here at SCR!







**ANN NOBLE**  
(Phyllis Buckman)

This is my fourth show at SCR, after *The Light Princess*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *Anastasia Krupnik*. Since then, I've done

*The Search For Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, which originally starred Lily Tomlin, but was re-imagined with a full cast and I played a woman with a terrible haircut; *Stanley Ann*, a one-woman show about Barack Obama's mother, who led an incredibly courageous life (not unlike Edward Tulane!); and *Hedda Gabler*, a classic play about the original "mean girl." My love for theatre started in high school, where I was blessed to have some wonderful teachers who fostered my interest in writing and performing in plays. In fact, that's what I do when I'm not acting: I write plays and teach other people, even kids, how to write plays about themselves and the world around them. As an actor, I mostly work with my home theatre company, Antaeus ("ann-tee-us" rhymes with "come see us!"), where we do the "classics," which are plays that are very old. While it's fun to do new plays, it's also wonderful to tell a story from a long time ago...today.



**ALEX SUHA**  
(Ulysses)

I was a circus clown once. I've also been a chimney sweep; it's hard and dangerous work. I'm an only child. Even with friends, I had a lot of free time in solitude. So I just kinda danced around in my room a lot. I suspect that everyone dances around in their room sometimes, when no one's looking. Anyway, I just kept doing that, even though I was a shy kid. Then in fifth grade, which seemed like a late start,

I auditioned for the school play and I basically just did school plays until I was 28 years old. That means I did them in high school and then I did them in college at the University of Iowa and then did MORE plays and MORE college at the London International School of Performing Arts. Now I'm all grown up and nobody can tell me to be quiet or sit down and I don't have to ask anybody's permission to go to the bathroom, which is awesome, 'cause I totally use that as an excuse just to leave the room, sometimes.



## Artist Bios



**JENNIFER PARSONS**  
(Tootie Tickham/Rita)

My mom always told me to imagine myself in the other guy's shoes. I guess she thought that if I understood how they saw things, I wouldn't be so scared, mad or mean to them. In some cases, I was so amazed and inspired that I found the courage to stand up for kids when other kids weren't being so nice. Exploring the perspective of another being (animal, plant or bug!) seemed like something I'd like to do for a living, so I became an actor. I have been in several Theatre for Young Audiences shows here at SCR: *Anastasia Krupnik*, *The Borrowers*, *Sideways Stories*, *Bunnacula*, *James and the Giant Peach*, *The Only Child*, *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*, *The BFG* and *The Brand New Kid*. You also may have seen me as Mrs. Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol* and I've also appeared in many other plays, movies and TV shows.

**JOHN GLORE (Playwright)** has been SCR's associate artistic director since 2005. He is an award-winning playwright whose work for young audiences includes *Wind of a Thousand Tales*, *Folktales Too*, *Rhubarb Jam*, *The Day After Evermore* and adaptations of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* and *The Night Fairy*. His adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* debuted at SCR in 2010 and has since moved on to more than a dozen productions nationwide. His plays for adults include *On the Jump*, *The Company of Heaven*, *Preludes and Fugues* and *City Sky* (a scenario for a dance piece). With the performance trio Culture Clash, he has co-authored adaptations of two plays by Aristophanes, *The Birds* and *Peace*. His work has been produced at South Coast Repertory, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Children's Theatre Company, the Coterie, the Getty Villa and elsewhere. He received a 2000 Playwrights Fellowship from the California Arts Council and has occasionally taught playwriting and related subjects at UCLA and Pomona College.

**KATE DICAMILLO (Author)** was born in Philadelphia, grew up in Florida and now lives in Minneapolis, where she faithfully writes



two pages a day, five days a week. After moving to Minnesota in her 20s, homesickness and a bitter winter helped inspire *Because of Winn-Dixie*—her first published novel, which became a runaway bestseller and snapped up a Newbery Honor. Her second novel, *The Tiger Rising*, went on to become a National Book Awards finalist. Since then, she has written for a wide range of ages including two early comical chapter-book series—*Mercy Watson* and *Bink & Gollie*—as well as a luminous holiday picture book, *Great Joy*. Her other novels include *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* (#1 *New York Times* Bestseller), *The Tale of Despereaux* (Newbery Medal) and *The Magician's Elephant*. *Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures* won the 2014 Newbery Medal, a 2013 Parents' Choice Gold Award and was chosen by Amazon, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews* and Common Sense Media as a Best Book of the Year. DiCamillo was the National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, appointed by the Library of Congress, in 2014-15. Her latest novel, *Raymie Nightingale*, was released in April 2016 to rave reviews.



**CASEY STANGL (Director)** I studied dance in the first grade and got to be on TV! That was in Iowa, on *Bill Riley's Talent Search*. Each week, kids performed on the show and, if they won, they got \$25 and a chance to compete at the Iowa State Fair. I made it to the State Fair several years in a row and loved watching all the talented kids. Even then, I knew that, though I loved singing and dancing, I didn't really want to be a performer. I liked seeing how everything got put together and I imagined whole shows in my head, so I became a director. That means I choose who will be in the play, work with designers to help create the sets and costumes and help the actors create their characters. I like being the person out front, taking it all in and knowing that I helped to make it happen!

**FRANÇOIS-PIERRE COUTURE (Scenic Design)** I moved from Montréal (that's right, Canada) to Los Angeles to complete my master's degree in scenic and lighting design at UCLA in 2006. This redhead loves to imagine and make tiny models of giant sets so actors can play with them. I also like to hear the reaction of an audience when it discovers the stage for the first time. Aside from making a Princess fly in *The Light Princess*, shining colorful lights for *Pinocchio* at SCR—and designing sets in theatres like The Theatre @ Boston Court, Cherry Lane Theatre in New York City or Arena Stage in Washington, D.C.—I teach young and bright students at East Los Angeles College and Cal State Long Beach. If you want to know more about what I like (and what I don't like, such as whiny people and raw onions), you can visit me at [fpcouture.com](http://fpcouture.com)

**SARA RYUNG CLEMENT (Costume Design)** When I was just two years old, I started to pick out my own outfits. Pretty soon, I was telling my mother what to wear, too—although my mom did not

always take my advice. I went to the Yale School of Drama to learn more about theatre, painting and how to turn drawings into costumes and sets. Now that I am a theatre designer, I work with the director to decide who wears what in a show and why they wear what they wear. You may have seen my costumes at SCR in *OZ 2.5*, *Ben and the Magic Paintbrush* or in *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business*. I am glad to have the continued support of my parents, who still put my drawings up on the fridge.

**JOSH EPSTEIN (Lighting Design)** I have been working as a lighting designer for 16 years. In college, at the University of Chicago, I studied political science and did theatre as a hobby. Although I always loved the performing arts, it wasn't until I moved to New York, and got my MFA from New York University, that my career really got started. Now, I travel the country and design lighting for shows from coast to coast. In Los Angeles, where I live, I have worked at places including the Mark Taper Forum, Pasadena Playhouse, Kirk Douglas Theatre and Geffen Playhouse. In addition to being a designer, I also teach lighting at UCLA. When I'm not working, I love to spend every free moment with my wife and three daughters.

**JEFF POLUNAS (Sound Design)** I am excited to be sound-designing this production at SCR. I have designed many TYAs including *The Light Princess*, *Ivy + Bean: The Musical* and *Anastasia Krupnik*. During the summer, I love working here with SCR's Summer Players, which I have been doing for the last five 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 productions from San Francisco to San Diego. I enjoy taking the sounds we hear and creating something magical from it.

**LYNN JEFFRIES (Puppet Design and Direction)** I have always liked to draw and make things. When I was a kid, I made my own stuffed animals including some odd creatures, like a green felt sea anemone (I still have it sitting on my desk). I started to like theatre in sixth grade and when I got to college, I drew and made things for plays: first sets and then costumes and then puppets. When I graduated, I joined Cornerstone Theatre Company, which was new, with a bunch of my friends and we spent five years traveling around the country in a blue van doing plays with people in small towns, before moving to Los Angeles. I continue to draw and make things for Cornerstone and for other theatres. My last show here at SCR was *The Borrowers*, for which I made several tiny people and some giant animals.

**KAITLYN PIETRAS (Projection Design)** I am a Los Angeles-based projection designer. I fell in love with theatre in high school; my drama teacher, Mrs. Bernardo, remains one of my favorite teachers of all time. I love buildings and I studied architecture at Clemson University. I decided that I missed theatre too much to pursue architecture, so I



moved to Los Angeles to study at UCLA and become a theatre artist. While at UCLA, I discovered the super cool world of projection design and now I spend most of my days using computer programs like Photoshop and After Effects. I have designed for shows all over the country and am really excited to be returning to SCR.

**ANDY KNIGHT (Dramaturg)** I work at South Coast Repertory as the associate literary director, a job that includes a lot of reading and writing. (But despite how it sounds, it's actually a lot of fun!) One of the best parts of my job is the wide range of projects I get to work on, from plays for young audiences (like this one) to plays about former presidents to plays about telenovelas. And that's just this year! I've loved theatre my whole life, especially the ways in which it requires an audience to use its imagination. Although I saw a lot of plays as a kid, I didn't get involved in theatre until high school. But I haven't stopped since then. I'm originally from Chicago, so I'm very thankful to be doing theatre here in California, especially at this time of the year. I hope you enjoy the show!

**JULIE ANN RENFRO (Stage Manager)** I grew up in Orange County and I attended Newport Harbor High School. I was inspired by my drama teacher, Gail Brower-Nedler, to study theatre and went on to receive my BA from Vanguard University. I worked on several other TYAs that you may have seen at SCR, such as *The Light Princess*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, *Charlotte's Web*, *The Night Fairy* and *Robin Hood*. Usually, I can be found backstage moving scenery, helping actors in and out of costumes, and making theatre magic; but for this show I will be sitting in the booth behind the audience! When I'm not working on a play, I love to go camping, travel the world and have adventures!

**ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION**, founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 professional actors and stage managers. Equity endeavors to advance the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits (health and pension included). Member: AFL-CIO, FIA. #EquityWorks.



# Maze

Help Ulysses find his way back to Flora.



START







# Character Questions



*Flora & Ulysses* is an imaginative story about an exceptional squirrel: it is part comic-book adventure, part family drama, part coming-of-age story. Its plot is full of twists and turns, quirky characters, laugh-out-loud comedy and important lessons. Although the actors on stage make it look easy, telling a story with all these elements takes a lot of work!

For a play like *Flora & Ulysses*, SCR assembles a cast of top-notch, fearless actors who are ready for anything. Some actors play multiple characters with very different personalities and that requires big, bold and sometimes wild performance choices; other actors create their characters with puppets and bring life and personality to inanimate objects. But an actor's performance is more than just puppet tricks and funny voices. Each cast member, no matter the role, first thinks about who the character is: Why is s/he important to the story? What does s/he want more than anything? And what's standing in the way? By asking questions like these, an actor makes discoveries that inform his or her characterizations and help shape the storytelling.

Is there a character from *Flora & Ulysses* that you'd like to play? If so, who is it and what about the character excites you? How would you bring that person—or animal—to life using your mind, body and voice? You can learn more about creating characters from the ground up—and how to be a performer who's ready for any challenge—in SCR's Theatre Conservatory. Check out the website at [scr.org/classes](http://scr.org/classes) or call (714) 708-5577.

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 from the novel by Herman Melville  
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Raymond Fox, Michael Fugère, Jason Humberger, Karen Barnard, James Aleson and Anthony Perrino. Illustration by Liz Lauer. © Lookingglass Theatre Company.

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 adapted for the stage by **Bruce Mason**  
**May 19 – June 4**  
 Judy Blume's enormously popular book hits the stage with hilarity, and sibling rivalry has never been so much fun.  
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**OLIVIA AND ALAN SLUTZKY**

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The long-term development of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs at SCR is greatly assisted by the establishment of endowment funds. We deeply appreciate the following donors who have honored us with gifts:

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