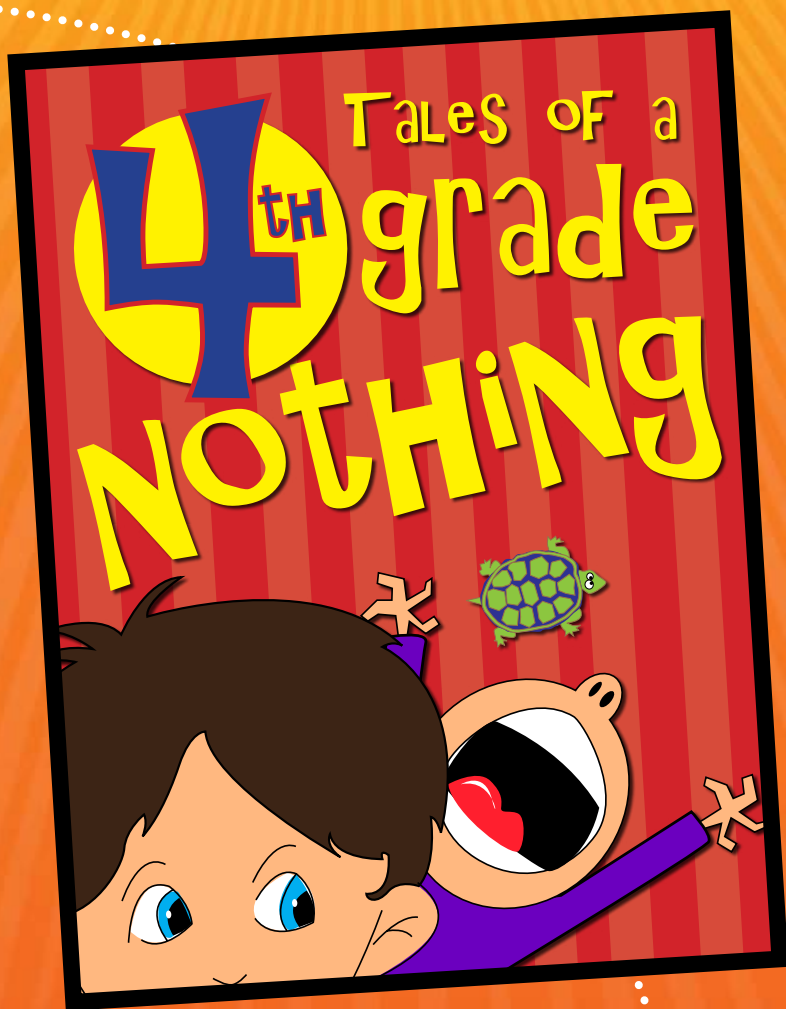


South Coast Repertory

Theatre for Young Audiences

2008-2009 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE



based on the book by **Judy Blume**
adapted for the stage by **Bruce Mason**
directed by **Jessica Kubzansky**



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South Coast Repertory

Julianne Argyros Stage • Nov 7 - 23, 2008

Theatre for Young Audiences

TALES OF a FOURTH GRADE NOTHING

based on the book by **Judy Blume**
adapted for the stage by **Bruce Mason**

Set and Costume Design
Angela Balogh Calin

Lighting Design
Jeremy Pivnick

Sound Design
John Zalewski

Production Manager
Joshua Marchesi

Stage Manager
Jennifer Ellen Butler*

directed by **Jessica Kubzansky**



Corporate Honorary Producer

Originally commissioned and produced by Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle, WA
Produced by special arrangement with Plays for Young Audiences
A partnership of Seattle Children's Theatre and Children's Theatre Company - Minneapolis



The Cast

Mr. Yarby, Sarah, Nurse,
Jimmy Fargo, Mr. Vincent, Dr. Cone **LARRY BATES***
Mrs. Yarby, Sheila Tubman,
Dr. Brown, Jennie, Janet **BRENDA CANELA***
Peter **DANIEL CHAFFIN***
Fudge **DANIEL T. PARKER***
Mom, Mr. Denberg **JEANNE SAKATA***
Dad, Ralph, Viktor **TOM SHELTON***

For Your Information

NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED. Everyone must have a ticket; no children under age four for Theatre for Young Audiences performances.

Latecomers will be asked to watch the lobby monitor until an appropriate time when they can be taken into the theatre and seated at the discretion of the House Manager. They may then take their assigned seats at intermission.

Special seating arrangements can 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 cellular phones, pagers and watch alarms or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins. If doctors or parents expect calls during a performance, please leave your name and seat number with the House Manager, who can be reached at (714) 708-5500, ext. 5442.

* denotes members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

Media Partner
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MAGAZINE



South Coast Repertory

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Producing Artistic Director

MARTIN BENSON
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI
Managing Director

JOHN GLORE
Associate Artistic Director

BIL SCHROEDER
Marketing & Communications Director

LORI MONNIER
General Manager

SUSAN C. REEDER
Director of Development

JOSHUA MARCHESI
Production Manager

These Folks are helping run the show back stage!

Jennifer Sherman
Julie Renfro
Lois Bryan
Star Davenport
Emily Kettler

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERN
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR
DRESSER
DECK CREW

And these Folks helped get it ready For you!

Linda Sullivan Baity
Joanne DeNaut

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES COORDINATOR
CASTING DIRECTOR

THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY

Jon Lagerquist, *Technical Director*
John Gaddis IV, *Assistant Technical Director*
Amanda Horak, *Master Carpenter*
Matt Ginovsky, David Saewert, *Scenic Carpenters*
Gerry Garnica, *Scene Shop Assistant*
Judy Allen, *Lead Scenic Artist*
Tabatha Daly, Gabriel Barrera, *Scenic Artists*

THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES

Amy L. Hutto, *Costume Shop Manager*
Bronwen Burton, *Cutter/Draper*
Laurie Donati, *Full Charge Costumer*
Reagan, *Costume Design Assistant*
Jehann Gilman, *Wig and Makeup Supervisor*
Heather Bassett, *Wardrobe Supervisor*
Catherine Esera, Joan Goodspeed, Michelle Mareks,
Additional Costume Staff

THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS

John Slauson, *Property Shop Manager*
Byron Bacon, *Assistant Property Shop Manager/Buyer*
Jeffery G. Rockey, *Properties Artisan*
Sara Greenhouse, *Properties Artisan*

THIS GROUP DEALS WITH LIGHTS & SOUND

Jeff Brewer, *Master Electrician*
Lois Bryan, Aaron Shetland, *Stage Electricians*
Mark Johnson, *Audio Engineer*

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Judy BLUME

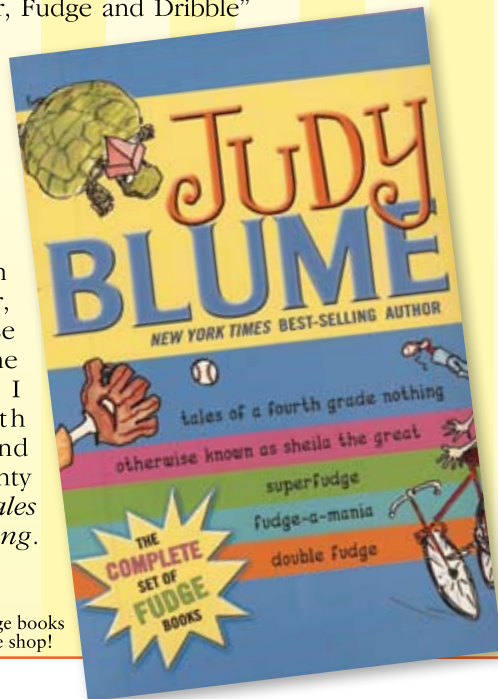
ON Writing the BOOK

When I began to write, our babysitter, Willie Mae Bartlett, brought me an article from the newspaper about a toddler who swallowed a tiny pet turtle. This was in the late sixties, when you could still buy turtles for pets. Willie Mae thought the story might inspire me. And it certainly did! I sat down and wrote a picture book called “Peter, Fudge and Dribble.” I submitted my manuscript to several publishers but they all rejected it. Two editors wrote personal notes saying they found the story very funny but one was concerned that it could lead to small children swallowing turtles, and the other found it too unbelievable to publish.

A few years later, my first agent submitted the story to Ann Durell, editor of children’s books at E. P. Dutton. Ann invited me to lunch. I was so nervous I could hardly eat but she was so warm and friendly I finally relaxed. Ann liked my story but she suggested, instead of a picture book, I consider writing a longer book about the Hatcher family, using “Peter, Fudge and Dribble” as one of the chapters.

I loved her idea and went home fired up and ready to write. That summer I wrote the book, basing the character of Fudge on my son, Larry, when he was a toddler.

We had a problem with my original title, “Peter, Fudge and Dribble,” because another book had just come out called “Peter Potts.” I couldn’t come up with anything I liked as well and finally sent Ann a list of twenty possibilities, among them *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. That’s the one Ann chose.



The complete set of Fudge books available in SCR’s theatre shop!



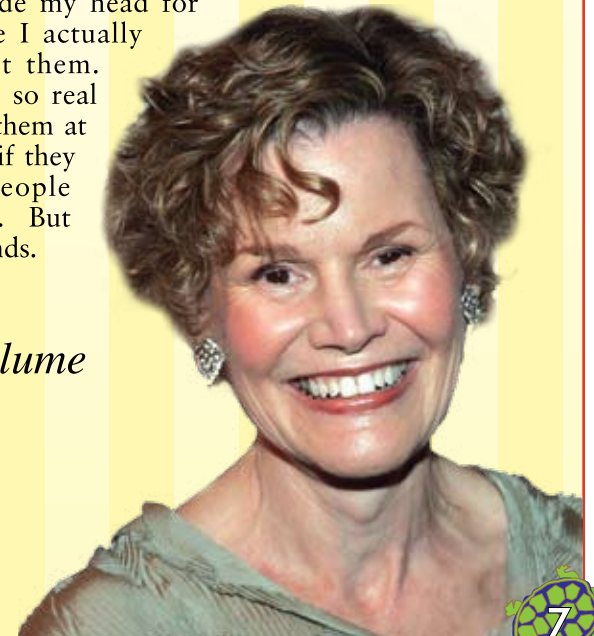
Judy BLOOMS

When I was growing up, I dreamed about becoming a cowgirl, a detective, a spy, a great actress, or a ballerina. Not a dentist, like my father, or a homemaker, like my mother — and certainly not a writer, although I always loved to read. I didn’t know anything about writers. It never occurred to me they were regular people and that I could grow up to become one, even though I loved to make up stories inside my head.

I made up stories while I bounced a ball against the side of our house. I made up stories playing with paper dolls. And I made them up while I practiced the piano by pretending to give piano lessons. I even kept a notebook with the names of my pretend students and how they were doing. I always had an active imagination. But I never wrote down any of my stories. And I never told anyone about them.

When I grew up, my need for storytelling didn’t go away. So when my own two children started preschool I began to write and I’ve been writing ever since! My characters live inside my head for a long time before I actually start a book about them. Then, they become so real to me I talk about them at the dinner table as if they are real. Some people consider this weird. But my family understands.

—Judy Blume



DON'T Try THIS at Home, Kids

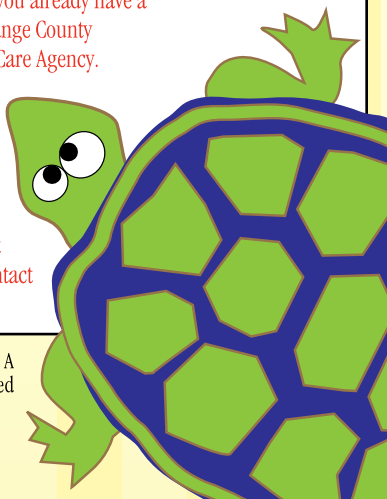
During the 1970s (when Judy Blume's novel was originally published), it became something of a fad for parents to buy baby turtles—usually red-eared sliders—about the size of a silver dollar for their small children. But once they got their new pets home, kids began ingesting bacteria left on their hands after handling turtles, and some (like Fudge) even put turtles in their mouth. Gross! As a result, there was a nationwide outbreak of a dangerous infection known as salmonellosis, which causes high fever, abdominal pain, severe diarrhea, and can even lead to death. It is likely that 90% of all reptiles (snakes, lizards, turtles, and crocodiles) are carriers of these toxic germs.

In 1976, the Food and Drug Administration took action by banning the sale or distribution of turtles with a shell under four inches in diameter. The measure worked well for many years, resulting in a huge reduction in the annual number of reptile-associated salmonellosis cases reported in the U.S. Unfortunately, there has been a recent surge in the illegal sale of baby turtles which are sold cheaply at tourist spots and flea markets across the country. Although law enforcement officials are working hard to find and prosecute violators, they can't be everywhere.

Here's What you can do to Help:

- **DO NOT** purchase baby turtles. Report illegal sales of baby turtles to local authorities, including police, the humane society and the FDA.
- **DO NOT** release unwanted pets into the wild. If you already have a baby turtle and want to give it up, contact the Orange County Humane Society or the County of Orange Health Care Agency.
- If you choose to keep any reptile or amphibian in your home, make certain you know and follow the proper hygiene guidelines for their care. This includes washing your hands immediately after touching all reptiles and birds. The Center for Disease Control recommends that children aged 5 years and younger have no contact with reptiles.

For more information, see *Baby Turtles and Children: A Dangerous Combination* www.hsus.org and *Red-Eared Slider—Care & Feeding of this Common Pet Turtle* www.peteducation.com.



New Mark VII Monorail design

Orange County's HighWay in the Sky

Speeding by overhead, visitors to the Magic Kingdom travel in space-age style between the Disneyland Hotel and Tomorrowland on the sleek new Mark VII Monorail, which debuted this past July. The monorail looks like an airplane without wings that flies along on a track suspended high over the ground. The earliest concept sketches of Tomorrowland included a monorail, but as Walt Disney's great vision was being built, he had neither the technology nor the money to make his dream of futuristic transportation come true. Then while visiting Europe in 1958, he happened upon a prototype monorail running on a track on a rural farm. Within one year of that lucky discovery, Mr. Disney had combined that technology with a rocket ship design to create the three-car Mark I Monorail which was installed in the park in 1959. America's first single-rail monorail system quickly became

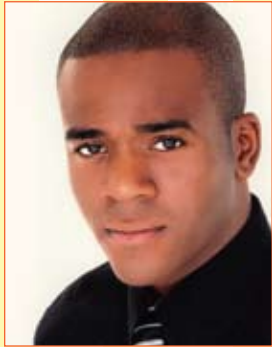
Disneyland's most talked-about attraction. But even though at the time many people considered monorails to be the mass transit hope of the future, they have ended up as little more than amusement park novelties. Disneyland designers are always looking for ways to preserve and update this beloved icon—still one of the park's most popular rides.



Disneyland Monorail, 1959



WHO'S WHO IN the Cast



Larry Bates

(Mr. Yarby, Sarah, Nurse, Jimmy Fargo, Mr. Vincent, Dr. Cone)

I was last seen at SCR as The Bloodbottler in *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)* and before that I was Toby in *The Only Child* and before that I was Cow Patty Boy in the *Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Oh hey, I was Stinky too, so sorry if I smell. I have also done some TV here and there, like playing a cop on "NYPD Blue," "The Unit" and "Huff," or a coast guard who saves the day on "Numb3rs," or a mortician who gets to be around dead people all day (ugggh) in "Boston Public." Once I was placed under a spell by "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch." I haven't been quite right since.

BRENDA CANELA
(Mrs. Yarby, Sheila Tubman,
Dr. Brown, Jennie, Janet)



I am excited to be in *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* because I used to read Judy Blume books when I was in elementary school. Now it reminds me of all the little adventures I had with my baby sister at the time. Just as Fudge wants to be like Peter, my sister had to do EVERYTHING I did, which explains our identical outfits until I was in the 5TH GRADE! It is fun to be back on stage since mostly acting in film and TV, including roles in *Spanglish*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *Year of the Dog*, "CSI," "Monk" and "Eli Stone." I am grateful to my family, friends and teachers who always encourage me to work hard and support me in my career. Thank you SCR for inviting me to play.



DANIEL CHAFFIN
(Peter)



How fun to be back at South Coast Repertory! A couple of months ago, I got the chance to tour elementary schools in Orange County with SCR's Educational Touring production of *You're Getting Warmer*. I played Alex and I got to travel around the earth with a Polar Bear to try to figure out what was causing Global Warming! We sang and danced our way through a Thermostat, Power Plant and a Green House, to figure out how I could help to conserve energy. It's been so fun playing so many different parts here at SCR. Please sit back, relax and enjoy *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*! Thanks to God, my friends, my director, Ms. Jessica Kubzansky, the lovely ladies that cast me, Ms. Joanne DeNaut and Ms. Stephanie Marick, the lovely staff at SCR, and of course to all of you for watching! Thank you for coming and hope to see you outside! :)



DANIEL T. PARKER
(Fudge)

I have done several plays and workshops at South Coast Repertory. My favorites include *Habeas Corpus* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. I love doing Shakespeare and I have been in a lot of Shakespeare plays and festivals across the U.S.A. including *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Taming of the Shrew*, *The Tempest*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth* and lots of fun classic plays at many regional theatres, plays like *Hedda Gabler*, *Hay Fever* and *The Imaginary Invalid*. In Los Angeles I was a company member at The Actors' Gang, in which I created a lot of original award-winning works with a bunch of wonderful artists and collaborators. This fall you can see me as the recurring character, Officer Chet Kopecke on the improv sitcom "10 Items or Less" on TBS — now going into its third season. I can also be seen in that cool western movie called *Appaloosa*, playing right now in movie theatres! My favorite hobby is singing, my favorite food is roast beef, and I love when there is a full moon out!



JEANNE SAKATA
(Mom, Mr. Denberg)



My name is Jeanne and I have been a professional actress for 25 years. When I was in college, I was struggling to decide what to do with my life and I noticed my favorite classes were all related to English literature and the arts, especially the performing arts: music, dance, theatre, acting, and puppetry. I also loved singing in the choir, songwriting, playing the guitar and storytelling. One day, BOOM! I realized that in the theatre I would be able to draw inspiration from all the different arts that I loved! So I decided to pursue my dream of becoming an actor. That was over two decades ago, and it has been a fantastic journey. I've worked in theatres all over the country, and have guest starred on TV shows such as "Desperate Housewives," "ER" and "Threat Matrix." I won an acting award, the LA Ovation Award for Best Lead Actress, for playing a man in a play called *Red*. Last year I also became a playwright, writing a play called *Dawn's Light*, directed by Jessica Kubzansky. The theatre is a place where we can dream and hope and think and play and laugh and cry, and where all of our stories can be shared. I hope you have a terrific time at our show today, that someday soon YOU will be onstage yourself—and that you'll come back to the theatre for the rest of your life!



TOM SHELTON
(Dad, Ralph, Viktor)

I have been an actor since I was in the 4th grade. I played The Sandman in the Christmas Pageant at Corona del Mar Elementary. Now here I am a few zillion years later—playing the DAD of a 4th grader—and still finding it fun and adventurous to be in a show. Some of you may remember me from other SCR productions including *The Only Child* (another Dad), *The Adventures of Por*

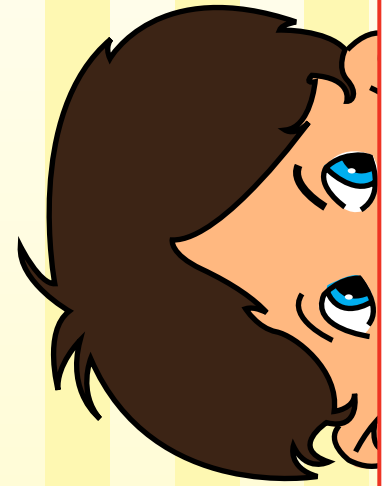
Quinly (another Dad!), *James and the Giant Peach* (the Earthworm), *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* (the Mayor) and *The Wind In the Willows* (Mr. Toad). Many thanks to my good friends at SCR for giving me the chance yet again, and to YOU, our audience, for being so loyal and enthusiastic. You are the ones who make what we do onstage come magically to life.

BEHIND the SCENES

Author JUDY BLUME gained popularity with children of all ages in the 1970s for her unique ability to tackle real-life issues in a kid-friendly manner. *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* is the first in a series of four "Fudge books." Bloom's best-selling novels include *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* and *Blubber*. Sales of her novels for children and young adults exceed 80 million. In 2004, Blume was awarded the National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. In 1996 the American Library Association selected Blume for its Margaret A. Edwards Award for her contributions to young adult literature. Blume received the Library of Congress Living Legends award in the "Writers and Artists" category in April 2000 for her significant contributions to America's cultural heritage.

Playwright BRUCE MASON is an award-winning director and writer for theater, film and television. In 1997, the Kennedy Center mounted his play *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* and toured it nationally. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Bruce was educated at Emerson College in Boston, and at the AFI in Los Angeles.

Director JESSICA KUBZANSKY's mother said she knew she was going to be a director because in nursery school she got other kids to fold her blanket for her. When she was 12, she wrote, directed, and acted in a musical called *The Horse with Two Lovers*. It was about two people who each wanted to own the same horse because they thought the horse would win a race. She played the horse, her sister played her rightful owner, and her brother played everyone else. In the end, the bad guy was foiled, the horse won her race, she and her true owner were reunited—and sang about it. She loved it. And she still loves directing, because her job is to take stories that start as words on the page and bring them to three-dimensional, thrilling human life. To this day, children's literature is her favorite because it's an e-ticket to the imagination. And she loves harnessing the collective imagination. The theatre is the only place she knows where a person makes a "knocking" motion in the air and the entire audience imagines a door. In theatre, anything's possible.



Romanian-born **Costume and Set Designer ANGELA BALOGH CALIN** has designed almost all of SCR's Theatre for Young Audiences productions. She also designed the costumes for the Segerstrom Stage productions of *Nothing Sacred* and *Doubt*, a parable. For several years she has designed SCR's Educational Touring Productions, including *Eureka!*, *Bad Water Blues* and *You're Getting Warmer*. Angela loves to design for young audiences because she can use her imagination to create the costumes and sets, and because she likes color. It makes her happy and reminds her of when she was little and used to draw people and places and animals, and make up stories. And she encourages all the girls and boys to pick up the Crayola box and start drawing. It's fun!

This is **Lighting Designer JEREMY PIVNICK**'s first show at SCR and he is very excited to be here. Jeremy never went to 4th grade; he was a smarty pants and got to skip it. He likes turtles and luckily has never eaten one. In fact, Jeremy doesn't eat any animals. Jeremy loves animals so much, he even lets his cat help design lights, and she's very good at it. She helps him design shows all over the world, including in New York, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Scotland and Ireland. Jeremy loves working with his friends Jessica Kubzansky and John Zalewski on shows, and they are lucky they get to work together a lot. Thanks to everyone who made this show such fun to work on!

Sound Designer JOHN ZALEWSKI was born in Los Angeles and lived in Brazil for a long time, too. He loved fooling around with cassette recorders and cameras. He listened to a lot of Brazilian music and trippy rock and Beethoven. Then he went to sound and synthesizer school. And then he went to drawing and painting school. And then he saw a play that was more exciting than any rock and roll concert and decided to make noises for plays! He has made noises and written songs for many children's plays including *The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)*, *James and the Giant Peach* and *The Very Persistent Gappers of Frripp*.

Stage Manager JENNIFER ELLEN BUTLER was a jump roper in 4th grade, but then in 5th grade she started doing theatre. She loved theatre so much she never stopped. She went to college and got a degree in theatre and now it is her job. Stage Managers don't get to act crazy on stage, but they still have a lot of fun. She sits behind you in a room called the booth. She is behind a window so she can't talk, but she can wave. She had a pet turtle that showed up at her front door, so she kept it in the backyard for over a year. She fed it, and it slept under a boat to stay out of the rain. Then one day her turtle was gone. Her little brother didn't eat it though; she thinks the turtle just decided it was time to move on.

VISIT SCR ONLINE

Be sure to check out our website — www.scr.org — for the "Playgoer's Guide" to *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources.

Foolproof Fudge



Does hearing the word "fudge" so often in this play make you hungry for a sweet chocolatey treat? Here's a great super-easy recipe for Foolproof Fudge you'll want to make as soon as you get home from the theatre!

PREPARATION TIME: 35-40 minutes
(assembly and microwaving – 5-10 min.; refrigeration – 30 min.)

1 large package (12-ounce) semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 can (14-ounce) sweetened condensed milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 cups miniature marshmallows
1 cup chopped walnuts

LINE 13"x9" baking dish with foil; grease lightly.

MICROWAVE chocolate chips and condensed milk in large, uncovered glass or plastic bowl on HIGH (100%) power for 1 minute.

STIR. If necessary, microwave at additional 10-second intervals, stirring after each zap, just until chips are thoroughly melted.

FOLD in vanilla extract, marshmallows and nuts.

PRESS mixture into prepared baking pan. Refrigerate 30 minutes, or until ready to serve.

LIFT fudge from pan; remove foil. Cut into 48 scrumptious pieces.

DIG IN!

WANT TO GET CREATIVE? Instead of semi-sweet chocolate chips, use milk chocolate, butterscotch or peanut butter chips. Instead of vanilla, use peppermint or almond extract. Instead of walnuts, use chopped pecans or peanuts. Or replace nuts with equal amount of your favorite dried fruit.

DOUBLE TROUBLE

It's two PUZZLES...
...IN ONE!

FILL-IN-the-BLANK and Word Search.

They're a bit tricky, but you shouldn't have too much trouble, especially if you wait until after you've seen the play (or read the book) to tackle them.

1

First, use clues #1-14 below to figure out the words in the Word Search, and spell out the words in the corresponding blanks.

(Hint: The answers are in alphabetical order.)

1. _____ Mr. Hatcher works at his advertising job there.
2. _____ Fudge gets to ride to the hospital in it.
3. _____ Peter hands them out at Fudge's birthday party.
4. _____ Peter & Fudge are two of them.
5. _____ Mr. Yarby & Mr. Vincent are two of them.
6. _____ Great way to sell Toddle-Bikes and Juicy-O.
7. _____ Peter, Sheila & Jimmy work together on one.
8. _____ He likes to count your teeth.
9. _____ Ride it up and down in tall city buildings.
10. _____ Peter's are very good; Fudge's are not.
11. _____ Jimmy's kinda looks like a flying train.
12. _____ Fudge makes way too much of it.
13. _____ Not an amphibian or mammal or bird.
14. _____ Not loafers or boots or flip-flops.

2

Now, try to locate all 14 words which are hidden in the Word Search puzzle below.

L V A D S U C A U G T M R A U
R J J E R Y O L O G N D O H K
P A W N E C M C R V O T K L K
O H A T K N M C I S Z V P T O
S B A I A E E C N A L U B M A
G R Y S E G R E P T I L E S R
Z Y E T N A C T E K C A R O B
I S I H S E I I Q L L Y T A R
S Q T P T G A V U A P A L E Y
Z E J N O O L T C G V L T H Q
I J M Q E R R O G E O S T I E
E F N A D I M B L O O Y Z C D
A R S K N M L E N P W N E C X
C O D R I N S C E W X W L L K
B A A T P T E L P U U P Q M P

(HINT: Half of the words can be read either up or down, or from left or right; the other half are placed diagonally, reading from both top and bottom. Some of the letters are shared.)

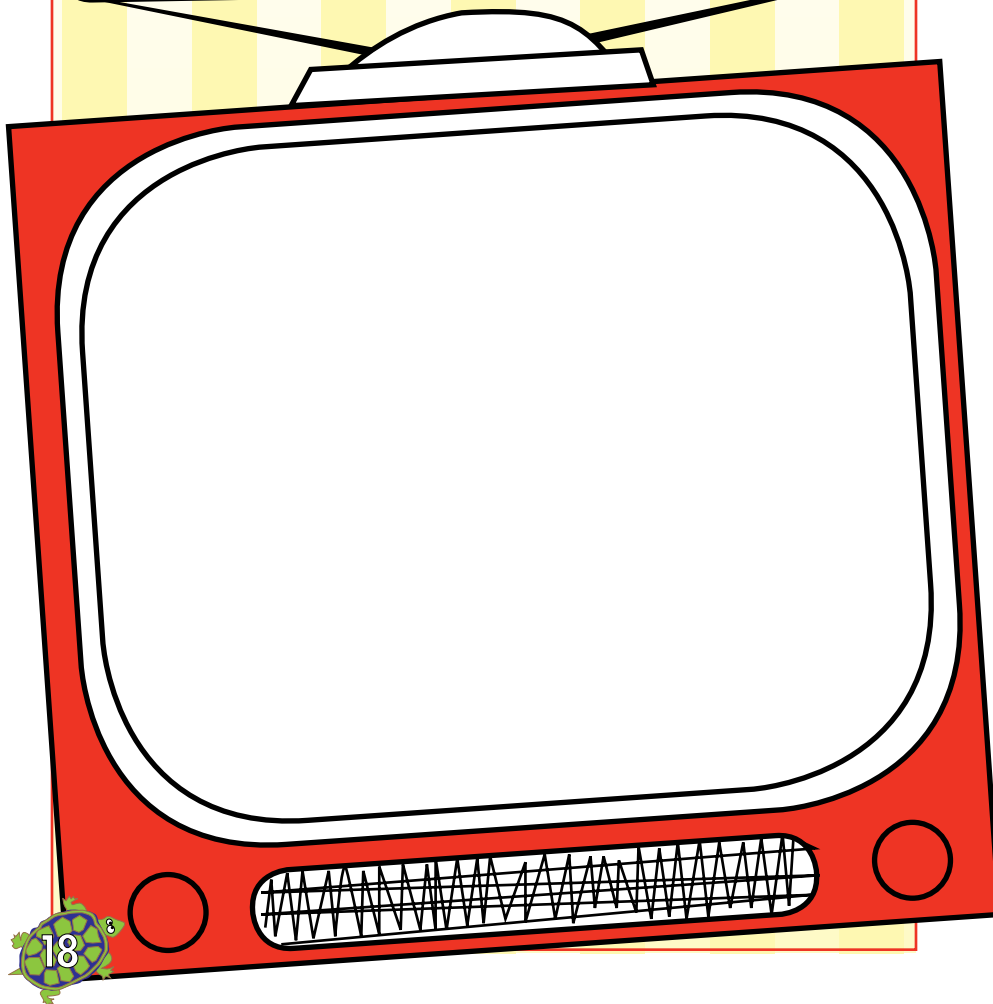
Answers on page 14.

New!! Improved! Buy NOW!!!

Commercials are designed to get people to buy stuff. Pretend that Juicy-O needs an advertising campaign for its brand new drink and that Mr. Yarby, the company president, is coming all the way from Chicago to see what you've come up with.

- 1 First you must invent the new drink, come up with a catchy name and slogan.
- 2 Then draw and color the scene from your commercial you're sure will make everyone who sees it want to run right out and buy a big bottle.

Be silly, be smart, be serious, but above all ... be persuasive!



SCR is grateful to the following donors for generously providing special underwriting support during the 2008-2009 Season of Theatre for Young Audiences.

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Robert & LaDorna Eichenberg
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The long-term development of Theatre for Young Audiences and other education programs at SCR is greatly assisted by the establishment of endowment funds.

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South Coast Repertory

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Orange County's Favorite Holiday Traditions!



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adapted by **Jerry Patch**
directed by **John-David Keller**

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Nov. 29 - Dec. 27
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written & directed by **Octavio Solis**
music by **Marcos Loya**

Young Gracie joins a neighborhood procession and discovers the true Christmas spirit in this enchanting musical show performed in English — with Latin flair!

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