

BAY AREA CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Media Contact: Vivian Auslander, 510-524-2941
vivian@vivianauslander.com

Tuneful *MISS NELSON IS MISSING* Opens Season for Bay Area Children's Theatre

WHO: [Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (formerly Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences)

WHAT: *MISS NELSON IS MISSING*

Families will love this zany, musical romp, adapted by Joan Cushing from the book by Harry Allard. Miss Nelson's rude and rowdy students won't even sit still for story hour. Then, suddenly, their lovely, patient teacher disappears, replaced by the scariest substitute ever: Viola Swamp! Where is Miss Nelson, and will she ever return? Not even the principal, a bumbling detective, or a trip to Miss Nelson's house can solve the mystery, as life in Room 207 gets harder and harder, while the class searches frantically for its missing teacher.

BERKELEY PERFORMANCES: Weekends October 2 – 24, at Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley (Note: no performances October 9 or 23)

SAN RAMON PERFORMANCES: Weekends November 6 – 14 at the Front Row Theatre, 17011 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon

TICKETS: Child \$14-15, Senior \$16-\$17, Adult \$18-20, Groups \$12-13

BOX OFFICE: <http://www.bactheatre.org/> and (510) 296-4433

((For a high-res jpeg, contact Vivian Auslander, 510-524-2941, vivian@vivianauslander.com))

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakland, CA....Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) opens its 2010-2011 season with the zany musical, *MISS NELSON IS MISSING*, at Freight & Salvage, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley, on Saturday, October 2, at 2 p.m.

MISS NELSON IS MISSING, with music and lyrics by Joan Cushing, will be the first fully-staged theatrical production to be mounted at the new Freight & Salvage, a renowned venue for traditional music.

"We are delighted to be performing at Freight & Salvage," said BACT Executive Director Nina Meehan. "We think families will thoroughly enjoy the comfort of the theatre and appreciate its location in the heart of Berkeley's Downtown Arts District."

The play will run the weekends of October 2-3 and 16-17 at 2 p.m. There will be two shows on Sunday, October 10, and Sunday, October 24, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Note: no shows October 9 or 23 – Go,

Bears!) From Berkeley, **MISS NELSON IS MISSING** moves to the Front Row Theatre in San Ramon, playing Saturdays and Sundays, November 6, 7, 13, and 14, at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

ARTISTS

MISS NELSON IS MISSING will be directed by Meehan, with music direction and choreography by Christina Martin and set design by Rose Anne Raphael.

Four cast members are making their BACT debut:

Jenny Angell has recently performed in productions with the Willows Theatre Company, including *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (Sally Brown). She has also appeared in *First Dates and Other Natural Disasters* (world premiere/workshop) at the New Conservatory Theatre.

Sharon Huff, an actress, director, teacher, and voiceover artist, has most recently appeared as Nadya in *Travesties* at Marin Shakespeare Festival and Candida in *Rock 'n' Roll* at San Jose Stage Company. She has also performed with the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival (as Laertes/Polonius in *Hamlet* and as Nurse/Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet* on the school tour), Theatreworks (in *Oliver*), Role Players Ensemble (as Lady Sneerwell in *School for Scandal*), Woman's Will, Chaucer and Company, and Chameleon Theatre. While performing in *Miss Nelson*, she will also be rehearsing and performing as an alternate Alonso/Stephano in San Francisco Shakespeare's school tour of *The Tempest*. "I'm very pleased to be working with BACT, and my son, Tommy, is even more delighted, since *Miss Nelson is Missing* is one of his favorite stories," Huff said.

Grace Khasar was last seen in *Prince of Egypt* at Neighborhood Community Theatre and in *Hairspray* at Woodminster Amphitheatre.

Bryan Quinn is "really excited to be a part of Miss Nelson's class and working with BACT". A graduate of San Francisco State's theatre program, he is continuing his education at Berkeley Digital Film Institute. Recent credits include Contra Costa Musical Theatre's *Oliver* and Impact Theatre's *Twelfth Night*.

Two cast members return to BACT for this production:

Greg Milholland was last seen at BACT in *Pippi Longstocking*. Some of his favorite roles include a stilt walking clown in *Barnum*, Dr. Sanderson in *Harvey*, Juror No. Ten in *Twelve Angry Men*, and Lysander in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Brian Smick delighted audiences as Howie in BACT's recent production of *Ramona Quimby*. A theatre student at Diablo Valley College, he has appeared there in Student Directed Scenes as well as in main stage productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Puck) and *Othello* (Brabantio).

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

BACT's next production, *Little House on the Prairie*, adapted by Pamela Sterling, based on Laura Ingalls Wilder's classic tale of growing up in the days of America's Frontier, will open at Berkeley's Freight and Salvage on January 2. The company will return to Freight & Salvage on March 26 with Robert and Willie Reale's endearing *A Year with Frog and Toad*, based on the *Frog and Toad* children's stories written and illustrated by Arnold Lobel.

ABOUT BAY AREA CHILDREN'S THEATRE (formerly Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences)

[Bay Area Children's Theatre](#) (BACT) was founded in 2004 as Active Arts Theatre for Young Audiences to bring high quality theatre to family audiences in the Bay Area. BACT specializes in literary adaptations of great children's books. Through exciting productions that emphasize artistic excellence, BACT seeks to engage a new generation of theatergoers and inspire young people to open their imaginations to new worlds. BACT performances feature gifted professional adult performers, designers and directors who bring vibrant, creative worlds to life and who understand how to make theatre accessible for young audiences. BACT's programs include main stage productions in Berkeley, San Ramon, San Francisco and Saratoga; educational drama classes; touring productions; and pre-kindergarten special productions of books that the youngest readers enjoy with their parents.

###