

BAY AREA  
CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE

**Stage Grows Just in Time for Debut of *The Magic School Bus, Live! The Climate Challenge***

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How do you produce a full-scale musical on a stage built for small musical groups?

When Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) debuts *The Magic School Bus, Live! The Climate Challenge* at Berkeley's Freight & Salvage, on Saturday, October 1, the company will also inaugurate a new era of possibilities for bringing live theatre based on children's literature to Bay Area families.

The answer to expanding a beautiful stage built for musicians so that it can host an ambitious theatrical production for kids? Custom-fitted, removable stage extensions donated by BACT's season sponsor, Mueller Nicholls Builders.

The Oakland-based construction and cabinet company designed, ordered, and painstakingly fitted these additions just in time for the East Bay debut of *The Magic School Bus, Live! The Climate Challenge*, which runs weekends at 2 pm, October 1 – 23, before leaving on a national tour.

An energetic musical, based on the latest book in the Magic School Bus series, the show takes the ever enthusiastic Ms. Frizzle and her class to the polar ice, the tropics, the oceans, and the atmosphere to learn about global warming, why it matters, and what to do about it.

"Field trips as ambitious as Ms. Frizzle's take lots of space!" explained BACT Executive Director Nina Meehan. "We are extremely grateful to Mueller Nicholls Builders for these gorgeous stage extensions, which give our actors an additional 50 square feet of playing space. This generous donation greatly expands the scope of the shows we can bring to our audiences."

Steve Nicholls, CEO and founder of Mueller Nicholls Builders, will cut a recyclable ribbon to inaugurate the new stage in a pre-show ceremony on Saturday, October 1.

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### **About Bay Area Children's Theatre**

*Our Mission:* To inspire young audiences with imaginative productions, introduce children of all backgrounds to the excitement of live theatre, and create an engaging, entertaining, and educational environment in which children and their families can explore and enjoy the arts.

*How We Carry Out Our Mission*

- Bring high quality, professional theatre to children and their families, with artists who create vibrant worlds that are intriguing to young audiences
- Encourage young people to explore literature, language, and the arts by producing stage adaptations of great children's books
- Engage pre-kindergartners in the world of theatre with productions specially designed for them
- Develop and perform exciting new work for the stage
- Reach out to children who might not otherwise experience live theatre with free tickets and touring productions at local schools, libraries and community centers
- Create touring productions for young audiences nationwide
- Introduce children to the joy of performance with classes, workshops, and summer camp theatre programs

Bay Area Children's Theatre (BACT) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.