



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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CONTACT: Patrick Finlon, PR Director

315-443-2636 or StagePR@syr.edu

A Thousand Cranes
The Bank of America Children's Tour

Presented by Syracuse Stage and SU Drama

By Kathryn Schultz Miller
Directed by Lauren Unbekant



Public Performance at 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 8
ARCHBOLD THEATRE at SYRACUSE STAGE
Recommended for audiences age 8 and up
All Tickets \$5, available at 315-443-3275

(Syracuse, NY)—Each fall, Syracuse Stage and the Department of Drama in The College of Visual and Performing Arts at Syracuse University present the Bank of America Children's Tour, a high-energy, interactive and culturally diverse theatrical production for elementary school audiences. Touring this year, September 25-December 11, is *A Thousand Cranes* by Kathryn Schultz Miller. At 11 a.m. on Saturday, November 8 a public performance will take place in the Archbold Theatre at Syracuse Stage. Tickets are \$5, available now by calling 315-443-3275.

A Thousand Cranes is the moving, true story about the effects of war on the life of a 12-year-old Japanese girl, named Sadako, and how through her spirit of hope and determination she became an inspiration for generations to come. "This is a gentle treatment. The effects of war are spoken, but it is more about our positive natures, community, and one girl's strength to find something good. It's about a community
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coming together, and a girl connecting with her past and moving forward," said Lauren Unbekant, Director of Education and Director of *A Thousand Cranes*. "It's also a very physical presentation, incorporating Japanese theatre styles, Kabuki, Japanese Noh theatre, hip-hop and contemporary Japanese movement performed in striking visual terms."

To heighten the sense of pageantry, artist Gabriel Q has designed human-size puppets for the actors. Though Gabriel is perhaps best known for his collection of masks in the tradition of Venetian paper-mache technique, any Central New Yorker who has attended the Sterling Renaissance Festival has most likely met him as the "baby in a stilt-walking high chair." For more info visit Gabriel's website at www.gabrielq.com.

Cast in the production are students from the Department of Drama. Jamie Olen (Sadako) is a sophomore Acting major from Farmington Hills, MI. Nowani Rattray (Oba Chan/Mother) is a sophomore Acting major at Syracuse University. John Quertermous (Kenji/Father) is a sophomore BFA Musical Theatre major originally from Murray, KY.

A Thousand Cranes is touring in schools throughout upstate New York, September 25 - December 11, 2008. Each performance is fully staged with scenery, costumes and sound. Performances include a talkback with the actors and a study guide for further classroom exploration. For further information on *A Thousand Cranes*, contact Lauren at 315-443-1150 or Adam at 315-442-7755. The Children's Tour is sponsored by the Bank of America, and Lockheed Martin Employees Federated Fund.

VPA AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

VPA is the creative center of Syracuse University. The college comprises five areas: the School of Art and Design; the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies; the Department of Drama; the Rose, Jules R. and Stanford S. Setnor School of Music; and the Department of Transmedia. Together, students, faculty and staff play a vital role in the academic and cultural life of the University and Syracuse communities. Learn more about the college at <http://vpa.syr.edu>.

SYRACUSE STAGE

Syracuse Stage is Central New York's premier professional theatre. Founded as a not-for-profit theatre in 1974 by Arthur Storch, Stage has produced more than 220 plays in 35 seasons including numerous world and American premieres. Each season upwards of 90,000 patrons enjoy an exciting mix of comedies, dramas and musicals featuring the finest professional theatre artists. In addition, Stage maintains a vital educational outreach program that annually serves over 30,000 students from 24 counties. Syracuse Stage is a constituent of the Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre, and a member of the League of Resident Theatres (LORT). In addition to ticket sales, Syracuse Stage performances are made possible by funds from Syracuse University, the Central New York Community Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, The Shubert Foundation, Onondaga County, and corporate, foundation and individual donors.

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Syracuse Stage | Producing Artistic Director: Timothy Bond | Managing Director: Jeffrey Woodward
820 E. Genesee St. | Main: 315-443-4008 | Box Office: 315-443-3275 | www.syracusestage.org