



**LEWIS FAMILY
PLAYHOUSE**
AT VICTORIA GARDENS
CULTURAL CENTER
RANCHO CUCAMONGA

NEWS RELEASE

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MainStreet Theatre Company Opens 11th Season with "Stuart Little", October 1st at the Lewis Family Playhouse!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rancho Cucamonga, California – MainStreet Theatre Company, recently included in American Theatre Magazine's list of "20 Theatres you should take your kid to," opens its 11th season of theatre for young audiences productions, with *Stuart Little*. The strictly limited engagement, geared for audiences aged 4 and up, opens October 1st and runs through October 16th.

The play, adapted by Joseph Robinette from E.B. White's cherished 1945 novel about a mouse named Stuart who is born into a typical New York family, will be performed in a "story theatre" style, where the actors talk directly to the audience as well as play multiple characters. The excellent cast of Los Angeles based Equity actors includes Scott McLean Harrison as Stuart, with Joshua Wolf Coleman, Mark Jacobson, Amanda Pajer, and Jane Noseworthy portraying all of the people and animals that Stuart meets on his many adventures.

MainStreet is thrilled to welcome back award-winning director Art Manke, who is well known to Southland audiences for his many productions at South Coast Repertory Theatre, the Pasadena Playhouse, and others. He previously directed *Elephant & Piggie's: "We are in a Play!"* and *Sleeping Beauty: The Time Traveler* for MainStreet.

- More -

Lewis Family Playhouse at Victoria Gardens Cultural Center

12505 Cultural Center Drive, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739 · Administration: (909) 477-2775 · Fax: (909) 477-2774

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Stuart Little – Page 2

The scenic design, also by Art Manke, will use old-fashioned wooden blocks as inspiration. The audience's imagination, boosted by gorgeous lighting by Josh Epstein, will transform blocks of various shapes into the various locations along Stuart's journey. Angela Balogh Calin's clever costumes will help the actors switch between the many characters they'll each play, which include an array of birds, cats, and dogs, as well as people. Props are by Glenn Michael Baker, and Mary K. Klinger is Production Stage Manager. Adding to the creativity of this production, MainStreet has commissioned composer Deborah Wicks-La Puma to write an original underscore, which will augment both the emotion and the humor in the story. Theatre-goers will be familiar with some of Ms. La Puma's many musicals for young audiences, including *Elephant & Piggie's: We are in a Play!* which MainStreet produced in the 2015/16 season.

Stuart Little runs Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (no 1:00 pm performance October 1st) and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. The Playhouse also runs special weekday matinees for school children. Tickets are priced at \$18.00 for General admission, and \$16.00 for Seniors and Youth up to age 12. Specially priced \$10.00 tickets are available for Foundation Family Saturday performance on October 1st. Foundation Family Flex pack tickets are just \$12.00 if purchased in quantities of four or more for the same performance and are available for all MainStreet Theatre Company productions.

During the run of *Stuart Little*, families are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to interact more with the story through fun activities tied to the theme of the show. Every public performance will include pre-show activities and lobby displays, and children can meet the cast in the lobby for autographs after the show. There will also be a short "talk-back" after the performance on Sunday, October 9th.

An intimate, 536-seat venue, the Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square-foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

For press tickets please contact Annette Mumolo at (909) 477-2775, ext. 3757 or via email at Annette.Mumolo@CityofRC.us. For more information about the show, contact Murry Hepner at (909) 477-2775 ext. 3734 or via email at Mireya.Hepner@CityofRC.us.

For more information - For additional information or to purchase tickets for any of our performances please visit www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com or call (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422.

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