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Rogers Little Theater

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RLT PRESENTS KIDWORKS THEATRICAL VARIETY SHOW

'Funny-Bone Rock-a-Billy Hoe Down' To Feature Nearly 30 Children MARCH 12-13

ROGERS, Ark. — Get on your overalls, long johns and hillbilly hats to join in the excitement of "Funny-Bone Rock-a-Billy Hoe Down," a Rogers Little Theater variety show displaying the energy and talents of 27 children from current KidWorks program classes.

Show times are at 7 p.m. March 12-13 at RLT's Victory Theater in historic downtown Rogers, 116 S. 2nd St. Tickets are available at the RLT Box Office, (479) 631-8988, or www.rogerslittletheater.org for \$5 each; children under 2 years old get in free.

"This production has got singin', dancin', joke-tellin' and actin' out of stories that will tickle your funny bones," said Martina Peacock, KidWorks director. "These are the kids who want to get out there on the stage and experience the thrill of performing for an audience."

The program is made possible in part through a grant from Cox Communications.

Some of the children, ages 6 to 15, will be making their performance debuts in this show. Others are veterans of the stage. All the students will take center stage during an hour-long performance of energetic singing and dancing to six familiar songs of Broadway. The hillbilly theme follows RLT's performance run of "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," which has its final four performances this weekend, closing with a Sunday matinee performance.

Songs like "We Are The Boys" from the "Big River" musical provide students like 12-year-old Katie Smith the performance challenge drawing on her real-life experience

living with four older brothers. As one of the "boys" in this number, she's describes the group as "puppies that can't hold still."

"We're little rascals. I play the shy one. I think it's challenging for me — being nervous and shy is different than who I am in real life," Katie said.

Her mother, DiAnne Smith, said the KidWorks classes have helped Katie develop her natural ability of expression. "I knew she was dramatic, but I've seen her become a lot more animated in expressing herself," Smith said.

"Funny Bone Riddles" segue one song to the next, with each class performing two of the main numbers along with performing the opening and finale songs, said instructor Dru Peacock Wiser. "They were involved in picking some of the materials. Some kids asked to do monologues or solos or duets, and we've encouraged that by giving them those opportunities," Wiser said.

Audience members will be tempted to get up and do the "Cotton-Eyed Joe" with the "hillbillies" on stage, and to sing along to the theme song of "Green Acres" and songs from "Oklahoma!" and "Annie Get Your Gun."

The characters makes this show fun for students like 13-year-old Wyatt Cochran, who plays Milton, an evil stepbrother in a hillbilly version of Cinderella.

"It's fun because my character gets to be kind of bossy. I'm not normally like that," Wyatt said.

KidWorks classes take place at RLT's Spotlight Studio, 204 W. Walnut, Rogers. The Spring Session classes are set to begin March 29 for eight weeks, concluding with two performances May 21-22. The theme for that show is "Welcome to the 60s," incorporating material from other familiar Broadway musicals.

This eight-week class is \$125 per student, with a reduced rate of \$100 per class for families that sign up for more than one class. Information and registration materials for the classes are at www.rogerslittletheater.org, or contact the RLT Box Office at (479) 631-8988.

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