



MAX REIMER, ARTISTIC MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE CAT CAME BACK

Co-Created and Starring Fred Penner and Jay Brazeau
Co-Created and Directed by Kim Selody

World premiere stage adaptation commissioned and developed by
Manitoba Theatre for Young People

A presentation of Manitoba Theatre for Young People

SIX PERFORMANCES ONLY! MARCH 31 – APRIL 5, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | February 2, 2012 – Vancouver, BC... The **Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company** welcomes the story of Winnipeg's most famous Cat to the Playhouse stage, in its first theatrical incarnation – ***The Cat Came Back***, co-created by the formidable trio of **Fred Penner, Jay Brazeau, and Kim Selody**.

In this brand new, fanciful tale, inspired by the song Fred made famous, we meet a merry band of musicians who must deal with their grumpy neighbor Mr. Johnson and his mysterious cat. Together, they learn about the joys and challenges of friendship, and how we can take care of each other. Outstanding feline puppetry and masterful music make this a show you and your family won't want to miss! As Jay Brazeau so eloquently puts it, "*The Cat Came Back* is like Kraft Dinner: I grew up with it; it makes me feel good inside, and every time I have it I feel like I am home again."

Tickets, from \$10, can be reserved online at vancouverplayhouse.com, by calling the Playhouse Box Office at **604 873 3311**, or in person at the **theatre box office** Monday - Friday, 9:30am-5pm.

THE COMPANY

FRED PENNER (Co-Creator, Actor, Musician) is an internationally recognized children's artist whose career achievements include over 20 albums, a long-running CBC show for kids (*Fred Penner's Place* 1985-1997), a Gemini Award nomination, eight Juno Award nominations, seven picture books for children, and the list goes on. In 1991, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada and in 2011, a Member of the Order of Manitoba.

JAY BRAZEAU (Co-Creator, Actor, Musician) is easily one of Canada's most recognizable actors. Jay has performed across North America as a film, television, and stage actor starring in innumerable theatrical

productions (MTC's *Fiddler on the Roof*, Mirvish Production's *Hairspray*) across North America as well as in movies (*Best in Show*, *Watchmen*, *Muppet Christmas Carol*) and television (*The West Wing*, *Stargate*).

KIM SELODY (Co-Creator, Director). For the past 20 years, Kim has worked as a writer, director and actor across Canada, United States, England, and The Netherlands. Kim has served as Artistic Director of The Playwrights Theatre Centre, Carousel Players and is the present Artistic Director of Presentation House Theatre. Works developed for MTYP include *Comet in Moominland*, *The Hobbit*, *Silverwing*, *Rocks*, *House at Pooh Corner*, and *Where the Wild Things Are*, among others.

LINDA LEON (Set and Costume Designer, Puppet Co-Designer). For four decades, Linda's work has played on stage and screen across the country. For MTYP, Linda has designed set and costumes for over 20 productions. Select design credits include: *Russell's World*, *Martha* (starring Nicola Cavendish), *A Story Before Time* (Kahawii Dance Theatre), and *Café Daughter* (Gwandaak Theatre). Linda's inventive design of *The Hobbit* opened MTYP's 30th Anniversary Season.

SCOTT HENDERSON (Lighting Designer) has worked in theatres from Ottawa to Victoria including the Stratford and Shaw Festivals. In Winnipeg, Scott designs continuously for MTC, PTE, MTYP, and Manitoba Opera. Scott is responsible for the innovative lighting designs featured in *The Hobbit* that opened MTYP's 30th Anniversary Season.

SHAWN KETTNER (Puppet Co-Designer and Builder) has been designing, building and teaching puppet-making for over 28 years. Patient Puppets (Shawn's company) provides puppets for sick children in all corners of the planet. Her handiwork can be found at MTYP and she has created puppets for *The House at Pooh Corner*, *Comet in Moominland*, etc.

PAUL O'NEILL (Musical Director, Musician). As a Manitoba based producer, arranger and writer, Paul has produced two of Fred's albums and has been a featured guitar and mandolin player on many Canadian artists' albums for decades.

PAUL HOOSON (Puppeteer, Musician). Former student of Marcel Marceau and Etienne Decroux, Paul's animatronic and puppetry manipulation have been seen in everything from *Stargate Atlantis*, *I Robot*, to *Scary Movie III*. Paul founded the Therapeutic Clown Doctor Program in B.C. as well as the company Cirque Alexander, and has worked across Europe, Australia and Canada.

JESSEE HAVEY (Puppeteer, Musician) has performed internationally as the lead singer of *The Duhks* for five years, recording three albums which earned her a Juno Award and Grammy Award nomination. "It's surreal that I grew up with this song as the soundtrack to my childhood and now I have the honour of bringing this cat to life" says Havey.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Date/Time

MARCH 31 1pm & 7pm

APRIL 2 - 5 10:30am

Suitable for 3 – 10 year olds

Single Ticket Prices (all inclusive): 17 and under: \$10 // 18+: \$18

CALL 604 873 3311

ONLINE vancouverplayhouse.com

IN PERSON Mon.-Fri., 9:30am-5pm

GROUPS (10+) CALL 604 637 3094 or groups@vancouverplayhouse.com

ALL AUDIENCE MEMBERS MUST HAVE A TICKET. NO BABES IN ARMS.

The Cat Came Back is generously sponsored by **The Vancouver Sun** and **CBC** (Media Sponsors), and **Book Warehouse** (Promotional Sponsor).

Manitoba Theatre for Young People has been creating and presenting professional productions for children and families since 1982. Led by Artistic Director Leslee Silverman since its inception, MTYP has grown to become one of the most respected professional theatre companies in Canada, for children and adults. www.mtyp.ca

*The **Vancouver Playhouse Theatre Company** is British Columbia's premier regional theatre company, producing engaging plays of the highest calibre since 1962. www.vancouverplayhouse.com*

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