

**Imagination Stage presents *Anatole: Mouse Magnifique*: a cheesy musical adventure!**

**February 9 – March 24, 2019**

***Performed in Repertory with Dickens's Davy Copperfield***

BETHESDA, MD (January 22, 2019) Imagination Stage travels to France this February with a live production based on the popular children's books *Anatole* and *Anatole and the Cat* by Eve Titus. In this whimsical musical adventure directed by DC actor and director Tom Story, Anatole - the best cheese-taster in all of France - and his best friend Gaston set out to save the Duval cheese factory, only to discover something much scarier than moldy Brie lurking in the tasting room!

"Music, humor, giant cheese- even a rodent SWAT team- this show has something for everyone," says director Tom Story. "I am delighted to share this story that illustrates that sometimes it's the smallest among us who are capable of the biggest acts of bravery."

***Anatole: Mouse Magnifique*, best for ages 4+, runs February 9 to March 24, 2019** in Imagination Stage's Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Theatre. This performance is performed in repertory with *Dickens's Davy Copperfield* Tickets are \$15-35 and may be purchased online at [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org), at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660. Group rates are available.

**Press are invited to attend opening night on February 9 at 7:00 p.m.**

Photos are available upon request.

Contact [press@imaginationstage.org](mailto:press@imaginationstage.org) for more information or to RSVP for opening night.

#### **ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM**

***Anatole: Mouse Magnifique*** features a star-studded cast of acclaimed actors, who will also be performing in *Dickens's Davy Copperfield*. Previously seen at Imagination Stage in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *Looking for Roberto Clemente*, **Jaysen Wright** plays Anatole, adding to an impressive resume with credits at Theater J, Ford's Theatre and Arena Stage, among others. Making his Imagination Stage debut, **David Schlumpf** plays Gaston. Schlumpf's previous credits include Buddy the Elf in *Elf* at Olney Theatre Center, as well as numerous credits in Chicago, including with Goodman Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theater. Returning to Imagination Stage after starring as Belle in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, **Jessica Lauren Ball** will play Doucette and Charlemagne. Previous credits include the national tour of *The Pajama Game* in addition to regional credits at The Kennedy Center, Olney Theatre Center, and others. Last seen at Imagination Stage in *The Little Mermaid*, and with previous credits at Olney Theatre Center, The Studio Theatre, and Theater J, **Emily Kester** plays Duval. Returning to Imagination Stage after originating the role of Rani in *The Princess & The Pauper: A Bollywood Tale*, **Alexandra Palting** plays Mlle. Bouvier. Previous credits include Olney Theatre Center and Keegan Theatre. Making her Imagination Stage debut and with previous credits at

Adventure Theatre MTC, **Sophie Schulman** plays the factory foreman and others. Rounding out the cast, **Chris Rudy** returns to Imagination Stage in the role of Steve and others. Previous credits include Olney Theatre Center and The Studio Theatre.

**Making his Imagination Stage debut, Tom Story** directs *Anatole: Mouse Magnifique*. As an actor, Tom has appeared in more than 70 plays and received seven Helen Hayes Awards nominations. He has directed at American University, The Studio Theatre, The Berkshire Theatre Group, Adventure Theatre MTC, Roundhouse Theatre, and Solas Nua. The creative team consists of Music Director **Deborah Jacobson**, Choreographer **Britta Joy Peterson**, Scenic Designer **Andrew Cohen**, Costume Designer **Kendra Rai**, Lighting Designer **Max Doolittle**, Sound Designer **Justin Schmitz**, Dialect Coach **Tonya Beckman** and Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**. **Graciela Rey** serves as Assistant Choreographer, and **Tosin Olufolabi** serves as Assistant Sound Designer.

## SHOW SCHEDULE

### February 9- February 10

- Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

### February 23- February 24

- Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

### March 9- March 24

- Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**Sensory-Friendly performance:** March 10, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

**ASL-Interpreted performance:** March 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.

Please call 301-280-1660 for more information and to ensure proper seat location for the Sensory-Friendly and ASL-Interpreted performances.

**Tickets: \$15-35+; best for ages 4+**

## LOCATION

4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

Parking: Metered parking in the adjacent public parking garage; parking is free on weekends

Metro: Red Line/Bethesda Station

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook.com/ImaginationStage

Twitter.com/I\_Stage

Instagram.com/imaginationstage

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**ABOUT IMAGINATION STAGE**

Founded in 1979, Imagination Stage is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to inspire creativity through theatre and arts education programs that nurture, challenge, and empower young people of all abilities. It offers year-round professional theatre for young audiences and classes in creative drama/acting, musical theatre, dance, and filmmaking for ages 1-18.

[www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org)