

Imagination Stage presents *Dickens's Davy Copperfield*
A World Premiere Production from Imagination Stage
Founding Artistic Director Janet Stanford
February 16 – March 31, 2019

Performed in Repertory with Anatole: Mouse Magnifique

BETHESDA, MD (January 18, 2019) Travel to nineteenth century England in this world premiere adaptation of Charles Dickens's most autobiographical novel, *David Copperfield*. Imagination Stage Founding Artistic Director Janet Stanford and composer Timothy Guillot have transformed this masterwork of classical literature into a musical adventure perfect for families with children ages 6 and older. This new work highlights themes of resilience and finding your own loving family, following young Davy as he journeys from his home with his mother, to boarding school, to working in a London bottling factory, to an epic escape across the English countryside.

"I am excited to share this Charles Dickens masterpiece with our audience. While the setting is nineteenth century England, the themes of resilience and creativity are timeless," says director Janet Stanford. "Children, like plants, must grow towards the light, and Davy Copperfield shows us how."

***Dickens's Davy Copperfield*, best for ages 6+, runs February 16 to March 31, 2019** in Imagination Stage's Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Theatre. Tickets are \$15-35 and may be purchased online at www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660. Group rates are available.

Press performance of ***Dickens's Davy Copperfield*** is on **February 17 at 1:30 p.m.**

Press tickets and photos are available upon request.

Contact press@imaginationstage.org for more information.

ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

Dickens's Davy Copperfield features a star-studded cast of acclaimed actors who will also perform in *Anatole: Mouse Magnifique*. Making her Imagination Stage debut, **Sophie Schulman** plays Davy. An experienced performer for young audiences, Schulman previously appeared as Sal in *Blueberries for Sal* as well as in *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day* and *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook* at Adventure Theatre MTC. **Alexandra Palting** returns to Imagination Stage after originating the role of Rani in *The Princess & The Pauper: A Bollywood Tale*. Previous credits include Olney Theatre Center and Keegan Theatre. Returning to Imagination Stage after starring as Belle in *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*, **Jessica Lauren Ball**, whose previous credits include the national tour of *The Pajama Game*, also joins the cast. Joining her is **Emily Kester**, who previously appeared at Imagination Stage in *The Little Mermaid* and has performed at Olney Theatre Center, The Studio Theatre, and Theater J. Also returning after appearing in *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* and *Looking for Roberto Clemente*,

Jaysen Wright performs in the ensemble, adding to an impressive resume with credits at Theater J, Ford's Theater, and Arena Stage. Making his Imagination Stage debut, **David Schlumpf** rounds out the ensemble. His previous credits include Buddy the Elf in *Elf* at Olney Theater Centre, as well as numerous credits in Chicago, including with Goodman Theatre and Chicago Shakespeare Theatre.

Imagination Stage Founding Artistic Director and Dickens's Davy Copperfield playwright **Janet Stanford** directs the production. The creative team consists of Music Director and Composer **Timothy Guillot**, Movement Choreographer **Robert Bowen Smith**, Scenic Designer **Andrew Cohen**, Costume Designer **Katie Touart**, Lighting Designer **Max Doolittle**, Sound Designer **Justin Schmitz**, and Stage Manager **Che Wernsman**. **Tosin Olufolabi** serves as Assistant Sound Designer.

SHOW SCHEDULE

February 16- February 17

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

March 3- March 2

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

March 30- March 31

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

ASL-Interpreted performance: March 31, 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

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#IStageDavy

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