

**My First Imagination Stage Presents *Wake Up, Brother Bear*,
an Interactive Performance for Ages 1-5
January 11–February 17, 2019**

BETHESDA, MD (December 20, 2018) This January, Imagination Stage celebrates 10 years of Theatre for the Very Young with a reimagined production of the show that started it all, ***Wake Up, Brother Bear!*** Directed by Associate Artistic Director **Kathryn Chase Bryer**, this audience favorite takes children ages one to five on an interactive journey accompanied by live music.

“Artistic Director Janet Stanford and I are so excited to revisit ***Wake Up, Brother Bear*** in its 10th Anniversary! We started Theatre for the Very Young at Imagination Stage in 2009, collaborating to write and direct this sensory-based, highly-participatory theatre piece. This season, we will present a revitalized version of this story with all new design in set, costumes, and music,” says director **Kathryn Chase Bryer**, “finding innovative and artistic ways to engage our smallest audience members in the warm and magical story of Brother Bear and Sister Bear as they travel through the seasons.”

Devised by Imagination Stage in 2009, ***Wake Up, Brother Bear*** fosters a memorable experience for the very young through dramatic play and interaction. Children are invited to respond to Sister Bear and Brother Bear throughout the show and participate using props, working together to meet a curious butterfly, play in a rushing waterfall, and catch lightning bugs as the bears frolic through the forest.

Wake Up, Brother Bear, best for ages 1-5, runs in Imagination Stage’s Christopher and Dana Reeve Studio Theatre **January 11 through February 17**. Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$14 at the door. Tickets may be purchased online at www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or by calling 301-280-1660.

Returning to My First Imagination Stage after their performance in *Boxes, Boxes, Boxes* and the bilingual version *Cajas, Cajas, Cajas*, beloved actor-puppeteers **Alex Vernon** and **Sarah Olmsted Thomas** will play Brother and Sister Bear. **Moira Todd**, previously seen at Imagination Stage as Fern in *Charlotte’s Web*, will provide live music.

Press tickets and photos are available upon request.

Press performance: January 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Contact press@imaginationstage.org for more information.

ABOUT MY FIRST IMAGINATION STAGE

My First Imagination Stage focuses on ages 1-5, recognizing “play” as the “work” of early childhood development. Through live performances, workshops, and classes, *My First Imagination Stage* creates fun and developmentally exciting experiences for the very young and their caregivers. A national leader in **Theatre for the Very Young**, Imagination Stage began focusing on the youngest of theatergoers in 2009 with the world premiere of *Wake Up, Brother Bear*. To date, *My First Imagination Stage* has welcomed guest artists from Italy, Great Britain, and Germany, and has developed many acclaimed world premiere productions including *Wake Up, Brother Bear*, *Mouse on the Move*, *Inside Out*, and *Blue*. Just like its audiences, *My First Imagination Stage* keeps growing!

SHOW SCHEDULE

Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

ASL-Interpreted performance February 17 at 11:15 a.m.
Tickets: \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door; best for ages 1-5.

LOCATION

4908 Auburn Avenue, Bethesda, MD

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

Metro: Red Line/Bethesda Station

2019 My First Imagination Stage Schedule

Wake Up, Brother Bear (10th Anniversary Performance)

January 11 – February 17, 2019

Aquarium

March 30 – April 14, 2019

Balloonacy

July 6 – August 4, 2019

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