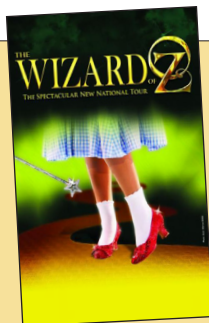


toddles & tidbits



Local munchkins perform in beloved "Oz" tale

Twelve local children will perform the roles of "munchkins" when NETworks Presentations' production of *The Wizard of Oz* touches down in the Lowcountry Jan. 9–10 at the North Charleston Performing Arts Center.

This magical production of what is widely regarded as the greatest family musical of all time is based on the Royal Shakespeare Company's celebration of the 1939 MGM movie. It is presented with breathtaking special effects that will sweep audiences away from the moment the tornado twists its way into Kansas.

Singing timeless classics such as "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead," local children help bring this beloved classic to the stage of their hometown as part of their continuing performing arts education.

Tickets are \$30–\$60 plus applicable fees and may be purchased at the Coliseum Ticket Office, Ticketmaster outlets or by phone 800-745-3000 or online at ticketmaster.com.

PHOTO BY JOAN MARCUS



JAN. DVD RELEASES APPEAL TO KIDS AND ADULTS

Two great features for kids will be coming to DVD this month: "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and "The Backyardigans: Join the Adventurers Club."

If you didn't catch "Cloudy" in the theater in 3D, the Blu-ray DVD is your chance to see the film in its original beauty. In this stunningly animated flick, scientist Flint Lockwood tries to solve world hunger only to see everything go awry as food falls from the sky in abundance. Plenty of recognizable voices include James Caan, Anna Faris, Andy Samberg and the lovable Mr. T. Fun for kids and adults alike. Based on the best-selling children's book by Judi Barrett. Rated PG for brief mild language.

If you don't have a preschooler in the house you may not be familiar with the Backyardigans, a fun group of characters who create musical adventures in their common backyard. This is another feature that's fun for everyone. The Backyardigans choreography is actually animated using live footage of dancers recorded in the studio — Pablo, Uniqua, Tyrone, Tasha and Austin show off some snappy moves. "Adventurers Club" includes four exhilarating musical adventures.

Both "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and "The Backyardigans: Join the Adventurers Club" will be released Jan. 5.

CREATIVE SPARK TEAMS WITH SPROUTS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Sprouts Children's Theatre, a company of professional artists, has moved to Charleston and will present original musicals for children ages 4 and older at Creative Spark in Mount Pleasant. Sprouts originated in Boston in the 1980s and has grown into a repertoire of more than two dozen original musicals adapted from classic fairy tales or developed as original material by Artistic Director Stan Gill. The company has performed engaging shows around the world offering lively audience participation sequences and high-energy chase scenes. Tickets for individual shows are \$10 per person or \$8.50 per person for the Sprouts' entire series. Sprout will present *Hansel & Gretel* Jan. 15–24. Visit CreativeSpark.com for show times, tickets and more information.



oopsy daisy! beautiful baby!

This Junior Jetsetter Rinse Free On the Go Set is a convenient kit that has everything you need for a quick cleanup anytime, anywhere. The kit includes a 4.3 oz bottle of both High Chair Hair Care Rinse Free Shampoo and No Bath Bubble Bath Rinse Free Body Wash. Packaged in a vinyl carrying case with a super-soft micro fiber towel. Perfect for every mom's diaper bag, beach bag, sports bag or Grandma's house. Retail for \$22 and available at www.oopsydaisybb.com.

ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

toddles & tidbits

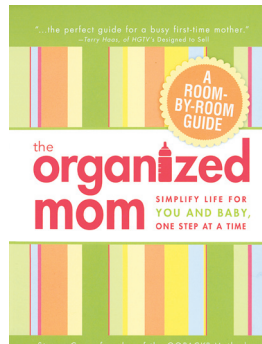
Creativity is in the bag

Kidsack is an eco-friendly, reusable and creative backsack that is screen-printed with original designs and packaged with eight washable markers. Kids on the go can color the sack, wash it and color it again. Made in the U.S.A. with 100 percent recycled fabric. Retail for \$19.95 and up. Available at www.kidsack.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY FOOTLIGHT PLAYERS

STREAMLINE YOUR LIFE



HELP FOR BUSY MOMS

The journey of motherhood requires quite a bit of baggage. The accumulation of baby items can be overwhelming. "The Organized Mom: Simplify Life for You and Baby, One Step at a Time" addresses each room in the house and includes essential tips for getting ready and organized for a new baby. Organizing expert and author

Stacey Crew shows new moms exactly what they need and where they should put it. This book includes helpful worksheets and forms to keep even the busiest mom on track. Published by Adams Media. Retail for \$15.95 at Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com and borders.com. For more information, visit StaceyCrew.com.

ARE YOU READY FOR A MIRACLE?

Enjoy the uplifting, true story of Annie Sullivan and Helen Keller when The Footlight Players presents *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson Jan. 22–Feb. 7.

Winner of the 1960 Tony Award for Best Play, *The Miracle Worker* explores the essence of dignity, hope, possibilities, and what people can accomplish under even the most adverse of conditions. This timeless story has captured hearts for more than 50 years and is simply described as "magnificent theatre." The play is recommended for ages 6 and older.

The Footlight Players is located at 20 Queen St. in downtown Charleston. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$15 for students.

For more information visit www.footlightplayers.net.

recalls



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866-544-9721



**Evenflo
Exersaucer**
800-233-5921



Snap Beads
800-404-4744



**Monday the
Bullfrog Plush
Books**
800-732-9531

91%

The percentage of fourth-graders in large city schools that received five or more hours of mathematics instruction per week in 2009, as compared to 85 percent nationally.

Source: *The Nation's Report Card: Mathematics 2009 Trial Urban District Assessment*

Visit www.LowcountryParent.com for more news, blogs and the latest recalls.