

It's Lunacy on the High C's as NWCT presents *Moby Dick the Musical!*

NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL

NW Neighborhood
Cultural Center
1819 NW Everett Street
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Portland, OR 97209-2189

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www.nwcts.org

*Our mission—to educate,
entertain and enrich the lives
of young audiences*

Managing Director
Judy Kafoury

Interim Artistic Director
Sarah Jane Hardy

Education Director
Carolyn Newsom

Volunteer Director
Diane Carlson

St. Godley's School for Young Ladies is in trouble! Funds are scarce, and their unflappable Headmistress is in a state! But these resourceful girls and (gasp!) some boys have a plan to keep their school 'afloat.' They'll save St. Godley's by bringing America's greatest novel to lucrative life in their very own stage production of *Moby Dick the Musical!* With a press gang of students, smuggled boys and the Headmistress herself as Captain Ahab, the motley crew nearly sinks Melville's masterpiece with cobbled costumes, second-hand sets, and makeshift music while hot on the trail of literature's most famous whale.

Directed by Sarah Jane Hardy, ably assisted by Northwest Children's Theater and School's (NWCT) veteran Erik James, and with music direction by Phil Hilfiker, this charmingly irreverent show runs roughshod with hilarious results. Choreographers Lizz Brown and NWCT protégé Elizabeth Gibbs are having a whale of a time with a cast comprised entirely of NWCT teen and young adult performers, showcasing their talents as actors, singers and dancers.

John Ellingson, late of the NWCT stage as The Cat in the Hat in this year's *Seussical*, stars as the Headmistress who joins forces with the criminal element that are her very own boarding-school girls, played by the likes of NWCT students Emily Cawley as Ishmael, Athena Patterson as Esta, Lizzie Malarkey as Queequeg, Brendan Robinson and Pip, and Alexis Rhiannon as Starbuck.

From the shores of Nantucket to the decks of the Pequod, no chapter is sacred as the Headmistress and her 'little barracudas' tumble through the world of whalers and their quest to 'kill the devil fish' in the name of saving their home. This ensemble piece, complete with a nautically inspired set by John Anderberg and sea-worthy lights by Alexz Eccles, assures the fearless students of St. Godley's will succeed in their 'noble craft' come hell or high water—or both! Critics call the play "exuberant," "sheer brilliance" and "lunacy on the high C's!"

Moby Dick the Musical! is made possible by the generous support of The Collins Foundation, OPB and K103.

book, music and lyrics by Robert Longden and Hereward Kaye, directed by Sarah Jane Hardy

When: July 14-Aug. 6, 2006
Fridays 8 p.m. • Saturdays 8 p.m. & 11 p.m. • Sundays 2 p.m.

Where: Performances will be at the air-conditioned space at Artists Repertory Theatre, second stage, 1515 SW Morrison, Portland

Tickets: 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

Age Range: Most enjoyed by ages 12 and up

Prices: \$20 adults, \$16 for youth (14 & under)

Info: 503-222-4480 or WWW.NWCTS.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Release Date
June 9, 2006

Kill Date
August 7, 2006

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NWCT at Artists Repertory Theatre, second stage, 1515 SW Morrison, Portland

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high resolution photos online at: <http://www.nwcts.org/html/about.html#press>

#05 “Land ho!” Brendan Robinson and John Ellingson ham it up as Pip and Saint Godley’s Headmistress (respectively) in NWCT’s *Moby Dick the Musical!*

#08, 11, 13 A whale of a tale! The Headmistress of Saint Godley’s (John Ellingson, here as Captain Ahab) delves into Melville’s masterpiece with her erstwhile ‘cast’: (clockwise from top) Ishmael (Emily Cawley), Flask (Danielle Poland), Esta (Athena Patterson), a Sailor (Hillary Marler), and Stubb (Cameron Peart).

#20, 22 (Clockwise from middle) Public enemy! Emily Cawley, Athena Patterson, Danielle Poland, Cameron Peart and Hillary Marler are the criminal element personified in NWCT’s *Moby Dick the Musical!*

#24, 26 The Headmistress of St. Godley’s (John Ellingson) hopes to keep her school ‘afloat’ with whale of a fundraiser. (Pictured here with Jacob Stichman, Brendan Robinson, Matt Miller and Travis Brown).

#32 ‘Boarding’ school: The Headmistress of St. Godley’s (John Ellingson) strives to keep her school ‘afloat’ with *Moby Dick the Musical!*

#42, 46 The ultimate party boat: St. Godley’s Headmistress (John Ellingson) and her cast of Melvillian characters (Jacob Stichman, Brendan Robinson, Matt Miller and Travis Brown).

#59 Everybody limbo! Headmistress John Ellingson (center) with her boarding school cast of *Moby Dick* put music to Melville’s masterpiece. (from left: Travis Brown, Hillary Marler, Danielle Poland, Jacob Stichman, Emily Cawley, Cameron Peart, Brendan Robinson, Matt Miller and Athena Patterson).

#62 A motley crew: The girls of St. Godley’s (with help from their Headmistress and (gasp!) some boys!) bring Melville’s whale of a tale to life in *Moby Dick- the Musical!* (Pictured: John Ellingson (center) with (from left) Hillary Marler, Emily Cawley, Danielle Poland, Travis Brown, Jacob Stichman, Athena Patterson, Cameron Peart, Matt Miller, and Brendan Robinson (front).

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