

James and the Giant Peach Planned April 24-26 at SWOSU

04.11.2014

James and the Giant Peach will be staged April 24-26 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Members of the cast/company are: front from left—Kierston Rodriquez, Weatherford; Chelsey Hardin, Cordell; and Merritt Taylor, Cordell. Middle row from left—Steven Doughty, Yukon; Calley Lamar, Okeene; Isabella Jennings, Oklahoma City (NW Classen); Monica Sallaway, Claremore; and Sheri Flowers, Graham TX. Back row from left—Corianne Fairchild, Leedey; Rhiannon Jensen, Woodward; Amber Hayes, Howe TX; Wes Hayes, Howe TX; Joshua Ramos, Tulsa (Union); and Mary Hertzal, Weatherford.

James and the Giant Peach will be featured April 24-26 by the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Department of Art Communication and Theatre in Weatherford.

The popular children's book by Roald Dahl has been adapted for the stage by Richard R. George and will be presented on Thursday and Friday evenings, April 24-25, at 7 p.m. and Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the SWOSU Hilltop Theatre. Tickets go on sale April 14.

Steve Strickler, director of the SWOSU production, said many know the story of James and his insect friends and their amazing adventures inside the magical peach. All of the characters from the story are found in the classic play: Aunt Sponge, Aunt Spiker, Old-Green-Grasshopper, Silkworm, Centipede, Spider, Ladybug, Earthworm, Glow-worm and many others.

The cast includes Monica Sallaway, Claremore, as the young James Henry Trotter and his parents portrayed by Rhiannon Jensen, Woodward, and Calley Lamar, Okeene. James' mean aunts—Sponge & Spiker—are played by Merritt Taylor, Cordell, and Steven Doughty, Yukon.

The inhabitants of the giant peach include: Corianne Fairchild, Leedey, as Ladybug; Chelsey Hardin, Cordell, as Centipede; Amber Hayes, Howe (TX) as Spider; Wes Hayes, Howe (TX), as Old Green Grasshopper; Mary Hertzal, Weatherford, as Glowworm; and Joshua Ramos, Tulsa, as Earthworm.

Joining Jensen, Lamar and Taylor as Sharks and Cloud-Men is Isabella Jennings, Oklahoma City. Taking the audience through the story is the narrator portrayed by Kierston Rodriquez, Weatherford. Sheri Flowers, Graham (TX), serves as stage manager and costume/makeup designer. The unique scenic/lighting design is a team effort between Fairchild, Hardin and Taylor. In addition to her various roles, Jennings is also co-designer for costumes. Sallaway also serves as dramaturg and graphics designer.

The SWOSU production is under the supervision of Technical Director Dr. Joe Thompson and Strickler.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for non-SWOSU students and free for individuals with a valid SWOSU ID. Box Office hours are Monday through Friday 4 – 7 p.m. For more information or to make reservations, please call 580.774.6046.