



For Immediate Release

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EISEMANN CENTER'S FAMILY THEATRE SERIES
PRESENTS "STELLALUNA" JAN. 18, 2009 at 2:30 PM

RICHARDSON, TX – The Eisemann Center's **Family Theatre Series** will present *Stellaluna* from the book of same title written by **Janell Cannon** on Sunday, January 18, 2009 at 2:30 pm in the Hill Performance Hall. *Stellaluna* is a production of **Kids Entertainment**, and will be presented as a puppet show.

Baby bat *Stellaluna's* life is flitting along right on schedule--until an owl attacks her mother one night, knocking the bewildered batlet out of her mother's loving grasp. The tiny bat is lucky enough to land in a nest of baby birds, but her whole world has just turned upside down. Literally. *Stellaluna's* adoptive bird mom accepts her into her nest, but only on the condition that *Stellaluna* will act like a bird, not a bat. Soon *Stellaluna* has learned to behave like a good bird should—she quits hanging by her feet and starts eating bugs. But when she finally has an opportunity to show her bird siblings what life as a bat is like, all of them are confounded. Anyone who has ever been asked to be someone they're not will understand the conflicts and possibilities *Stellaluna* faces.

Janell Cannon created *Stellaluna* (1994) in hopes that she would transform young people's fear of bats into informed affection. "Fruit bats don't drink blood and won't get caught in your hair. I hope to show them in a positive light so that they might be given more respect," she says. Janell points out in the book that fruit bats benefit our environment as they pollinate plants while foraging for nectar and distribute, through their droppings, seeds from fruit eaten whole. The artist and writer also wanted to touch readers with a story about a friendship shared by two different kinds of creatures, a bat and three baby birds. Cannon likens the book to "a mirror, so that anyone who looks into it will see their own story their own way." She never suspected her book would become a runaway bestseller. After the success of *Stellaluna*, Janell left her job at the library in order to devote more time to writing and illustrating books. She was happy finally to have the opportunity to tell the adventures of one of the mysterious, gentle creatures who entered her imagination more than ten years ago.

Tickets range from \$10-\$20 and are available online at www.eisemanncenter.com or by calling **the Eisemann Center Ticket Office at 972-744-4650**. The Ticket Office is open from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm Monday – Saturday and one hour before performances. Group discounts for 10 or more are available by calling 972-744-4657.

The Charles W. Eisemann Center is located at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, Texas. **The Eisemann Center** is accessible from Highway 75 North taking the Galatyn Parkway/Renner Road exit going north and the Galatyn Parkway/Campbell Road exit going south, or from the DART light rail station at Galatyn Park. **Family Theatre Series** season sponsors include *The Dallas Morning News*, *North Texas Kids*, *Richardson Living* and *WFAA-TV*.

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