

EISEMANN CENTER'S FAMILY THEATRE SERIES PRESENTS
"STREGA NONA: THE MUSICAL" SUN., NOV. 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM

RICHARDSON, TX – *Strega Nona: The Musical* is based on the children's books by Tomie dePaola and produced by Maximum Entertainment in association with Active Arts Theater for Young Audiences and will appear on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at 2:30 pm. *Strega Nona* is the musical tale of a friendly magical witch with a funny name who strives to cure the ills of her tiny Italian town of Calabria. The baker has bunions "as big as an onion," his daughter wishes for witchery, and the local single ladies are always unlucky in love. The town faces real problems when a local lug named Big Anthony sneaks a peek at *Strega Nona's* magic book and uses *Strega Nona's* magical ways for selfish means. When Anthony fools with the magic pasta pot, and can't figure out how to turn it off, pasta threatens to engulf the whole town — unless *Strega Nona* can save the day. With an energetic and tuneful score, this fantastical tale teaches that witches can be good, and that and you can't judge a pot by its pasta!

Tomie dePaola, author has been published for 40 years and has written and/or illustrated over 200 books, including *26 Fairmount Avenue*, *Strega Nona*, and *Meet the Barkers*. Best known for his books for children, his work has been recognized with the Caldecott Honor Award, the Newbery Honor Award and the New Hampshire Governor's Arts Award of Living Treasure. One of four children, dePaola was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut into an Irish/Italian family. From an early age, dePaola was renowned for his love of the arts whether it was drawing, writing, singing or dancing. His strong family ties and encouragement from both his mother and brother are said to be the big influence in dePaola's development of his talent as an artist. With his mother reading to him daily, he developed a gift for creating his own books for his younger siblings. As he grew, he maintained his love of the arts through art classes and creating for exhibitions, theatre productions, and other unique projects. DePaola also works as an actor and has made multiple appearances in children's programming has appeared in several episodes of *Barney & Friends* as himself.

Thomas Olson and Roberta Carlson's theatrical adaptation of dePaola's *Strega Nona* stories was originally developed as a touring production for the renowned Children's Theatre Company in Minneapolis. This lively musical about a magical Italian grandmother and her mischievous apprentice boasts a score by Aron Accurso, an award-winning member of the famed BMI Lehman Engel Musical Theatre Workshop in New York. Throughout the creation of the musical as well as its rehearsal process, Tomie dePaola was involved giving creative color and inspiration to the story's evolution. It has always been important to bring the musical to the audiences that it was meant for.

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 title sponsor **Friends of the Richardson Library**, **Target** and media sponsors *The Dallas Morning News*, *North Texas Kids* and *WFAA-TV*.

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