

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **The Important Mission Begins at ASF with *Winnie the Pooh!***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MONTGOMERY, AL (Jan. 2, 2008) The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is about to set out on A Very Important Mission – to bring to life one of the most memorable collections of childhood stories, *Winnie the Pooh*. Joined by his friends from the Hundred Acre Wood, Winnie the Pooh will take audiences on a journey of love and friendship on the Octagon Stage from January 12 to February 24.

This faithful adaptation of A.A. Milne’s original stories features a set designed by Master of Fine Arts graduate student Brave Williams to resemble a pop-up book based on Milne’s original drawings. Costume designer Rosa Lazaro (who also designed the costumes for *Gee’s Bend*) also took cues from the original drawings to create the adorable combination of period clothing and touchable, soft ears and tails for the stuffed-animals-come-to-life characters.

The 2009 Graduate Acting Company comprises the cast of this endearing children’s production, including Jarrod Yuskauskus as Winnie the Pooh, Gregory Spradlin as Christopher Robin, Matt Renskers as Rabbit, Chris Roe as Piglet, Cory Coleman as Roo, Graham Allen as Owl, Patrick Vest as Eeyore and Lauren Martin as Kanga.

This adaptation of *Winnie the Pooh* is dramatized by le Clanché du Rand and based on the stories by A.A. Milne with music by Allan J. Friedman and lyrics by A.A. Milne, Kristin Sergel and additional lyrics by le Clanché du Rand. The show is directed by ASF Associate Director Nancy Rominger (*Thinking of You*).

Tickets to *Winnie the Pooh* are on sale now. Curtain times are 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sundays. There are no public weekday performances. Youth tickets (under 18) are only \$17 and adult tickets are \$22. Special ticket rates are available for groups of 10 or more. For more information, call the ASF Box Office toll free at (800) 841-4273 or online at [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net).

The Alabama Shakespeare Festival is among the largest Shakespeare theatres in the world. Designated as The State Theatre of Alabama, ASF has been located in Montgomery since 1985 when it moved from Anniston as a result of Mr. and Mrs. Wynton M. Blount’s gift of a performing arts complex set in the 250-acre Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park.

This program/project has been made possible by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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## Fact Sheet

### *Winnie the Pooh*

From the stories of A.A. Milne

Dramatized by le Clanché du Rand

Music by Allan J. Friedman

Lyrics by A.A. Milne and Kristen Sergel

Additional lyrics by le Clanché du Rand

2007-2008 Season

Produced by the Alabama Shakespeare Festival

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**Dates:**                    **Previews:** January 12, 2008                    **Opening:** January 13, 2008

**Regular Performances:** Saturdays and Sundays only, January 20 – Feb 24. Saturday matinees at 2p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

**Prices:** Preview performance and Opening only \$19! Youth (under 18) tickets are \$17. Adult tickets are \$22. To purchase, call the ASF Box Office at (334) 271-5353 or toll-free at 1-800-841-4273. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net).

**Website:** [www.asf.net](http://www.asf.net);

**Location:** The Octagon Stage in the Carolyn Blount Theatre, home of the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, located in the Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park, on Woodmere Boulevard just off East Boulevard.

<b>Production Staff:</b>	<i>Director</i>	Nancy Rominger
	<i>Musical Director</i>	Brett Rominger
	<i>Scenic Designer</i>	Brave Williams
	<i>Costume Designer</i>	Rosa Lazaro
	<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Curtis Hodge
	<i>Sound Designer</i>	Richelle Thompson
	<i>Movement Consultant</i>	Denise Gabriel
	<i>Dramaturg</i>	Susan Willis
	<i>Voice and Dialect Coach</i>	Sarah Felder
	<i>Stage Manager</i>	Kerrie Reiber
	<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Melissa Van Swol

<b>Cast:</b>	<i>Pooh</i>	Jarrold Yuskauskus†
	<i>Christopher Robin</i>	Gregory Spradlin†
	<i>Rabbit</i>	Matt Renskers†
	<i>Piglet</i>	Chris Roe†
	<i>Roo</i>	Cory Coleman†
	<i>Owl</i>	Graham Allen†
	<i>Eeyore</i>	Patrick Vest†
	<i>Kanga</i>	Lauren Martin†

†Member of Graduate Acting Company

**Audience:** **Recommended for ages 4+.** All patrons must have a ticket, regardless of age. Babes in arms not admitted into the theatre.

**Synopsis:** Based on the original tales and drawings of A.A. Milne, this delightful show takes you into the Hundred Acre Wood with Christopher Robin, Pooh, Piglet, Kanga and Roo as they search for Eeyore's tail and set off on an Important Mission to catch the Heffalump.

**Setting:** The Hundred Acre Woods

**Co-Sponsors:** Giles Enterprises  
Jenkins Brick Company  
Sandra and Joe McInnes  
Hendricks Companies