

"Pippi Longstocking" to be presented at UCSD by the Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis

January 4, 1991

Contact: Ruth Baily, University Events Office, 534-4090 or Alixandra Williams, University Communications, 534-3120

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE COMPANY OF MINNEAPOLIS TO PRESENT THE CHILDREN'S CLASSIC, "PIPPI LONGSTOCKING"

The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis will present the classic children's tale, "Pippi Longstocking," at the University of California, San Diego's Mandeville Auditorium, at 8 p.m., Jan. 18.

This same theatre company two years ago performed its productions of the African folk tales "Kalulu" and "Rumpelstiltskin" to a sold-out house at Mandeville Auditorium.

Pippi Longstocking is a popular children's fictional character who has been the subject of a book, plays, and movies. She is visually identified by huge freckles and pigtailed that stand out from her head like red exclamation points. Her full name is Pippilotta Delicatessa Windowshade Mackrelmint Ephraim's Daughter Longstocking.

The mischief begins when Pippi moves by herself into the Swedish village Villa Villekulla where she lives alone with her pet monkey Mr. Nilsson and her horse, waiting for her father Captain Ephraim to return from his pirating expeditions.

The story was written by Swedish storyteller Astrid Lindgren, who was born to a farm family in 1907.

Lindgren's story writing abilities evolved after she told and retold the tale to her children, Lars and Karin, and their friends--in much the same manner as L. Frank Baum developed his all-time classic story, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."

The Children's Theatre Company tours with fully mounted productions and highly accomplished casts. Each tour production performs at up to 70 venues yearly. "Pippi Longstocking," CTC's 1990-91 tour, premiered at CTC's 750-seat mainstage auditorium in Minneapolis in 1982 and was mounted there again in 1989. Before packing for a tour, which takes up to two years of planning, the costumes and props are tested and retested to ensure they hold up against the demands of 18 weeks on the road.

The Pippi Longstocking Tour Company consists of nine actors, including three young actors under the age of sixteen; a stage manager; company manager; lighting and sound crew; two drivers, and a certified tutor to help the young people on the tour with schoolwork. The roles of the children are double cast; there are two Pippis cast for the tour, and each ensemble of children is on the road for only two weeks at a time. The company travels in a bus for more than four months, with little free time between the nearly 70 "one night only" performances.

The 1990-91 tour of Pippi Longstocking marks the CTC's fifth and longest national tour since the annual program started in 1985. This tour is supported by 3M, the Blandin Foundation, The South Dakota Arts Council, and Arts Midwest members and friends.

Tickets for "Pippi Longstocking" are \$15 general admission, \$12 seniors and \$8 students, and may be purchased at the UCSD Box Office (534-4559) or from TicketMaster outlets. For information call 534-UCSD.

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