

Your Family Arts Center

DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER

C.S. Lewis' THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW

SYNOPSIS

Two Acts (about 80 minutes)

Before THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE there was THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW. Come to Dallas Children's Theater this spring and watch the adventures in Narnia begin onstage!

Act 1

In an attic of a London townhome, a magician, Uncle Andrew, is thrilled that his magic yellow and green rings appear to be working. His sister, Aunt Letty, interrupts to tell him to stop his work so as not to disturb their sister, Mrs. Kirke, who lies sick in the room below the attic. Later, Digory, the son of Mrs. Kirke, and Digory's friend, Polly, sneak into the attic. Uncle Andrew comes in and seems excited to see them. He tricks Polly into touching one of the yellow rings, and she disappears. Then, he convinces Digory to touch another yellow ring while bringing the green rings along in order to save his friend.

Digory finds himself in a different land and, thankfully, he also finds Polly. Although the green rings can take them home, Digory wants to explore before leaving. They see what appears to be a stone queen with a golden bell and hammer. Digory can't help himself - he has to know what will happen if he strikes the bell. Despite Polly's protests, he awakens evil Queen Jadis. She is surprised to see them, but tells them of her power and greedy conquests in Charn, a world she ruled long ago. She decides she will conquer Digory's and Polly's world as well. They try to escape by using the green rings, but Queen Jadis follows.

Back in London, they find themselves in the attic with Uncle Andrew. Queen Jadis is disappointed by the attic and lack of servants. After a tense exchange, Digory sees his chance to get Queen Jadis back to her land. He grabs hold of Queen Jadis while he tells Polly to touch him and the ring. Uncle Andrew also touches Queen Jadis just as they all disappear.

Intermission (15 minutes)

Act 2

Although they thought they were returning the queen to Charn, they actually arrive in an empty world. Aslan, the lion, arrives and begins to breathe life into the land that he names Narnia. Animals enter and honor Aslan. Digory and Polly can hear them speak,

but Uncle Andrew just hears animal noises. Queen Jadis looks into Aslan's eyes and then runs away in terror.

When Aslan asks, Digory admits that he is the one who brought Queen Jadis to Narnia. To make up for this bad deed, Aslan asks Digory to bring back an apple from a special tree on a hill. When he gets to the tree, Queen Jadis is there and tries to convince Digory to keep the fruit for himself or for his mother. But Digory resists the temptation and brings the apple to Aslan who tells Digory to throw the apple and, when he does, a magical tree rises up where the apple lands. Aslan allows Digory to pick an apple from the tree to take home to heal his mother.

As the animals sing praises to Narnia, Aslan sends Digory, Polly, and a sleeping Uncle Andrew back to London. At home, Digory brings the fruit to his mother, and when she takes a bite, she is instantly better. Digory and Polly resolve to bury the rings in order to protect Narnia.

Notes:

- This show is two acts and has one intermission.
- The play deals with mature themes, like death and war. Please read C.S. Lewis's *The Magician's Nephew* to learn more.
- There will be actors wearing animal masks in some parts of the play.