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# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Mainstreet Theatre Company Opens Fourth Season of Professional Theatre For Young Audiences With “If You Give A Mouse A Cookie,” September 26<sup>th</sup> At the Lewis Family Playhouse***

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 3, 2009**

**Rancho Cucamonga, California** - The MainStreet Theatre Company opens its fourth season of high-quality, professional theatre for young audiences, with the Southern California Premiere of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. The production opens September 26<sup>th</sup> and runs through October 10<sup>th</sup> at Rancho Cucamonga’s Lewis Family Playhouse at the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center, 12505 Cultural Center Drive. Laura Joffe Numeroff’s famous “early reader” book comes to life in this hilarious Jody Davidson adaptation starring Kelly Huddleston and Gavin Perry. John-David Keller directs.

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* is the mad-cap tale of an energetic mouse and a boy who quickly learns that his generosity has messy consequences. The innocent offering of a cookie to a small mouse goes from mishap to calamity to catastrophe. Crazy physicality takes place as the story unfolds at the boy’s house – an innovative set designed by Dwight Richard Odle.

“The show is a ‘frenetic physical adventure,’” said Mireya (Murry) Hepner, MainStreet Theatre Company producer. “We were looking for actors with gymnastic and/or circus skills and who were not afraid of heights. Our two-actor cast meets those requirements and more. The play really is a zany, exhaustive romp.”

**-More-**

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Kelly Huddleston (Mouse) returns to MainStreet after portraying the title role in *Dreams of Anne Frank* during MainStreet's second season. Her extensive background includes theatre roles such as Juliet and Celia in the Southworth Theatre productions of *Romeo and Juliet* and *As You Like It*, and numerous film and television roles including parts in *Dexter*, *Dirt* and *Mad Men*.

Gavin Perry (Boy) is new to MainStreet but has an impressive resume of theatre roles including the lead in "Suburbia" at Company of Angels, television shows, and has appeared in feature films such as *Boys Don't Cry* and *The Newton Boys*.

As with all their productions, The MainStreet Theatre Company has assembled a top-notch creative team. Director John-David Keller is best known for his directorial work with South Coast Repertory Theatre where he has been a resident artist for 35 years. He has directed their annual production of *A Christmas Carol* for 30 years. Set and costume designer Dwight Richard Odle's career includes working with South Coast Repertory for 22 years, an 11-year scenic and costume design residency at Laguna Playhouse and 15 McCoy-Rigby productions at the La Mirada Theatre. Lighting design is by Kim Killingsworth, and sound design and original music are by Vincent Olivieri.

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*, appropriate for ages four years and up, runs Saturday at 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., and one Sunday matinee October 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., which will also be interpreted in American Sign Language. The Playhouse also runs special weekday matinees for school children. Tickets are priced at \$16.50 for General admission, \$14.50 for Seniors and \$13.50 for Youth up to age 12. Specially priced \$8 tickets are available during the Target Family Weekend performances on September 26<sup>th</sup>.

An intimate, 536-seat venue, the Lewis Family Playhouse is the crown jewel of the three-acre, 89,000-square foot Victoria Gardens Cultural Center. The complex at 12505 Cultural Center Drive is conveniently located off the I-15 at Foothill Boulevard, as a major anchor of Victoria Gardens. The Box Office is open Monday through Thursday from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with free parking available.

**For More Information** – For additional information or to purchase tickets online, please visit [www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com](http://www.lewisfamilyplayhouse.com) or call the Box Office at (909) 477-2752 or (877) 858-8422. For reservations to the Press Opening, Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m., contact: Marketing Coordinator Annette Mumolo at (909) 477-2775 or via e-mail at [annette.mumolo@cityofrc.us](mailto:annette.mumolo@cityofrc.us)

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