

NTC

2733 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
612.341.0882
www.nationaltheatre.com

INSIDE:

NTC introduces six new shows starting this fall

NTC to work with former Treasury Department official to expand "Mad About Money" nationwide

Pat's Corner

2008-2009 NTC book winner

Kids say the darndest things

SPOTLIGHT

NTC Introduces Six New Shows this Fall

The National Theatre for Children is proud to introduce its new titles opening this school year:

- *Aqua League and the Drought Dilemma*
- *Adventures of the Blue Flame*
- *Boomerang Jack and the Top Secret Energy Caper*
- *The Energized Guyz in Daylight Savings Crime*
- *Showdown at Cash Canyon*
- *Invisible Invaders from Innerspace*

These six shows are available now for sponsorships throughout the country.

"It is always exciting to intro-



Nikki Neutron learns how to be more energy efficient to help defeat the evil, energy wasting Dragonfly.

duce new performances to students. These plays are high-energy and fun," says Jon Mikkelsen, Artistic Director at NTC. "All of the shows illustrate how to be safe, how to improve our lifestyles and ways to protect the environment. The stu-

dents get to interact directly with the characters and become a part of the show themselves."

In *Aqua League and the Drought Dilemma*, the Aqua League superheroes team up to defeat their nemesis The Drought. The program teaches kids about the im-



portance of water and how we use it every day. The characters talk about how water gets polluted and how it can be conserved to help improve the environment.

(continued on page 2)

NTC to work with former Treasury Department official to expand *Mad About Money* nationwide

The National Theatre for Children's popular *Mad About Money* program has taught tens of thousands of middle schoolers nationwide about the importance of using money wisely, but NTC won't stop until millions more know the difference between *needs* and *wants*. That's why NTC is happy to announce its new affiliation with The Financial Literacy Group, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm led by

former Treasury Department official Dan Iannicola.

Iannicola, who recently launched The Financial Literacy Group after serving five years as the Treasury Department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Education during the Bush administration, will work with NTC to expand the complete *Mad About Money* series including national TV, web content syndication and live theater

programs to 1,000 schools across the country. Not only will Iannicola help NTC secure sponsors for the *Mad About Money* series, he and his team will serve as subject-matter experts for the program, providing insight into new research on financial literacy and educational strategies.

"It's important to affiliate with top-notch organizations

(continued on page 3)

“Flu Prevention Show”

Health experts are concerned that we will see a spike in H1N1 cases this fall and winter. Students are at risk of catching the virus from their fellow classmates, and prevention will be important for this coming school year.

NTC wants to start touring a new health adventure show for elementary schools called *Invisible Invaders from Innerspace*, in which superhero Sensational Girl battles the evil villain The Flu. To defeat her nemesis, Sensational Girl has to learn how germs are spread and how to prevent them from spreading further.

Ward Eames, President of NTC, explains, “The flu virus is a big concern this coming school year. We’re looking for the right partner to help us bring important health messages to students and their families across the country.”

NTC Introduces Six New Shows this Fall (from page 1)

A captivating new natural gas show, *Adventures of the Blue Flame*, teaches students wise use of natural gas. The show will be touring 51 schools in



North Carolina during the 2009-2010 school year.

Jodie Roberts-Smith, Community and Conservation Program Specialist for PSNC Energy, says, “PSNC Energy is very excited to be a part of this program. We focus on educating the public about natural gas safety, so sponsoring the *Adventures of the Blue Flame* is a natural fit.”



Boomerang Jack and students learn new ways to be smart about using energy.

Boomerang Jack and the Top Secret Energy Caper is Boomerang Jack’s latest adventure. Focusing on renewable energy, this show examines different energy sources like solar power and wind power. Boomerang Jack joins the students in learning about renewable energy and why it’s important for everyone to be smart about using energy. In their second year of delivering NTC programs, AmerenUE is bringing *Boomerang Jack and the Top Secret Energy Caper* to schools throughout Missouri during the 2009-10 school year.

The Energized Guyz in Daylight Savings Crime brings Nikki Neutron of *The Energized Guyz* back to try and defeat The Dragonfly, another pesky energy-wasting villain. By learning about energy resources and how they’re being used unwisely, Nikki Neutron, with help from the students, will find a way to be more energy efficient and squash the Dragonfly.

“Nikki Neutron is one of our most animated heroes,” explains Mikkelsen. “The students will love to use their new knowledge of energy to save the day.”

NTC is excited to introduce elementary school students to a brand new financial literacy show called *Showdown at Cash Canyon*. Sheriff Carrie



The Aqua League informs students about ways water can be polluted.

Gooper dukes it out with John De Range, the leader of the Loose Change Gang and teaches students what money is, how to use it smartly and why saving is important.



Showdown at Cash Canyon is NTC’s newest financial literacy show aimed at elementary students. The tour begins fall of 2009.

For sponsorship or more information on these shows and other NTC productions, contact Katie Griep at: 612-344-0882, ext 202 or email: kmgriep@nationaltheatre.com

NTC to work with former Treasury Department official... (from page 1)

with good-quality products, integrity and social conscience. We found all of that here, which is why it was an easy decision to work with NTC," Iannicola says.

Financial literacy and education have been Iannicola's passion for much of his career, and during his tenure at the Treasury Department, he launched several initiatives to help both children and adults become better educated on money matters. Among his many accomplishments, he led a 20-agency group called the Financial Literacy and Education Commission that was responsible for writing the first U.S. strategy for financial education, and in 2008 he helped establish and lead the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy, which includes notable figures such as

Charles Schwab among its members.

Though The Financial Literacy Group's work won't be exclusively focused on children, Iannicola is thrilled with the opportunity to shape Americans' financial practices at a young age.

"It's always exciting to focus on youth because it allows us the opportunity to build a good foundation and to shape positive habits early," Iannicola says. "The ability to have a long-term beneficial impact on people is important. We find that we have a better chance of having that kind of impact when we teach young people because, at that stage, financial education

is preparatory, not remedial." Much of the behind-the-scenes work will commence this fall, and NTC President Ward Eames hopes to kick off the enhanced *Mad About Money* tours in the fall of 2010.

"We're looking for the right corporate, non-profit or government-agency sponsor that wants to be associated with a huge, nationwide student financial-literacy effort," Eames says.



Right: Dan Iannicola is head of the Financial Literacy Group, a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm.



Pat's Corner

NTC introduces a new newsletter column called "Pat's Corner." This regular column will be authored by me, Pat

Rowan, NTC's Director of Touring Operations, and will feature the many happenings of NTC's talented actors. Stay tuned for articles about veteran NTC performers, updates on what life is like on the road, alumni news and alerts about regional auditions. To kick off my first column, enjoy reading about long-time NTC actor and friend Alberto Guerrero.

Actor Spotlight: Alberto Guerrero

For many artists, working the same job for the same company for eight-plus years can get routine and even dull. But that's not the case for Alberto Guerrero.

Born and raised in New York, Guerrero has worked as a NTC actor since 2001 and hasn't looked back for a minute. While his goal is to continue doing more film and television work, he says,

"I enjoy touring for NTC because I love improv acting, meeting other actors and simply being a part of the close-knit NTC family."

Guerrero initially learned about NTC from an audition ad that ran in the publication *Backstage*. Interested in learning more, Guerrero attended the audition and to his delight was called back the next day.

Shortly after the call back, Guerrero quit his Taco Bell job and was booked for his first two-and-a-half month tour of *Louie, Louie*, NTC's electrical safety and energy efficiency show, in Texas.

"My first NTC run shocked me because I wasn't use to the demands of a touring show," says Guerrero. "But I loved performing in front of the students, the opportunity to travel to another part of the country and getting to know other actors like me."

Based on the success of Guerrero's first NTC tour, he traveled on to Indiana and Michigan to perform a similar show called *Lights on for Louie*. In 2005, he was invited to be a part of the inaugural *Mad About Money* tour in Texas and Maryland.

Since that time, Guerrero has performed in over 300 shows in eight *Mad About Money* tours across the country. Guerrero's experience, success and reliability has been highly praised by many NTC sponsors, including Scott Kinney, the former Director of Communications for the Washington Department of Financial Institutions.

As a veteran NTC actor who's in high demand, Guerrero's next NTC appearance will be in Washington D.C. schools for an energy efficiency show called *Global Gamble*, opening in October.



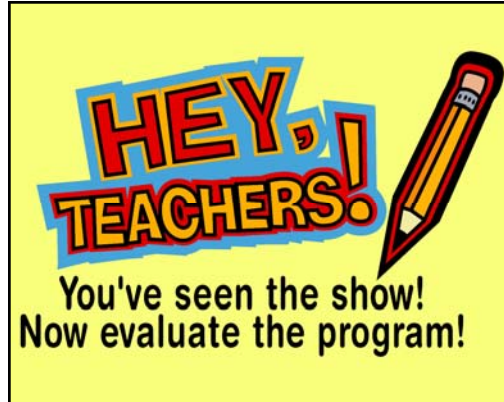
Alberto Guerrero has been an NTC actor for over eight years.

Second Grade Teacher at Tennessee's Delano Optional School Wins 2008-2009 Book Prize

We appreciate the feedback that thousands of teachers across the country offer NTC each year, and the 2008-2009 school year was no different. Teacher evaluations completed online at playworks.com provide the NTC staff with valuable insight into what students and educators take away from NTC performances and its corresponding curriculum. Teacher comments and recommendations also help NTC make show improvements.

To demonstrate our appreciation to the educators who take the extra time to fill out our evaluation forms, NTC awards one teacher each year with \$250 worth of new books for his or her classroom. The prizewinner is selected randomly from a pool of evaluations collected each school year.

NTC is proud to announce its 2008-2009 book-prize recipient is Ms. Ruth LaVerne Baxter, a second grade teacher at Delano



Teacher Evaluations can be completed online at playworks.com

Optional School in Memphis, Tenn., who completed her evaluation about NTC's *The Energized Guyz*, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Since Ms. LaVerne Baxter's retired last spring, her prize will be donated to Delano Optional's newest second grade teacher Ms. Natalie Gibbons, who will make her book selections from publisher Stone Arch Books' Fall 2009 catalog.

"We love working with NTC to educate Tennessee Valley students about energy efficiency through attention-getting theater performances," says Susan Curtis, Education and Outreach Manager for Tennessee Valley Authority. "I am not only impressed with NTC's performances and education materials, but also the staff's thoroughness in obtaining important feedback from teachers all over the country."

25 Million Kids Say the Darndest Things

Every day for 32 years, NTC actors are in schools performing for thousands of kids, so we hear about some of the off-beat, whimsical and wholly original things kids say in response to our shows. Our actors love these comments because they prove the kids are listening and engaged. It also keeps the actors on their toes. Here are just a few examples of kids saying the darndest things:

Drew Martin and Elin Hawkinson were performing a *Louie the Lightning Bug* show. Drew (as Foreman Carl) enters and takes in the audience. He proclaims, "You're not my Safety Crew, you're way too short!" To which one first grader defiantly exclaimed, "We're sitting down you know!"

Jennifer Zubernick and Jonathan Niotis were in Tennessee performing *The Energized Guyz*. Jennifer (as Nikki Neutron) asks Jonathan (as Thunderstorm), "I have just one question; what are resources?" An enthusiastic 2nd grade girl offered her answer, "MONKEYS!"

After a performance at McCleary Elementary School in New Castle, Virginia, **Kristi and Travis Barnhart** were talking with the kids about having a job in theatre. Kristi asked one boy if he wanted to be an actor when he grew up. His level headed response was, "No, I wanna be a real person."

Summer McCusker and Mike Frame overheard the following conversation between three students after a super-hero themed show:

Student 1: "I'm gonna be a super-hero when I grow up!"

Summer: "Oh yeah? What will your super hero name be?"

Student 1: "Wondergirl!"

Student 2: "Waterboy!"

Student 3: "I'm gonna be Lovergirl!"

After a performance of *Boomerang Jack and the Unseen Green Machine* at Leland O Mills Elementary School, in Lake Ozark, MO, a student asked actors **Tito Livas and Tracy Mull** "What channel are you guys on? That was fun."



NTC shows incorporate student volunteers into their performances to help reinforce the educational content as well as make the experience even more enjoyable.