



ROCHESTER  
CHILDREN'S  
THEATRE

..... Professional actors bringing literature to life for children of all ages

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Media Contact: Sally Cohen, 585-749-1795, [sally@sallycohenpr.com](mailto:sally@sallycohenpr.com)

## **FANTASY COMES ALIVE WITH RCT'S *THE HOBBIT*** **Puppetry, masks, 3D graphics + live actors = theatre magic** **February 11, 12, 18 & 19 at Nazareth College Arts Center**

Rochester, NY – **Rochester Children's Theatre (RCT)** and **Nazareth College Arts Center** present *The Hobbit* at 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, February 11, 12, 18 & 19, 2012, at Nazareth College Arts Center (4245 East Avenue, 14618). Tickets are \$11-\$17, and are available in person at the Arts Center Box Office, by calling 585-389-2170 or at [www.naz.edu](http://www.naz.edu). There will also be weekday performances at the Arts Center for school groups.

**J.R.R. Tolkien's** 1937 children's fantasy book follows the quest of home-loving Bilbo Baggins, who sets off with a band of adventurers to slay a dragon and recover an enormous treasure. The novel's popularity resulted in Tolkien's writing a sequel, which eventually became his epic trilogy, *The Lord of the Rings*.

RCT's inventive and re-imagined production of Edward Mast's adaptation of *The Hobbit* will use a variety of theatrical devices to enchant audiences, including three-dimensional digital graphics designed and created by RIT Chair of 3-D Design **Marla Schweppe**. RCT Set Designer **Mark Almekinder** and RCT Costume Designer **Lana Momano** are creating masks and puppetry from RCT Associate Artistic Director **Danny Hoskins'** designs, which call for six puppeteers to operate Smaug, the dragon, whose giant wings will fill the entire stage.

"There's something magical that happens when we encounter puppets, both as adults and children," says Hoskins. "Our imaginations take us to places where we believe goblins can talk, trolls and dwarves can wield sword and shield, and little Hobbits can battle mighty dragons. It's that place in us where fantasy and innocence mix, and I want to bring that sense of enchantment and adventure to the stage."

The production also features Rochester actors **Mark Scott Almekinder** (Gollum), **Derrick Belkin** (Gloin), **Andy DeRado** (Smaug), **Elliot Fox** (Thorin), **Matt Nersinger** (Bard), **Fred Nuernberg** (Gandolf), **Ray Salah** (Dork), **Jeff Siuda** (Bilbo) and **Jesse Wakefield** (Bombur).

**Rochester Children's Theatre (RCT)** is a professional company of adult actors co-founded in 1991 by its current producing artistic director, **Deborah Haber**. RCT offers high-quality, literature-based experiences that entertain while fostering enrichment, communication and positive values. In 21 years, its audience has grown to more than 40,000 annually. In residence at and a partner with Nazareth College Arts Center in producing children's theatre since 2003, RCT also tours to New York State urban, suburban and rural schools with its curriculum-based PLAYS ON TOUR. For more information, please visit [www.rochesterchildrenstheatre.org](http://www.rochesterchildrenstheatre.org).

Media please note: High-resolution production photos are available, and interviews and photo/footage opportunities can be arranged.

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