

MISSOULA'S
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

mct

International Tours

EXHIBIT 6
DATE Feb 3, 09
9



MISSOURI'S
CHILDREN'S
THEATRE

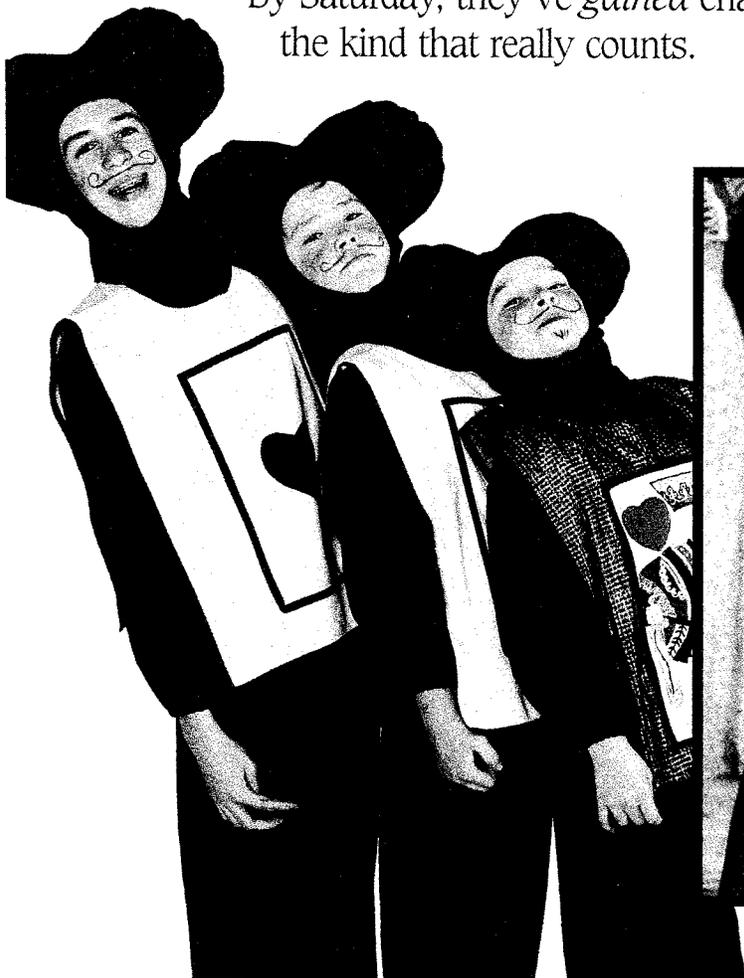
mct *International Tours*

A little red truck pulls into your town with everything it takes to mount a full-scale musical production...except the cast.

That's where the children of your community come in.

On Monday, they're cast as characters.

By Saturday, they've *gained* character—the kind that really counts.





Throughout MCT's residency week, your kids will have fun learning lines, songs and dances. And they'll learn that if they work hard...if they push themselves... they can create something wonderful!



REVIEWS

"MCT dependably provides clever scripts, delightful scores, creative costumes, imaginative sets and most importantly—well-trained, excellent personnel, which inevitably results in an exciting and successful experience for all involved."

Greenville, Ohio

"Thanks for all of the great work that you do boosting our morale and providing top-notch entertainment for and from our kids!"

Seoul, Korea

"Bravo to you and your staff for truly making a positive impact on the lives of children!"

Oconto Falls, Wisconsin

Touring since 1973, MCT visits nearly 1,100 communities annually—in all fifty states, four Canadian provinces, the Canadian Arctic, Cuba, Europe, Asia and the Pacific Rim.

MISSION

In each MCT cast, girls and boys are equal, the disabled become able, the shy experiment with bravery and the gifted become part of the whole. The lesson they learn is that all of them are necessary for the show to go on.



enrich

mct *International Tours*

200 North Adams, Missoula, MT 59802

Dedicated to the development of lifeskills in children through participation in the performing arts.



Photos provided by: Laune Lane Studios, Missoula, MT / Spilison Photography, Fort Wayne, IN / Sheri Broudy, Butte, MT
Andrew McNeil, Plattville, WI / 21st Century, Louisa, KY / Leo Judy, Pullman, WA / Vonnie Jacobson, Fairfield, MT



RESIDENCY WEEK BASICS

Together...helping kids reach a new stage!

What we provide:

Presenter Materials: All materials needed to help you plan and promote your residency week—including posters, graphics, a photo and pre-written press releases—are sent approximately 90 days in advance.

Open Audition: Two professional MCT Tour Actor/Directors audition and cast 50-60 local school-age children in a full-length original musical production.

Focused Rehearsals: Lines, staging, songs and movement are learned in four-and-a-half hours each day, Monday through Friday (two 2-hour sessions with a short snack break in between). Not all cast members attend all sessions.

Three Enrichment Workshops: Our Tour Actor/Directors present interactive workshops to school or community groups on a variety of theatrical topics.

Two Public Performances: The residency week culminates in two public performances starring your local children, complete with professionally designed scenery and costumes.

What we ask of you:

Housing: Provide private (one person per room), clean, comfortable and safe accommodations for the two Tour Actor/Directors for seven nights, Sunday to Sunday.

Audition Space: Reserve a large space; a gym is ideal.

Two Rehearsal Spaces: Reserve two separate spaces to be used the entire week; ideally, one should be the performance space and the other at least classroom size.

Performance Space: Reserve a space that is at least 28 feet wide, 16 feet deep, 10 feet high and is accessible from both sides.

Piano and Accompanist: Provide both—Wednesday through Saturday of the residency week.

Publicity: Publicize the audition and performances utilizing the provided Presenter Materials.

Profits: Keep all proceeds from ticket sales—they belong to you!

Booking information:

Please contact us to learn more about bringing MCT to your community.

MCT International Tours
Tour Marketing Department
200 North Adams
Missoula, Montana 59802

Phone: (406) 728-1911

Fax: (406) 721-0637

E-mail: tour@mctinc.org

Website: www.mctinc.org

The fee in your region for the _____ tour season is \$ _____.

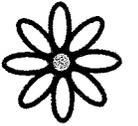




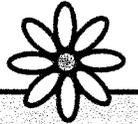
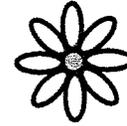
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DATE Feb 3, 09
9

In the Road

with the Missoula Children's Theatre



Spring 2008



In This Issue

Tour Town Highlight:
Somers, Montana

The MCT Costume
Shop

Love Letter

Bring MCT to Your
Community

A Note to Presenters

Contact MCT

406.728.1911
200 North Adams
Missoula, MT 59802

 www.mctinc.org

 tour@mctinc.org

25 Years Together

Tour Town Highlight | Somers, Montana

MCT Celebrates Silver Anniversary with Small Town on Flathead Lake

Like many other communities in Northwest Montana, Somers is a small town in transition, according to Somers' MCT Presenter Michelle Aherns. Nestled on the shores of Flathead Lake, the community's "sleepy hollow nature is giving way to more affluence as families and retirees move to the area" in search of a simpler life.

But as Somers has changed, a few things have stayed the same. You'll still get a friendly wave from a neighbor as you drive by, Michelle says, "not because you necessarily know them, but because it's habit."

And Somers is still a great place to raise children. "It's a place where you can walk to the Post Office, see your neighbors and find out what's going on in town," she said. "Children ride their bikes to the lake in the hot summer months and ski or snowboard in the winter months."

And there's been another constancy for the community: for the past 25 years, Somers has presented MCT.

A mother of two middle-schoolers, Michelle has been coordinating the MCT residency for several years. She is also the owner and operator of the Outlook Inn Bed and Breakfast in Somers and has hosted the MCT Tour Actor/Directors (TADS) at her inn for the past seven years.

Michelle said she thinks MCT has been successful in Somers because of the fact that it involves so many students. "It offers them an opportunity to express themselves in many ways that they may not be able to in other school settings," she said. "Being loud is encouraged. Laughing and having fun are required. But so is hard work and dedication to the story, so the performance is top-notch every year."

Continued on page 3

One piece of Velcro at a time:

How the MCT Costume Shop Does It

The stats are staggering: imagine designing and crafting costumes for 10-12 new MCT Tour Shows, five MCT Community Theatre shows, four week-long day-camps and two after-school class shows a year. In The MCT Costume Shop, with six to ten costume staffers, produces a whopping 15,750 pieces each year. They do this so that each actor, each character, each child can look their best when they step on stage. They do this to the delight of tens of thousands of audience members each year. And they do it well.

MCT Costumer Linda Muth has been with the company since 1991, and has headed the costume shop since 1996. With so many deadlines to deal with, Linda says being open-minded, flexible and positive have served her well over the years. "I also try not to take myself too seriously in order to be able to enjoy the whole process," she said.

Enjoying the journey is surely key, as the task in front of Linda is daunting indeed. Each year approximately 40 MCT Tour Teams go out "on the road." Not only do the costumes that go with the shows need to look good – they need to function well. Each piece must be comfortable and durable, and it must be able to fit any child who is cast in a particular role. "We accomplish this through the use of lots of elastic and Velcro!" Linda said.

With new fabrics and materials coming on the market all the time, Linda said, it has been easier to create costumes that not only work visually, but also stand up to weekly washings. If a costume touches a child's skin, it must be washed before it's used again: it's an MCT rule. That means a lot of time in the washer and dryer. Suedecloths, satins, brocades and furs are now made of 100% polyester, making them both washable and durable. "I am constantly looking for fabrics and notions that will stand up to 'abuse,'" said Linda.

And what about the process of designing the



costumes? If you've seen an MCT Touring Show, you know that the costumes are a huge part of the story. They are vibrant and colorful and beautifully crafted. How does one go about creating a costume for a character like a "mosquito," or a "dragonfly," or a "winter wind worker"?

Linda's creative process begins with lots of research. "I use fantasy books and various versions of the actual fairy tales, both written words and the illustrations," she said. She also spends time understanding the author's vision for the show. And if she gets stuck for an idea, she just lets it simmer in her mind until an idea surfaces. "This often happens in the middle of the night," she said.

For Linda, costuming the children who participate in MCT shows year after year has been a joy. "I love my job and enjoy both the people with whom I work and the opportunity to be creative," she said. "Giving children fun and colorful costumes to wear in the tour shows has been very rewarding."

More Stories from Somers

Stories and Photo by Michelle Aherns

“There is the realization that this young actor is no longer the boy or girl we know...”

“Some of the benefits of MCT are known immediately – the older students are working with the younger ones and the shy ones are coming out of their shell. But, I suspect there are long-term benefits because students are expected to give it their all – leave their inhibitions at the door and just have fun with it. There is a level of respect earned by those who capture the hearts of the audience. It’s no longer about who’s popular, or the best looking; it runs much deeper. And there is a realization that this young actor is no longer the boy or girl that we knew. They have transformed themselves into a real live ‘Robin Hood,’ or ‘Maid Marion,’ or maybe they’re part of a band of wild monkeys. When they take us into their magical world on stage it can be exhilarating to experience!”



“I was trying to ‘whisper-yell’ at them to be quiet, but they were monkeys, and they were monkeying around...”

“Every year you can count on at least one potential catastrophe that is averted at the last minute. A few years ago, the TADS asked me to watch ‘the monkeys’ during the show and keep them under control until they had to appear on stage. Their exact words were, ‘Whatever you do, do NOT give them any candy or cookies filled with sugar!’ Of course I agreed with these instructions, but the cute little rascals were so lively I was terrified. I looked into their eyes and could tell that they sensed my fear. One jumped up on a table and began running around and soon the rest followed. I was trying to ‘whisper-yell’ at them to be quiet, but they were monkeys, and they were monkeying around. Finally, I ran out of the room to the concession stand and grabbed a big plate of sugar cookies. I brought it back into the waiting room where the monkeys were, and they jumped off the tables and gathered around me, their little black noses and cute little monkey eyes all turned up towards me. I made them promise not to yell, jump, laugh out loud and go crazy, and in return, they received two sugar cookies. I knew it was wrong to give them sugar but I was desperate. Luckily, by the time they gobbled them up, it was time for them to go on stage. I quickly grabbed a paper towel and cleaned all of the crumbs off their faces, then hid all evidence of sugar consumption. The monkeys went out on stage and did their thing. I snuck back out to the concession stand and grabbed one more cookie – this time for me – then patted myself on the back and watched the rest of the show. But don’t tell anyone.”

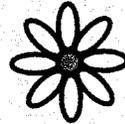
LOVE LETTER

Dear MCT,

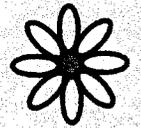
We wanted to take a moment and relay how great the MCT experience has been for our daughter and niece. Each summer they get really excited about the annual visit from MCT, especially with our daughter who was so shy her first year in 2003. She has blossomed and now loves performing. The crew each year is wonderful. We look forward to a few years from now when our youngest child will get to participate side by side with her sister and cousin.

Thank you for giving a great experience to so many children. They really learn so much more than just memorizing a line or two. They see the entire process of a production, teamwork and, in this year's production, they learned the original Jungle Book story. The benefits continue long after that truck leaves town.

See you next year,
Joe and Karen | McMinnville, Oregon



“Our daughter has blossomed and now loves performing.”



Don't miss your opportunity to book a week in the 2008-2009 Tour Season!

If you're interested in these tours:
2008 Summer, June-Aug 2008
2008 Fall, Sept-Dec 2008
2009 Winter/Spring, Jan-May 2009

Please contact the Tour Marketing Department at 406-728-1911 or tour@mctinc.org and we'll provide you with specifics on date options and fees in your area!

[Click here to see MCT's Tour Schedule!](#)

Dear MCT Presenters,

By now you have received the SIXTH ANNUAL PRESENTERS SURVEY! I know your time is valuable, so the survey is short and user-friendly. I am very excited to hear from you — learning about your community and reading your stories are among the most inspiring aspects of my job here at MCT.

As in previous years, I am offering an incentive — once you send me your survey, I will enter you in the drawing for a \$750 discount off the cost of your next MCT residency! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to email me at nlichtenberg@mctinc.org. Thank you, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Naomi Lichtenberg, Foundations Relations Director

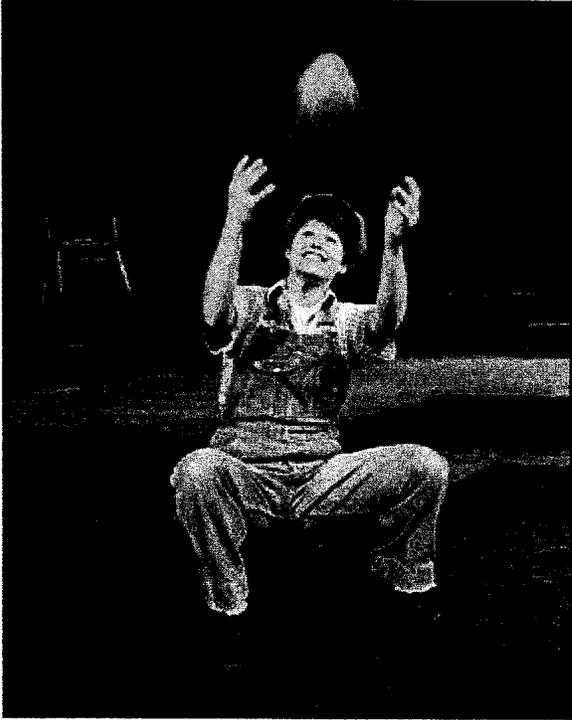


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'Right kind of spirit' puts freshman in lead role

By *JOE NICKELL of the Missoulian*

For an 18-year-old college freshman, Jennifer Fleming-Lovely has lived more than her share of lives. Once, she was a tiny apple seed. Later, she became a lovelorn Arabian princess. Just recently, she was the bride of that most infamous prefect of ancient Rome, Pontius Pilate. Now, she's a good-hearted Southern boy who gets beaten up every night.

"I've been a trophy wife and a little boy, so I guess I do it all," said Fleming-Lovely last week, sitting in the green room at the University of Montana's PAR/TV building between rehearsals for Montana Repertory Theatre's production of "To Kill a Mockingbird."

In the play - which opens its public run of Missoula performances Tuesday night - Fleming-Lovely performs the role of Jem, son of the iconic lawyer Atticus Finch. It is a role she will perform across the country, as Montana Rep takes the show on the road this spring and again next autumn, touring to some of the major performing arts centers and college campuses from Albuquerque to Brooklyn.

Playing Jem is just the latest feather in the cap of this young actress, who starred as Princess Jasmine in Missoula Children's Theatre's production of "Aladdin," and also recently appeared in MCT's run of "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Yet of all those roles, perhaps the most dramatic transformation is this: Jennifer Fleming-Lovely, the clear-eyed, confident college student with a passion for veganism and a starring role in a nationally touring professional theater production.

It's the latest turn in a lifelong drama for the Missoula-raised, Great Falls native whose offstage past reads more like a police rap sheet than a resume for an up-and-coming star of the stage.

"I've definitely dabbled with the youth court system here in Missoula," said Fleming-Lovely, her deep-set eyes sparkling with the self-deprecating recognition that hers is not the story of a childhood role model. They are the eyes of a young woman who has gazed into the dark depths of family dysfunction and witnessed the truths and consequences of lawless despair.

Now, in their steady gaze, one sees - if not redemption - at least hope.

Fleming-Lovely's first brush with the law came at the age of 13, when she was charged with assault after hitting her mother. To hear her tell it, that incident was the culmination of a mutually abrasive relationship that dated back at least five years.

"I fought a lot with my mother, and didn't have the most stable home life," said Fleming-Lovely. "My parents were locked in a custody battle. I wanted to live with my father but my mother wouldn't allow it, and I felt like I was always stuck in the middle of that. ... I was about 7 when I first started getting into trouble, and it just got worse from there."

By 13, Fleming-Lovely was pretty much living on her own, at least by her way of reckoning.

"I didn't want to be at home, and my mother was kicking me out on a regular basis anyway," recalled Fleming-Lovely. "I struggled with drugs in high school, and was just sleeping at a lot of strangers' houses and putting myself into really risky situations. I was definitely going down a bad road."

Indeed, when she looks back at some of her actions, even from this relatively close vantage, she can't explain them. Take, for example, the time she was cited for shoplifting after she attempted to steal a bathing suit from a store in Southgate Mall.

"I don't know why I did it; I didn't need a swimsuit, and it was ugly anyway," mused Fleming-Lovely. "I just decided to steal it. ... I guess I've been reaching out for help my entire life, sometimes in ways that don't make sense."

When Michael McGill recalls his first vivid impressions of Jennifer Fleming-Lovely, the girl he describes hardly sounds like a truant run afoul of the law.

"I remember several years ago when we did 'Aladdin,' and she was cast as Jasmine, which is pretty much the lead in that show," says McGill, who is the executive director at MCT. "I had known her before that, but it was on that show that I really started noticing how clearly she was singing - and she was great at following directions. She just really seemed to shine."

Fleming-Lovely was 4 when she participated in her first MCT production, playing the role of an apple seed in "Johnny Appleseed." After that, rarely a season went by that she wasn't involved in a production.

Even as the structure of her home life began to crumble in her teen years, Fleming-Lovely continued to throw herself into productions at MCT.

"I really feel like MCT has been my family in my life," said Fleming-Lovely. "Whenever I had problems I would go there and I could be a part of a different world and group of people. They helped me out in so many ways."

"Also," she added, "acting is a way to pretend to be someone else, and so I could just be what I wanted to be while I was there."

Unfortunately, she wasn't always there.

At 16, after one of her run-ins with the law, Fleming-Lovely was placed in the Tom Roy Youth Guidance Home, a group home for troubled teenagers run by Missoula Youth Homes. There, she finally began to find the sense of stability and discipline that had previously been lacking in her home life - even if she still blanched at some of the home's rules. In particular, she recalls her frustration at being denied permission to accept a scholarship to the National Outdoor Leadership School, a backcountry immersion program that aims to build self-reliance in young adults.

At 17, she decided she was done with the program. She jumped out a second-story window and ran away.

That self-deprecating laugh returns when Fleming-Lovely considers how recently that act of desperation took place.

“I was convinced I was going to jump on a plane and go live in Jamaica,” she recalled. “I felt like the (group home) program was holding me back. I’m glad I left, but I didn’t go to Jamaica.”

Instead, Fleming-Lovely got a call from Greg Johnson, director of Montana Repertory Theatre. Montana Rep was in the midst of casting its 2009 tour of “To Kill a Mockingbird,” and Johnson had asked the artistic staff at MCT for recommendations for the parts of the children in the play. Fleming-Lovely’s name had come up.

So early last summer, Fleming-Lovely auditioned for the production, reciting a monologue that she had found in a book just two days earlier.

“She was great in her audition,” recalls Johnson. “She seemed to have just the right kind of spirit I was looking for in the character.”

Johnson offered her the part of Jem, with one condition: She needed to enroll as a University of Montana student.

That meant completing her GED, then taking the ACT college entrance exam. Fleming-Lovely followed through, and enrolled at the University of Montana in August of 2008.

She also took a job at SpectrUM, a University of Montana program that teaches science to children through interactive exhibits and presentations.

The job brought her passions into focus.

“I was working with kids and I was able to make a lot of my own decisions, and I realized that what I was doing might hopefully help them grow up to be artists and visionaries and scientists,” said Fleming-Lovely. “I realized I could really make a difference, and that was great. I think that’s really when I started thinking about the future and taking my life seriously.”

But even as she credits that program with opening her eyes to a brighter future, Fleming-Lovely is pointed in describing the role MCT has played in her life.

“I owe my life to them right now,” she said. “Honestly, if I didn’t have that place and those people who helped build this passion in my life, who knows where I would be now?”

For his part, McGill says he considers Fleming-Lovely a shining example of what MCT is really about.

“Our mission is the development of life skills in children, it’s not about making little actors and actresses,” says McGill. “To see how Jennifer has turned into a wonderful, giving, outstanding woman - we’re all so proud of her and where she’s taken her life at this point.”

“We’re all just hanging on to see what the next chapter of her story is,” he adds. “We’re only just now getting to the middle of that story.”