

Sideways Stories from Wayside School On Stage at Main Street Theater

Main Street Theater (MST) presents the silly, imaginative, wonderful world of *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* based on the beloved books by Louis Sachar, adapted for the stage by John Olive. Performances are Sundays, April 15 & 22 at 12:30pm and 3:30pm and Saturdays, April 28 – May 19 at 11:00am and 2:00pm at MST's Midtown location, 3400 Main St. in Matchbox4. All tickets are on sale via phone at 713.524.6706 or online at MainStreetTheater.com. Tickets are \$16 - \$22, depending on section. Large print playbills are also available at Will Call.

Main Street Theater offers **Accommodations Performances**. April 15 at 3:30pm is a Sensory-Friendly performance. May 5 at 11:00am, an ASL interpreter will be at the performance. May 5 at 2:00pm has an Audio Description opportunity available: just ask for a headset at Will Call.

About *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*

Wayside School is sideways. That's how the builder built it. Instead of making thirty classrooms side by side, he built them one on top of the other – which explains why all kinds of crazy things happen there. Join us for high adventure at this wonderful, wacky, mixed-up school! **Recommended for 2nd grade and up. Children under the age of 3 (including sleeping babies) not allowed in the theater.**

Louis Sachar has let his readers in on how *Sideways Stories* came to be: At college “one day, I saw the unlikely sight of an elementary school girl handing out flyers. I took one from her. It said: ‘Help. We need teachers’ aides at our school. Earn three units of credit.’ I thought it over and decided it was a pretty good deal. College credits, no homework, no term papers, no tests, all I had to do was help out in a second/third grade class at Hillside Elementary School. Besides helping out in a classroom, I also became the Noontime Supervisor, or ‘Louis the Yard Teacher’ as I was known to the kids. **It became my favorite college class, and a life changing experience. When I graduated I decided to try to write a children's book, which eventually became *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*. All the kids at Wayside School were based on the kids I knew at Hillside.**”

The production is directed by MST Theater for Youth Producing Director Vivienne M. St. John and Daria Allen. The cast includes Chioke Coreathers, Haley Hussey, Scott Lupton, Jenna Malisheski, Shane Manning, Chaney Moore, Shanae'a Moore, Anna Maria Morris, Amanda Marie Parker, and Jonathan Teverbaugh.

The design team is Donna Southern Schmidt (costume), Torsten Louis (set), Bryan Ealey (lighting), Yezminne Zepeda (sound), and Mark B. Robbins (props). Danielle Docwra is the production stage manager.

About Main Street Theater

Main Street Theater provides theater experiences for all ages. Founded in 1975, our MainStage produces professional, intimate, literary plays for adults and operates under an Actors' Equity Association union contract; our Theater for Youth produces professional, engaging productions based on children's literature for families and school groups, both in-house and on tour around Texas; and we offer Education and Outreach programs on-site and at satellite locations around the Greater Houston area for youth aged 4 – high school. We work out of 2 facilities: our Rice Village home on Times. Blvd., and as part of the MATCH (Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston) on Main Street.

Main Street Theater is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for not-for-profit theaters, of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (formerly ASSITEJ), the world theatre network of theatre for children and young people, and a founding member of Houston Arts Partners. Main Street Theater is funded in part by grants from the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance, and the Texas Commission on the Arts. United Airlines is the official airline of Main Street Theater.

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