

'Hundred Dresses' gives kids a lesson in friendship

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Wanda Petronski, recently arrived from Poland and recovering from the loss of her mother, is having a hard time fitting in at her new school. "Wanda is a lovely person," said Briana DeGuilio, who plays the girl in the Chicago Children's Theatre's musical, "The Hundred Dresses," through Dec. 2 at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd. "She is creative and tries to make friends with the other kids in school. They begin to bully her because she has an accent and she dresses different."

Her classmates mock Wanda for wearing the same dress to school each day. But she tells them that she actually has one hundred dresses at home. "Whether she has them or she doesn't have them is open to interpretation," said Wilmette native DiGuilio.

The actor said this show "teaches kids how to be more accepting and open when something is unfamiliar," and to stand up for others.

Tickets to the Ralph Covert and G. Riley Mills musical, based on Eleanor Estes' children's novel, are \$36, \$26 for ages 17 and under.

For details, call (847) 673-6300 or visit www.northshorecenter.org
www.northshorecenter.org.

Amazing acrobatics

Developing new circus arts acts is the goal of Circus in Progress, fun family performances at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at The Actors Gymnasium, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Professional Chicago area circus artists as well as advanced Actors Gymnasium students will perform feats on the ground and in the air. Tickets are \$10.

For details, call (800) 838-3006 or visit www.brownpapertickets.com
www.brownpapertickets.com.

Big blow-up

Did you ever see a monkey climb a tree? How about a balloon monkey climbing a balloon tree? That's what's in store at the Crazy Cool Balloon Show, 10-10:45 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane. Balloon artist Ryan Freeman will juggle and make crazy creations at this drop-in show.

For details, call (847) 272-6224 or visit www.northbrook.info www.northbrook.info.

Voices from the past

Mama Edie Armstrong will spin folk tales through words and music during When the Animals in Africa Could Speak, 2-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Northfield Branch of the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library, 1785 Orchard Lane. Armstrong has enchanted audiences since 1989 with stories inspired by her African and Native American heritages.

For details, call (847) 446-5990 or visit www.winnetkalibrary.org www.winnetkalibrary.org.

"Secret" revealed

Children ages 5-10 and their families will explore "The Secret Garden" at "Stories from the

Garden," an Imagine U program, 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6 at Hal and Martha Hyer Wallis Theater, 1949 Campus Drive, Evanston. Director Rives Collins and cast members of Northwestern's upcoming production of the musical will help unlock the secrets at this interactive session. Tickets are \$5.

For details, call (847) 491-7282 or visit www.tic.northwestern.edu
www.tic.northwestern.edu.

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