

***THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT, THE MUSICAL*, Premieres Saturday, June 20**

Contact: Vivian Auslander, 510/524-2941, vivian@vivianauslander.com

Coloring is Duncan's favorite thing to do—so you can imagine how he feels when his crayons announce, "We're done, we're through, WE QUIT."

Red and Blue are exhausted from all those oceans, skies and fire engines, and they want a break. Black yearns to do more than mere outlines. And Yellow and Orange have stopped talking to each other, because they both claim to be the color of the sun. Uh oh. Duncan better think out of the box—and fast!

Families will melt with laughter at ***THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT, THE MUSICAL***, a new work created by the [Bay Area Children's Theatre](http://www.bactheatre.org) (BACT) based on the award-winning *New York Times* bestseller, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, by author Drew Daywalt and illustrator Oliver Jeffers.

Directed by BACT Executive Director Nina Meehan, with book, lyrics and music by Austin Zumbro, ***THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT, THE MUSICAL*** opens BACT's 2015-2016 season, playing at Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610, Saturdays at 10:30 and 2 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., June 20 through July 26 (no shows July 4).

"Adults and kids alike will love this show," said Meehan. "You get to know the personalities of the individual crayons. Each song they sing has a different musical style—from country and western to a heartfelt aria—reflecting their perception of their plight."

After its Fairyland run, the production moves to the Theatre at the Children's Creativity Museum, 221 4th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, where it will play weekends at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., August 1 – 23.

For ticket information visit www.bactheatre.org or call (510) 296-4433.

Tickets for Children's Fairyland show include all day admission to the park: General admission (1 and up need a ticket) - \$18; Children's Fairyland member - \$14; Group (minimum of 15) - \$13

For pure summer fun, ***THE DAY THE CRAYONS QUIT, THE MUSICAL***, is recommended for all ages.

((High-res .jpg attached of the crayons: l. to r., Jacqueline Dennis as Green, Chloe Condon as Blue, Anna Smith as Red, Carina Salazar as Black, and Brett Jones as Pink))

Artists

Austin Zumbro (book, music, lyrics) has created *Rudolph the Ugly Duckling*; *The Gold Rush Musical*; *Labcoats and Scapegoats: A Science Fair Musical*; and *Rock the Block: A Walk and Roll Musical* for the Bay Area Children's Theatre. As a musician, he has written for and performed with the bands, Nimbleweed and Austin and Myles. A graduate of Stanford University, Zumbro was an active member of the Stanford Improvisers while majoring in Human Biology with an emphasis in Neuropsychology. He serves as BACT's patron services manager, and has been seen in several BACT productions, including *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*; *The Little Engine That Could*; *Rudolph the Ugly Duckling*; *Pinkalicious*; and *James and the Giant Peach*.

Nina Meehan (director) is executive director and a founding company member of the Bay Area Children's Theatre. She most recently directed BACT's production of the new musical version of *James and the Giant Peach*, which BACT will perform in Shanghai this summer. Meehan has directed *Little Women*, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, *Pippi Longstocking*, and many other BACT productions. She is an award-winning youth theatre director, most recently winning Outstanding Achievements in Acting at the Broadway, Jr. Festival in Atlanta, GA, for her youth production of *Pirates of Penzance*. Meehan has been recognized as one of the 35 faces of Theatre Bay Area and a "Mom who Rocks" by Red Tricycle. She has worked throughout the Bay Area as an actress, educator, storyteller, and director. She serves on the Theatre Services Committee for Theatre Bay Area and on the board of directors for TYA/USA. She received her BS in Theatre from Northwestern University and a master's degree in nonprofit administration from the University of San Francisco.

About the Bay Area Children's Theatre

Established in 2004, the Bay Area Children's Theatre, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves more than 68,000 children and adults throughout the Bay Area, with main stage performances in Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco and San Ramon; selected productions in local schools; and classes and summer camps in more than 10 East Bay communities.

Our Mission: To inspire young audiences with imaginative productions, introduce children of all backgrounds to the excitement of live theatre, and create an engaging, entertaining, and educational environment in which children and their families can explore and enjoy the arts.

How We Carry Out Our Mission:

- Bring high quality, professional theatre to children and their families, with artists who create vibrant worlds that are intriguing to young audiences
- Encourage young people to explore literature, language, and the arts by producing stage adaptations of great children's books
- Engage preschoolers in the world of theatre with productions specially designed for them
- Develop and perform exciting new work for the stage
- Reach out to children who might not otherwise experience live theatre with free tickets, special performances for school groups, and touring productions at local schools
- Create touring productions for young audiences nationwide
- Partner with communities to meet the need for theatre education
- Introduce children to the joy of performance through our theatre education program