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**For immediate release, please: Wednesday, October 9**

**Over 125 Berkshire County Students  
Take the Colonial Stage in  
Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS  
October 26-27**

**Pittsfield, MA**—Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG) will present **Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS** on October 26 at 11am and 2pm, and October 27 at 2pm at The Colonial Theatre. This production is directed by Travis Daly, with music direction by Erin M. White and choreography by Kathy Jo Grover. This new annual fall KIDS production will be the first time BTG will feature exclusively 2<sup>nd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on the Colonial Stage, in a production geared specifically for this age group. This new fall addition has allowed BTG to expand its wide-reaching and extensive year-round education program, BTG PLAYS!, which serves 13,000 school children in over 26 schools across 15 towns.

Director Travis Daly says, "Introducing this new fall production has been particularly rewarding because it's specifically geared towards developing the talent and creativity of the 125 kids in the show."

Charlie Bucket experiences delicious adventures after winning a golden ticket to visit Willy Wonka's mysterious and fantastic chocolate factory. Featuring the enchanting songs from the 1971 film starring Gene Wilder, in addition to a host of fun new songs, Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka KIDS* is a scrumdilyumptious musical guaranteed to delight everyone's sweet tooth.

The cast of *Willy Wonka KIDS* represent students from: Allendale Elementary School, BART Charter School, Becket Washington School, Berkshire Country Day School, Berlin Elementary School, Brayton Elementary School, Capeless Elementary School, Conte Community School, Craneville Elementary School, Crosby Elementary School, Egremont Elementary School, Emma L. Miller Elementary School, Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School, Herberg Middle School, Hoosac Valley Elementary School, Hoosac Valley Middle School, Lanesborough Elementary School, Lee Elementary School, Lenox Memorial Middle & High School, Montessori School of the Berkshires, Monument Valley Regional Middle School, Morningside Community School, Morris Elementary School, Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School, Nessacus Regional Middle School, Pine Cobble School, Reid Middle School, St. Stanislaus Kostka School, St. Agnes Academy, St. Mary's School, Stearns Elementary School, Undermountain Elementary and Williams Elementary School.

At the heart of BTG's Education and Outreach Program is a passionate commitment to bring live theatre and all its inherent excitement and creativity to children throughout the region. In addition to the new fall production, BTG added an annual spring Junior production in 2018 of *Lion King JR.*, followed by *Aladdin JR.* in 2019, exclusively for elementary and middle school students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Additional select performance opportunities for students of all ages include: an annual summer community theatre production, and an annual holiday production of *A Christmas Carol*, going on its 14<sup>th</sup> year. These shows bring together families across Berkshire County, as both parents and students work together to create the majority of costumes and props for these productions.

Those interested in learning more about Willy Wonka KIDS or BTG's expansive education program can watch the following videos and more on our YouTube Channel: <https://youtu.be/RO1P9EfGzCQ>, <https://youtu.be/Tr-d3rtZWt0> and <https://youtu.be/s-NmVh1GyCl>.

Tickets to *Willy Wonka KIDS* are \$10 for children 16 and under, and \$15 for adults. To purchase tickets, contact the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield by calling 413-997-4444, or online at [www.berkshiretheatregroup.org](http://www.berkshiretheatregroup.org). Ticket Offices are

open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sundays 10am-2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

**Berkshire Theatre Group's Production of  
Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka KIDS**

words and music by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley  
adapted for the Stage by Leslie Bricusse and Timothy Allen McDonald  
based on the book, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl

Directed by Travis Daly  
Music Direction by Erin M. White  
Choreography by Kathy Jo Grover

at The Colonial Theatre  
111 South St., Pittsfield

Sponsored by: Massachusetts Cultural Council and The Shubert Foundation

**Performance Schedule:**

Saturday, October 26 at 11am  
Saturday, October 26 at 2pm  
Sunday, October 27 at 2pm

Tickets: Adult \$15; Children 16 and under \$10

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**About BTG PLAYS!**

BTG PLAYS! Year-Round Education Program serves 13,000 school children in over 26 schools across 15 towns. There are approximately 5,464 students in Pittsfield, of which we serve 3,467. Through careful planning and programming, BTG offers children and families access to culturally enriching activities. Thirty percent of families participating in these programs are economically disadvantaged and all Pittsfield Public School students qualify for free and reduced lunch. BTG provides free and reduced ticket prices, camps, and internships. BTG PLAYS! includes 12 different initiatives in three distinct categories: School Partnership Programs, Performing Arts for Young People and Pre-Professional Internship Programs.

**About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 patrons. BTG's celebrated stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community.