



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Post-Holiday Family Fun.
Thistle Theatre's *The Tale of Two Bad Mice* at Centerstage.**

Date: Saturday January 9, 2010
Time: 11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

Federal Way, WA – Any parent will confirm that easing back into a routine after the holidays can be difficult. A delightful afternoon excursion to Centerstage Theatre on Dumas Bay in Federal Way is just what families need for a little post-holiday fun. Thistle Theatre is bringing *The Tale of Two Bad Mice* to Centerstage for two performances on Saturday January 9, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 pm.

Thistle Theatre specializes in the traditional Japanese Bunraku-style of puppetry which means their hand-crafted puppets are brought to life by puppeteers who are dressed in black and operate the puppets from behind for realistic movement. In *The Tale of Two Bad Mice*, a young Beatrix Potter persuades her governess to help her reenact the day her two pet mice earned their reputation as “two bad mice.” While searching for food, mice Tom Thumb and Hunca Mucha find Beatrix’s doll house and are driven to outrageous behavior when they learn the delicious looking food is made of inedible plaster!

The show is perfect for kids age 3 and up. The running time is under one hour and tickets are \$5 for kids under 12, \$7 for youth ages 12-17, and \$10 for adults. Tickets are available online at www.centerstagetheatre.com, or over the phone by calling (253) 661-1444. This new production has puppets designed by Tony DeFilipps and is funded in part by the Jim Henson Foundation.

ABOUT CENTERSTAGE

Centerstage is Federal Way’s resident Theatre Company. It was founded in 1977 and since 1998 has produced shows at the Knutzen Family Theatre on the shores of Puget Sound. Initially created as a performance conservatory for aspiring actors, Centerstage’s mission has expanded and is now committed to producing “innovative, accomplished productions of popular work and for new work with the widest possible audience appeal.” Hits like last season’s *Always...Patsy Cline* certainly fall into the former category. Centerstage has produced many exciting new works in recent years including: *4 Christmases*, commissioned from 5-time Grammy Nominee, John Forster; a new musical version of the Dickens’ classic *Nicholas Nickleby*; *Robin Hood* the first full production of Tom Meehan, Peter Sipos and Martin Charnin’s new project; Alan Bryce’s *Nightmare of a Married Man* which won the Tacoma News Tribune’s “Best New Play Award, 2007-2008 Season”; and three traditional English “pantomimes,” from one of the masters of this uniquely British Theatrical art form, Paul Hendy. In April 2009, the City of Federal Way awarded the Knutzen Family Theatre management contract to Centerstage saving both the city and theatre company over \$50,000.

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