

### ***Madeline and the Bad Hat* at Chandler November 3**

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, one of the nation's preeminent producers of professional theatre for young people, brings the national touring musical of Ludwig Bemelmans' *Madeline and the Bad Hat* to Chandler Music Hall in Randolph on **Thursday November 3 at 9:30 AM**. This performance is presented as part of Chandler's Daytime Performance Series.

The third in the Madeline series, ArtsPower's *Madeline and the Bad Hat* focuses on the unbreakable bonds of friendship and family. Madeline is none too pleased when Pepito, the son of the Spanish ambassador, moves in next door. He seems arrogant and conceited, and worst of all, he's cruel to animals.

Under the guidance of Miss Clavel, the caretaker of the girls at Madeline's boarding school, Madeline learns not to judge a book by its cover. She discovers that Pepito's father is rarely at home and that this new neighbor is misbehaving because he's desperate for attention.

Pepito and Madeline become friends after she resourcefully rescues him from danger, and consequently, Pepito and his father also grow closer. It turns out that even an old-fashioned aristocratic gentleman can show great affection, and that Pepito isn't such a bad hat, after all.

Young Madeline is in an important "discovery" phase of her life when the types of challenges and conflicts she faces are important to resolve. The timeless charm of Bemelmans' story is relevant to young children who are often seeking ways to handle similar problems. The stage is a wonderful venue for communicating these life lessons.

*Madeline and the Bad Hat* was adapted for the stage by ArtsPower's artistic director Greg Gunning, who also wrote the lyrics and directed the production. Composer/orchestrator Richard DeRosa created the original Broadway-style score.

Identical twins Mark and Gary Blackman founded ArtsPower in 1985 and have been steering its course ever since. Its 26 original, professional touring productions have been seen by more than 11 million people in 47 states in some of the nation's top regional theatres, university auditoriums, and cultural centers, including The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and New York's Lincoln Center.

The public is warmly invited to this daytime performance. All seats are \$6 and the performance lasts approximately one hour. Reservations can be made by contacting Betsy Cantlin, Chandler's community outreach manager, at 431-0204 or [outreach@chandler-arts.org](mailto:outreach@chandler-arts.org).