

LITERATURE, MEET THEATRE.

Book-It
REPERTORY THEATRE

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Press Contact: Patricia Britton

(name not for publication)

206.216.0877 x 10 / patricia@book-it.org

BOOK-ITS EDUCATION PROGRAM INSTILLS LITERACY AMONG CHILDREN BELLEVUE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTRACTS THREE-WEEK SUMMER CAMP

Seattle, WA May 31, 2016—This summer, Book-It Repertory Theatre Arts and Education Program has been contracted by the Bellevue School District to implement a three-week program that instills among children the power and purpose of literacy. Over the 27 years of its history, Book-It has built a devoted audience of people who love to read, but as importantly, it has drawn in people who do not or cannot read, and who leave a performance wanting and needing to change that fact.

In this new partnership, Book-It is launching a literacy based curriculum that connects and transforms the words on a page into ideas and action. Through the three week summer camp it is Book-It's hope that the children, as well as the instructors will learn from the curriculum, avoid skill regression, and transfer their new reading skills to school work come this fall.

The Book-It literacy program kicks off at two new locations: Sherwood Elementary and Eastgate Elementary. Both schools will target students from Kindergarten to fifth grade who have tested at low reading levels. From July 11th through July 29th experienced teaching artists will apply tried and tested Book-It curriculum, reaching upward of 400 children.

At the core of Book-It's [Arts and Education Program](#) is a dedication to providing an interactive relationship between youth and literature through diverse theatrical productions, while also establishing an infused art integrated curriculum with a concentration on literacy.

In addition to the literacy program, Book-It's Arts and Education Program annually tours a diverse range of stories to schools, libraries, and community venues throughout Washington State; conducts long-term residencies in schools; offers teacher professional development; and presents low-cost student matinées of Book-It's main stage shows. Actors and arts educators perform stories in the unique Book-It Style®, which preserves the narrative text as it is spoken, not by a single "narrator" but as dialogue by the characters in the production and uses simple staging to challenge viewers' imaginations.

Up next for Book-It on the mainstage is *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki, *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *A Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway (in an artistic/culinary collaboration with Café Nordo) and *Welcome to Braggsville* by T. Geronimo Johnson. The touring season includes a bilingual English-Spanish production of *Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña, *Goin' Someplace Special* by Patricia C. McKissack, and *El Deafo* by Cece Bell, also performed bilingually in spoken English and American Sign Language.

Continued ...

BOX OFFICE 206.216.0833 | ADMIN 206.216.0877 | EDUCATION 206.428.6266 | FAX 206.428.6263
WWW.BOOK-IT.ORG | CENTER THEATRE AT THE ARMORY | 305 HARRISON STREET | SEATTLE, WA 98109

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About Book-It Repertory Theatre

Now beginning its 27th season, under the consistent leadership of its Founding Co-Artistic Directors Jane Jones and Myra Platt, **Book-It is a non-profit organization** dedicated to transforming great literature into fully staged theatrical experiences. Embracing a simple, sensitive production aesthetic, the company endeavors to spark imagination and **inspire audiences to read**. Book-It Repertory Theatre received a 2010 Mayor's Arts Award and a 2012 Governor's Arts Award. The company's education department reaches 60,000+ young people annually throughout Washington State.

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