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Immediate Release

Heartwarming Musical Tale of a Magical Flying Car Comes to Conexus Arts Centre

Regina Hosts Canadian Premiere Production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – The Musical

Regina will be the first Canadian city to host a production of a musical version of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, a much-loved tale about a magical flying car.

The movie hit theatres in 1968, but the musical wasn't produced until 2002. Premiering in Britain's London Palladium, it was a smash hit. It ran at the Palladium until 2005 and was that theatre's longest ever running production. This musical has since toured the UK and Asia.

Do It With Class Young People's Theatre (DIWC) will perform this exciting production at the Regina's Conexus Arts Centre March 15 and 16, 2011.

“It is very exciting to be producing such a wonderful show that has not yet been seen in Canada by a Canadian audience,” said Andorlie Hillstrom, DIWC artistic director.

The much loved tale follows the story of an eccentric inventor, his two children and their magical flying and floating car. The production includes such well-known numbers as: Truly Scrumptious, Me 'Ol Bamboo, Toot Sweets, Hushabye Mountain, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and many more.

The DIWC production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will incorporate all of the company's 52 skilled actors, singers and dancers ranging in age from eight to 19.

“This is a group of very talented young people. It is truly amazing to see how accomplished they are as actors, dancers and singers. This is a production that will warm the hearts of all who see it. It is a production not to be missed, ” said Hillstrom.

The opportunity to perform this exciting production of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* is made possible through the sponsorship of many organizations including Saskatchewan Credit Unions, which are the production sponsor for this wonderful tale.

“We're extremely fortunate to have the support of a number of community organizations and corporations such as Saskatchewan Credit Unions. They play an important role in helping to ensure we can make productions such as this one, accessible to Regina youth. Their support also helps to enhance

theatre arts in Regina. We want to express our sincere gratitude to Saskatchewan Credit Unions for helping us to produce this show,” said Andorlie Hillstrom, DIWC artistic director.

“Saskatchewan credit unions are pleased to sponsor this production,” says Pam Skotnitsky, Executive Vice-President of Corporate and Community Affairs, SaskCentral. “We believe in re-investing our financial success in ways that help people realize their goals and dreams. DIWC is a wonderful organization that supports and encourages young, talented people.”

In its 2010/2011 season, DIWC also performed a unique version of *Alice in Wonderland* in November 2010 and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in January 2011.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang will be performed on the main stage, of the Conexus Arts Centre. In addition to the evening shows, the production also features two special school matinées. More than 500 southern Saskatchewan schools, as well as all Regina senior citizens homes and youth programs are being encouraged to take in this production.

DIWC is one of the only musical theatre and drama companies in all of Western Canada. Young performers travel from as far as Val Marie and Weyburn to be involved in the company.

Do It With Class provides Saskatchewan youth with performance opportunities and training in a range of performance arts, including dance, voice, drama, and musical theatre production. Many graduates of the company have gone on to become professional performers, including Paul Nolan, Jeff Irving, Amy Matysio, Tatiana Maslany, Kyle Golemba and Ingrid Nilsen.

The youth theatre company was formed in 1992-93 by artistic director, Andorlie Hillstrom. Past productions performed by members of the company include: *Les Miserables*, *Willy Wonka*, *The Wiz*, *Into the Woods*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Titanic*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Little Prince*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, *Cats* and more.

Media are welcome to videotape or photograph sections of the “*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*” dress rehearsal, which will take place on Monday March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Conexus Art Centre, or at the school matinée performances which take place at 12:30 p.m. on March 15 and 16.

For more information contact:

Bernie Tice
Production Manager,
Do It With Class Young People’s Theatre
(306) 591-2259