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Manhattan Children's Theatre opens 2003-2004 Season with "Goblin Market"

September 27-November 2

Manhattan Children's Theatre is pleased to announce its 2003-2004 season opener: "**Goblin Market**," by Christina Rossetti. Artistic Director **Bruce Merrill** adapts and directs the production which features original music by **Michael Vitali**, choreography by **Harry Maviomichalis**, with art direction and set design by **Christie Phillips** and **Ainat Telem**. Performances run September 27th through November 2nd, Saturdays and Sundays at 12:00 and 2:00pm. **Manhattan Children's Theatre** is located at 380 Broadway (4th Floor) two blocks south of Canal Street in Tribeca. For reservations and information call (212) 352-3101 or visit www.theatermania.com

Just in time for the season of tricks & treats, Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market" is a hair-raising, haunting tale of 2 sisters fighting against the evils of the ghoulish goblins surrounding them. "Come buy our orchard fruits" is the mesmeric chant of the Goblins and Laura must warn her younger sister, Lizzie, NEVER to go near or buy the fruit of the evil Goblin creatures. But, what happens when Laura doesn't listen to her own advice? Lizzie is forced to watch her sister grow weaker and weaker because she tasted the forbidden fruit. Determined not to lose her sister forever, Lizzie sets out to save her...even if it means coming face to face with the ominous Goblins themselves.

Ms. Rossetti was considered one of the most important women poets of the 19th Century. Her work, "Goblin Market" in particular, is praised for the identification and construction of a female hero within Literature. MCT's production will utilize original music, modern dance choreography and masks to bring this extraordinary tale of courage and loyalty to life.

Director, Bruce Merrill is the Artistic Director and co-founder of MCT where he directed productions of *The Snow Queen* and *Alice In Wonderland* and both adapted and directed *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi* and *Aesop's Fables*. Other credits include Director of Vital Children's Theatre, Artistic Director for Peninsula Youth Theatre, Education Director for California Theatre Center, and Tour Actor/Director with Missoula Children's Theatre

Choreographer, Harry Maviomichalis, is the founder and Artistic Director of Dance Anonymous, a modern dance company that performs in New York and around the world. He studied at the Motion Art Studio in Cyprus, Greece, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and received a scholarship from Steps on Broadway.

Composer Michael Vitali studied at the Swiss Jazz School, A Wolfgang Bayha Drum School and Berklee College of Music in Boston. He currently teaches at the Astoria School for Jazz and Contemporary Music and is the Drummer and Bandleader for The Michael Vitali Trio which performs throughout NYC.

Art Director, Christie Phillips designed *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, *The Snow Queen*, *Aesop's Fables* and *Alice in Wonderland* for MCT. Other Set/Scenic design credits include, *Rapunzel*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Casey at the Bat* for Mount Holyoke in Massachusetts as well as various productions for Scarsdale Summer Music Theater, Odyssey Theater Ensemble and Crescent Theater Company.

Prop Designer, Ainat Telem received merit scholarships to the National Academy of Design and the Art Student's League of New York. Her work was recently presented at the Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center. She currently is the Educational Director of the Hebrew & Arts program at Battery Park Synagogue.

Touted as a company that "could deliver a story at a child's level while not compromising adult theatrical values," **Manhattan Children's Theatre** continues its mission of providing affordable, high quality theatrical experiences for children and families within the community. "**Goblin Market**" marks the opening of MCT's 2003-2004 season, which will also include, "**The Elves & the Shoemaker**," "**Rumplestiltskin**," and "**Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse**."

Performance Schedule: September 27-November 2
Saturdays & Sundays @ 12:00 & 2:00pm

Tickets: \$10 for children 2-16
\$15 for adults

Reservations: (212) 352-3101 or www.theatermania.com

This production is suitable for children ages 5 and up.

For more information about MCT and its programs, please visit www.mctny.org or call (212) 226-4085