

# MEDIA RELEASE

THE  
COURT  
THEATRE

18 June 2019

## For immediate release

### *The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)*

Written by Jeff Clark

Directed by Dan Bain

10 – 20 July 2019

The Court Theatre's mainstage

### Short show description:

Princess Lillian is home alone in her parents' castle... until she meets a talkative frog in the palace pond! There's no way a princess will ever be friends with a stinky frog - ew! - but then someone breaks into the castle! To stop this sneaky robber, the princess and the frog must work together in this brand-new adaptation of the classic fairy-tale. Can they do it?

## KIDSFEST FUN AT THE COURT THEATRE

### IN-BRIEF:

Just in time for KidsFest, The Court Theatre is putting on a magical production full of froggy, fairy-tale fun!

*The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)* is a brand-new adaptation of the classic kids story, full of puppetry, physical comedy and theatrical magic, perfect for little ones aged 5 – 8.

Writer Jeff Clark wanted to put a new twist on the familiar fairy-tale, with his princess and frog banding together to defeat a sneaky robber trying to break into the castle!

The Court's Associate Director Dan Bain is directing this family-friendly comedy, saying "I'm really excited by the script – there's a lot of fun and shenanigans that come with the addition of the robber, while still remaining faithful to the story that people know and love."

*The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)* promises to be big on the fun factor for Canterbury's little ones, but there's plenty of excitement for older kids at the theatre these school holidays, too!

Bain has also organised a KidsFest production of family-friendly comedy show *The Early Early Late Show* on the 7<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm, ideal for 7 – 12-year olds.

"Both productions will have an enormous amount of energy, which will be really fun... plus, it's going to rain, so you may as well come to the theatre," Bain laughs.

***The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)* will be running at The Court Theatre from the 10 – 20 July 2019, with a relaxed performance on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 11am.**

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Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

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*The Early Early Late Show's KidsFest performance runs on the 7<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm, with the show running the first Sunday of every month.*

## IN-DEPTH:

Just in time for KidsFest, The Court Theatre is putting on a magical production full of froggy, fairy-tale fun!

*The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!)* is a brand-new adaptation of the classic kids story, full of puppetry, physical comedy and theatrical magic, perfect for little ones aged 5 – 8.

“I thought ‘what if *The Princess and the Frog* turned into *Home Alone?*’ and the idea just clicked!” says writer Jeff Clark.

Clark, a Court Jester audiences will know from *Scared Scriptless* and *The Early Early Late Show*, wanted to put a new twist on the familiar fairy-tale, with his princess and frog banding together to defeat a sneaky robber trying to break into the castle!

“In the original story the Princess and the Frog never actually became friends; now they have to learn to work together to defend the palace. I don't think the original has a grumpy fish, a homemade bouncy castle or a chase scene, either!”

The Court's Associate Director Dan Bain (*A Paintbox of Clowns; Cinderella in Space*) is directing this family-friendly comedy, saying “I'm really excited by the script – there's a lot of fun and shenanigans that come with the addition of the robber, while still remaining faithful to the story that people know and love.”

Kids – and grown-ups – can expect to fall in love with the team's puppet frog, which will be operated by actor Trubie-Dylan Smith, most recently seen in the Anthony Harper Summer Theatre season of *King Arthur*.

“The puppet frog is exciting, because we can get it to do things that an actor can't – we can throw the frog in the air, hide it in small spaces and do a lot of different things that just aren't possible with an actor,” explains Bain.

Audiences can also expect plenty of fun from characters Princess Lillian (played by Court Youth Company member Jorja Farrant making her professional debut), the naughty robber (played by Connie O'Callaghan following her tour with New Zealand Playhouse) and Clark's script, full of audience participation!

“I made sure that the audience have lots of chances to get involved and help save the day,” says Clark. “That's the magic of theatre. Watching television and movies, you just sit there, but with theatre, you're part of the show.”

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***The Princess and the Frog (and the Robber!) will be running at The Court Theatre from the 10 – 20 July 2019, with a relaxed performance on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 11am. Relaxed performances are special shows for those with sensory needs. Lighting and sound are adjusted, capacity is reduced to allow for freer movement and there is a “chill-out” area in the foyer.***

***The Early Early Late Show’s KidsFest performance runs on the 7<sup>th</sup> July at 4pm, with the show running the first Sunday of every month.***

## Cast

Princess Lillian	Jorja Farrant
Frog	Trubie-Dylan Smith
The Robber	Connie O'Callaghan

## Creatives

Writer	Jeff Clark
Director	Dan Bain
Set Designer	Richard van den Berg
Costume Designer	Stella Gardner
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Sound Designer & Composer	Hamish Oliver
Stage Manager	Danielle Rackham

## Ticket Prices

All Tickets	\$10
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## Show Times

- Monday – Friday 11am & 1pm
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 11am
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July – relaxed performance 11am
- Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 1pm

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit [www.courttheatre.org.nz](http://www.courttheatre.org.nz)

Images can be found at The Court Theatre’s [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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