

NEWS Release

For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANASTASIA KRUPNIK, AN IRREPRESSIBLE FOURTH-GRADER, COMES TO LIFE IN ARTSPOWER'S NEWEST MUSICAL PRODUCTION

ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, in whose capable hands Judy Blume's *Otherwise Known as Sheila The Great* and P.D. Eastman's *Are You My Mother?* became instant hits, is proud to present an original stage adaptation of Lois Lowry's *Anastasia Krupnik*.

Adapted from Lowry's popular novel, ArtsPower's musical tells the cherished tale of the spunky heroine, Anastasia, and her ever-changing life as an imaginative 10-year-old. ArtsPower's *Anastasia Krupnik* will be presented by [Name of Presenter] at [Site] on [Date]. The performance begins at [Time]. For ticket information, call [Phone number].

Funny and intelligent, Anastasia is always ready with an opinion; she never hesitates, furthermore, to say exactly what's on her mind. Not surprisingly, she has a real knack for getting into trouble. Anastasia enjoys writing her quickly-formed opinions in a carefully-guarded green notebook. She has plenty to write about: an equally

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opinionated schoolteacher, a mother and father ready to bring a new baby into the family, and a grandmother experiencing the onset of Alzheimer's disease.

While Lowry has told many stories about Anastasia, ArtsPower's *Anastasia Krupnik* adaptation brings a fresh look to the wonderfully amusing girl who, as Lowry recently revealed, is the kind of girl she wishes she could have been.

The play and lyrics were written by Greg Gunning, ArtsPower's artistic director. Richard DeRosa wrote and orchestrated the musical score. Costumes were designed by Fred Sorrentino.

Mark and Gary Blackman, who are identical twins, founded ArtsPower in 1985 and have been steering its course ever since. ArtsPower has grown into one of America's premiere producers of professional Equity theatre for young and family audiences, the second largest such company in the nation. Its 19 professional touring productions have been seen by nearly seven million people in 43 states - from Alaska to Florida - in some of the nation's top cultural centers, including The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC and Lincoln Center in New York.

ArtsPower is pleased to present a premier performance for the 2004-2005 season. *The Rainbow Fish*, based on Marcus Pfister's classic book, will dazzle the eyes and lift the heart as it shows how one lovely-but-lonely fish comes to understand the true beauty that springs from unselfish friendship.

Filling out ArtsPower's touring roster for the 2004-2005 season are: *Lily's Crossing*; *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*; *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*; *Hans Brinker's Christmas*; *Salem Justice*; *Laura Ingalls Wilder*; and

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Dance Asia, featuring Ms. Qi Shu Fang.

For more information on the Montclair, New Jersey-based company or any of its programs, please call toll-free 1.888.278.7769 or visit ArtsPower's website at www.artspower.org.

Note to editors: Downloadable images of ArtsPower's musical productions are available at www.artspower.org. To request a hard copy photo or to arrange an interview with Gary Blackman, Mark Blackman, or Greg Gunning, please contact ArtsPower at 973.744.0909.

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