

**UP THE
RIVER:**
a family musical

by David Archibald, John Corrigan and Kathryn MacKay
August 5 to September 4, 2010
Springer Theatre

The Thousand Islands Playhouse Springer season continues in August with *UP the River: a family musical*. Inspired by Kenneth Grahame's well-loved tale *Wind in the Willows*, John Corrigan, David Archibald and Kathryn MacKay (two thirds of the team behind last season's hit *The Mollycoddlers*) have updated and renewed this classic tale and set it on the St. Lawrence River. Brimming with humour, music and hijinx, the fun begins on the famous docks of the Playhouse's Springer Theatre, which is where audiences are first introduced to the colourful characters that populate this world. After the outdoor show featuring surfer dudes, production numbers and boats of all descriptions, playgoers head into the Springer Theatre for the rest of the adventure: Toad's escapades unfold in all their wacky glory, accompanied by original music by David Archibald, daring escapes, battles, cars and even some flying. However, as is true with the original material, at the heart of the narrative is a gentle comment on the value of home, friendship and how *where* we live influences *how* we live, along the river here in Eastern Ontario.

At the helm as director is Playhouse Associate Director Kathryn MacKay. A part of the original Playhouse company in 1982, MacKay has directed many Playhouse hits, including *Trying*, *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, *Sexy Laundry* and *The Drowsy Chaperone*. In keeping with the story's focus on friends, MacKay has assembled a fabulous cast of familiar faces to bring the characters to life. As the infamous Toad, the Playhouse is pleased to welcome back another member of the original company and frequent performer here, Timm Hughes. Toad's long suffering and loyal friends are played by Ramona Gilmour-Darling as Mole, Sean Robertson as Ratty (he's actually a beaver), Matthew John Lundvall as Badger, and Marcia Tratt as Florence. Composer David Archibald does double duty as a member of the company, which is rounded out by this year's Young Company, Ashley Armstrong, Meredith Busted, Matthew Stewart and Scott Murray.

The set (including the newest island on the river, and Toad's cars) and costumes have been designed by Robin Fisher, fight and stunt choreography is by Stratford vet Simon Fon, and the lighting design is by Michelle Ramsay. Choreography is by Dayna Tetkatch and Meredith Busted and *Up the River: a family musical* is stage managed by Jane Vanstone Osborn, assisted by Nan Sheppard and Talia Marcassa.

Up the River: a family musical previews Thursday August 5, and opens on Friday August 6th with a dock side fish fry!
Performances: Wed. to Sat at 8 PM, Wed, Thu, Sat and Sun at 2:30 PM
Prices: Regular: \$32 65+: \$30 Discount: \$27 Under 30 :\$25 Preview/Stu/Chil: \$16
Opening Night Fish Fry: \$20
(Prices do not include taxes or fees)

Up Next at the Thousand Islands Playhouse:

Master Harold'...and the boys at the Firehall Theatre (July 23 to August 21),

Playwright in Residence Douglas Bowie's new comedy *Till It Hurts* at the Springer Theatre (September 10 to October 9).



The Up the River Festival in Gananoque promises non-stop family fun during the month of August, beginning on August 6 with the Gala opening of *Up the River: a family musical* and a dock side Mike Mundell Fish Fry! In addition to the production, the Thousand Islands Playhouse has developed a month-long festival of events inspired by the story of Toad and his adventures. Join us for soap box races, mini-plays, musical tours, art exhibits, historical boat tours, Geo-Cache treasure hunts and more! Visit 1000islandsplayhouse.com for details and a calendar of events.

Summer Fun Sponsor



Summer Fun Media Sponsor



Thousand Islands Playhouse
Box 241 Gananoque, ON K7G 2T8
Artistic / Executive Director: Greg Wanless
General Manage: Richard Van Dusen
(P) 613.382.7086 (F) 613.382.7020
Box Office: 1.866.382.7020 613.382.7020
1000islandsplayhouse.com
FIND YOUR STORY HERE.