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Puppets with Big Dreams, a New-Age Alice, and an Adventurous Mermaid take the Stage this Spring at Studio East & StoryBook Theater

***Avenue Q School Edition* March 17 – March 26, 2017 – Kirkland** (best for ages 12+)

***Wonderland!* May 19 – June 4, 2017 – Kirkland** (best for ages 8+)

***A Little Mermaid* – Renton, Bellevue, Kirkland, Everett, Shoreline, Fremont**
(best for ages 3+)

KIRKLAND, WA– Studio East and **StoryBook Theater** have 3 shows sure to delight a variety of theater goers this fall. The youngest audiences, and their parents, will enjoy StoryBook Theater's 55-minute, fun-loving version of **A Little Mermaid**. For older audiences Studio East presents **Avenue Q School Edition**, the unique part-puppet, part-human musical. And finally, the whole family will enjoy the world premiere of **Wonderland!** - a new musical version of the classic story, Alice in Wonderland. It's never too early to instill and nurture a love of theater!

StoryBook Theater has a gift for adapting classic children's stories into delightful, live theater performances and **A Little Mermaid** is no exception. Life underwater isn't easy for Sirena, a little mermaid who dreams of running and dancing. In this StoryBook version of Anderson's classic, the audience decides whether Sirena should keep her legs or high-tail it back to sea. Look forward to dazzling costumes, a silly 2-headed sea slug and enchanting mermaids.

Tickets to **A Little Mermaid** are \$15 (including service fees) and can be purchased at www.storybooktheater.org or (425)820-1800. Tickets for Kirkland performances can be purchased at kpcenter.org or (425)893-9900. The local, professional cast will perform at the following venues:

Rainier Arts Center in Columbia City: Apr 8 @ 11am

Renton Carco Theatre: Apr 15 & 16 @ 11am & 1pm

Everett PUD Auditorium: Apr 23 @ 11am & 1pm

Kirkland Performance Center: Apr 29 @ 11am & 1pm, Apr 30, May 6 & 7* @ 11am, 1pm & 3pm (Single tickets for Kirkland shows are only available from KPCenter.org.)

*May 7th performances are ASL Interpreted for the Deaf

Hales Palladium in Seattle-Fremont: May 14 @ 11am, 1pm & 3pm

Shoreline Conference Center: May 20 @ 11am

Winner of the Tony “Triple Crown” for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book, **Avenue Q School Edition** is part flesh, part felt, and packed with heart. This puppet-filled comedy tells the tale of Princeton, a recent college grad, who moves into a shabby New York apartment way out on Avenue Q. Together, Princeton and his new friends struggle to find jobs, dates, and their purpose in the big city.

“I couldn’t be more proud of all those involved in this light-hearted, in-your-face, morality puppet show that resonates so loudly in the times we all find ourselves; even though the show is close to 15 years old now!” – Director, Chris Mayse

“Avenue Q has an edgy reputation based on the language and the puppets, but if you look beyond that it is a heartfelt story about finding your way in the world.” – Sponsors, Adam and Maura Barr

The show is recommended for ages 12+ and has a running time of approximately 2 hours with intermission. Adult tickets are \$19, while students and seniors are \$17. All performances are at the Studio East Mainstage Theater located at 11730 118th Ave NE in Kirkland. Performances run March 17 – March 26, with the following show times:

March 17 @ 7:30pm

March 18 @ 2:30pm & 7:30pm

March 19 @ 2:30pm

March 24 @ 7:30pm

March 25 @ 2:30pm & 7:30pm

March 26 @ 2:30pm

Director Samuel Jarius Pettit and Musical Director Justin Beal have adapted the well-known story of Alice in Wonderland into a modern fairytale suited to children and young adults in this time period.

In this Studio East original, Alice finds herself trapped in a crazy video game called Wonderland. In order to escape she must complete all the levels and defeat the Red Queen. But can she get past the hardest obstacle of all...her own self-doubt?

This fun adaptation reimagines classic characters like the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter and Caterpillar, while also riffing on well-known video games such as "Super Mario Bros.", "The Legend of Zelda," "Dance Dance Revolution" and more.

The show is recommended for ages 8+ and has a running time of approximately 2 hours with intermission. Adult tickets are \$19, while students and seniors are \$17. All performances are at the Studio East Mainstage Theater located at 11730 118th Ave NE in Kirkland. Performances run May 19 – June 4, with the following show times:

May 19 @ 7:30pm

May 20 @ 2:30pm & 7:30pm

May 21 @ 2:30pm

May 26 @ 7:30pm

May 27 @ 2:30pm & 7:30pm

May 28 @ 2:30pm

June 2 @ 7:30pm

June 3 @ 2:30pm & 7:30pm

June 4 @ 2:30pm

About Studio East and StoryBook Theater

Studio East Training for the Performing Arts was founded in 1992 to provide theater arts education for young people on the Eastside. It was founded on the belief that through the performing arts children can build confidence, and acquire leadership and teamwork skills while learning discipline, dedication and responsibility. Starting with one theater program for teens, Studio East has become one of the largest children's theater training programs in the Seattle area. Studio East also produces StoryBook Theater, an adult professional touring troupe that introduces young children to live theater at venues throughout the Puget Sound area.

Today, Studio East serves over 70,000 people annually with a comprehensive program of drama classes, theater arts camps, Mainstage productions and live performances for children from ages 3 through 19.