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Lexington Children's Theatre
Announces

Willy Wonka

- WHO:** Lexington Children's Theatre
- WHAT:** *Willy Wonka*
Music & lyrics by Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley
Adapted by Leslie Bricusse & Tim McDonald
Based on the book *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory*
By Roald Dahl
- WHEN:** July 29 at 7:30 pm
July 30 at 7:30 pm
July 31 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm
August 1 at 2:00 pm
- WHERE:** Lexington Children's Theatre Main Stage
- TICKETS:** \$16.00 for adults, \$13.00 for children

"Oompa loompa doompa dee doo..." It's impossible to hear that tune and not experience at least the littlest bit of nostalgia. All around the world people are familiar with the story. Willy Wonka, the most famous candy man in the world, wishes to retire from his factory. He hides five golden tickets in candy bars distributed throughout the world, hoping that one of the ticket discoverers will prove worthy of taking over his beloved factory. As they travel through the factory, the unworthy ticket holders meet their rightful ends and only one honest, optimistic, imaginative boy remains.

Lexington Children's Theatre is thrilled to present *Willy Wonka* as its Ninth Annual Summer Family Musical. But don't expect the same story you've seen time and time again. While you can certainly expect the same plot that you know and love, you can also be sure that this version will be unlike any you've seen before.

Everyone has seen the film version of *Willy Wonka* starring Gene Wilder. Most have also seen the more recent version directed by Tim Burton. Some have even read the classic book by Roald Dahl. But the world has yet to see this classic story put onstage with a little LCT magic.

Co-directors Jeremy Kisling and Amie Dunn have been searching for ways to make LCT's production of *Willy Wonka* different from the familiar film versions. Kisling says, "When LCT produces plays we do not want, nor do we try, to put the movie onstage. We work to create a version of the play that is original and challenges the audience's expectations, while still being entertaining and intriguing. As theatre artists we are trying to provide a new experience with a story we know and love."

One of the ways in which Dunn and Kisling are making the LCT production of *Willy Wonka* unique is by adding in some circus art. "We are using a fair amount of circus arts in the Oompa-Loompas movements and travels throughout the factory. Each of the 'bad children's' demises will be solved in a new and provocative manner," says Kisling.

The costumes are another way in which LCT plans to make their version of *Willy Wonka* a standout performance. Costume Director, Eric Abele, recently made the switch from the Education Department to the Costume Department at Lexington Children's Theatre. While Abele has been designing costumes for some time now, *Willy Wonka* is one of his first shows at LCT officially designing as Costume Director. His costume designs for *Willy Wonka* are colorful, imaginative, and completely unique to this particular production. You can view the costume renderings on Abele's website: www.ericabele.com.

Willy Wonka is also unique in the number of people who came out for auditions. *Willy Wonka* is a Discovery show, meaning that auditions are open to the public. You don't have to be a professional actor to audition for Discovery shows. For this particular Discovery show LCT had a record breaking number of auditioners. While it's thrilling to have such a wide variety of people to cast from, it's a little disheartening, too. Kisling says, "One of the most difficult parts of every production is choosing from so many talented individuals, each of whom offer other wonderful gifts to add to the production."

With such a large cast, such colorful, creative costumes and circus art performing Oompa-Loompas, Lexington Children's Theatre's production of *Willy Wonka* is sure to be an adventure. There's no other choice but to come and see for yourself what surprises the candy man and crew have in store.

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Founded in 1938, LCT is in its 72nd Season of producing plays for young audiences. LCT is a non-profit organization dedicated to the intellectual and cultural enrichment of young people. It is one of the oldest continuously operating theatres for youth in the country and is proud to be the State Children's Theatre of Kentucky.

Destination: imagination

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