

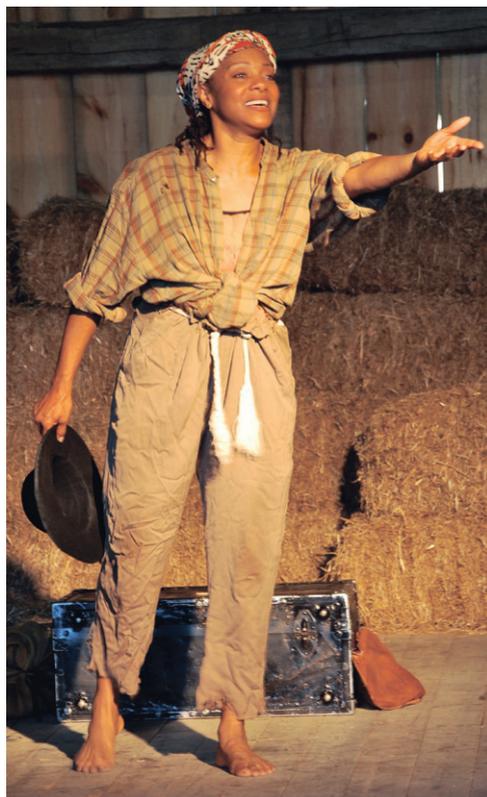
New OnStage Family Performance Series brings top-notch shows to Halton Hills

A new family-oriented performance series kicks off this weekend at the John Elliott Theatre.

OnStage Family is a new stage performance series produced in partnership by the Halton Hills Public Library and the Halton Hills Cultural Centre. The series, designed to bring high quality theatrical shows to Halton Hills for families to enjoy, has been made possible through the generous support of the Poulstrup Family.

The series kicks off on Sunday, Jan. 31 with the sold-out performance of the well-loved duo of Bobs & LoLo. Well-known from their appearances on Treehouse TV and Disney Junior; Bobs & LoLo were recently named Canada's Favourite Kids' Entertainer in a nationwide poll by CBC Music. This dynamic duo is dedicated to connecting children to nature with music, movement and make-believe.

"Bringing in top notch performers for young people and their families has been on our wish list for quite some time," said Jane Diamanti, executive director of Library Services



home-grown theatre offered by Globe Productions and Georgetown Little Theatre, families will have more access to exceptional musical, dance and theatrical performances without having to drive out of town."

More shows are planned in the coming months in-

Leslie McCurdy in her one-woman show, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* at the John Elliott Theatre on Sunday, March 6.

cluding:

- *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* on Sunday, March 6 at 2 p.m. (John Elliott Theatre). On a barren stage with only a trunk of costumes, *The Spirit of Harriet*

Tubman uses Harriet's own words in telling the story of her life from her earliest experiences as a slave and

underground railroad conductor, to her continued commitment to others in her later years. Written and performed by celebrated artist, Leslie McCurdy, *The Spirit of Harriet Tubman* was a finalist for the 1999 National Canadian Chalmers Award for 'Best New Play for Young Audiences.'

- *Oh no!* by AKA Dance Theatre on Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m. (Acton Town Hall). *Oh no!* is AKA Dance's quirky take on the art of ballroom dancing. Unexpected and funny, the work celebrates and subverts this quintessential form with a thoroughly contemporary sensibility. Romance, virtuosity and gallantry mix with power struggles, one-upmanship and mishap in a dance both elegant and hilarious geared especially toward young audiences.

- *Shakespeare Meets Hip Hop* on Saturday, April 30 at 2 p.m. (John Elliott Theatre). *Shakespeare Meets Hip Hop* is a vibrant, interactive presentation that demonstrates how modern hip-hop shares many similarities with the themes, language and rhythm used by Shakespeare.

Both are full of poetry, word play and lyricism, and both deal with what it is to be human. The presentation features three professional actors, thumb-nail sketches of Shakespeare's life and times, and key scenes and speeches from Shakespeare's most popularly studied plays— including *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Hamlet*. This will give kids a great "Shakespeareance"!

"Early introduction to the performing arts expands possibilities, helps you see the world through many different eyes, and enhances the joy of being.....all part of a well-rounded life experience," said Finn Poulstrup, the program's donor. "We are pleased to assist in presenting this program in Halton Hills."

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 16. Buy tickets to three or more shows and save on reduced tickets prices— \$15 for adults and \$7.50 for children.

More information about the shows is available on the Town of Halton Hills website at www.halton-hills.ca/theatre

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