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## Wells Fargo Center for the Arts announces 2015-16 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series

Eight family-friendly performances feature astonishing acrobats, glow-in-the-dark dazzling puppetry, amazing performing pets and perennial favorite characters

Santa Rosa, CA (May 5, 2015) – **Wells Fargo Center for the Arts** continues its commitment to including dynamic family entertainment as a key part of its programming with a new-lineup of educational and interactive performances in Santa Rosa. Today, the Center announced the **2015-2016 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series**, featuring eight shows for young audiences and their families. Fall through spring, the series will delight audiences of all ages with shows sure to astound, entertain, enlighten and engage. Popular children’s book characters coming to life onstage, musical performances, glow-in-the-dark characters, pets performing extraordinary tricks, the world’s finest acrobats, and hilarious improv based on stories submitted by children comprise the Family Fun Series experience.

To round out the yearlong series, each performance includes free family art projects before each show and post-show opportunities to meet the cast. Beginning this fall, the Center is proud to announce a new partnership with the Children’s Museum of Sonoma County who will be bringing their “Museum-on-the-Go” experience to augment the existing “Free Fun with Art” pre-show activities prior to each performance.

“We are proud to continue our longstanding tradition of bringing high-quality, family programming to our community. These shows and their related programs introduce young audiences to the performing arts, provide a venue for children to discover the world around them, experience new cultures and learn important life lessons, and create a space for quality family time,” says **Executive Director Rick Nowlin**. “And we applaud the continued support of Clover Stornetta, our presenting partner, which allows us to provide tickets at an accessible price, to allow as many families as possible to participate.”

The Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series kicks-off on **Wednesday, October 21, 2015**, with the onstage experience of the wildly popular ***Veggie Tales Live!*** Through hilarious storytelling, silly songs and lovable characters, *VeggieTales Live!* engages the whole family. DreamWorks Animation has re-launched the TV show on Netflix starting in November 2014 and this all-new stage show will feature 14 cast and crewmembers and 15 different *Veggie Tales* songs.

Back by popular demand are the ***Golden Dragon Acrobats*** on **Wednesday November 4, 2015**. Recognized throughout the United States and abroad as the premiere Chinese acrobatic touring company of today, ***Golden Dragon Acrobats*** combine award-winning acrobatics, traditional dance, spectacular costumes, ancient and contemporary music and theatrical techniques to present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding beauty representing the best of a time honored tradition that began more than twenty-five centuries ago.

Light up the holidays by attending a performance of ***Lightwire Theater's A Very Electric Christmas*** on **Tuesday, December 1**. From the creators of last year's *DiNO Light*, this captivating and magical tale of adventure, friendship and love is a wonderful opportunity to start a new holiday tradition. Employing the company's signature combination of art, theater, puppetry, and technology powered by "electroluminescent wire," this creative storyline features Nutcracker soldiers, caroling worms, dancing poinsettias, mischievous mice and an evil Rat King with epic battle scene. Audiences of all ages will enjoy the timeless Christmas classics including songs from some of today's most popular artists.

The New Year brings a perennial favorite children's story, ***The Cat in the Hat***, to life with a performance on **Wednesday January 20, 2016**. Based on the ever-popular children's book by Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat* and his mischievous friends keep the antics entertaining and surprising.

**Sunday February 21** Dallas Children's Theater will present ***The BFG***, a "whizzcracklingly wacky tale" where puppets and people create a fantastical world of towering giants and magical adventures. In the much beloved tradition of Roald Dahl (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*), this is an adventure of two misfits on an unforgettable odyssey. For a young orphan "human bean," the sight of a giant outside her window is terrifying, and she fears for her life when he whisks her away to an enchanted land. This Big Friendly Giant is not like other giants, however. The job of this larger-than-life vegetarian is to blow magical dreams into children's bedrooms, and together they embark on a quest to save England from the "gizzard-gulping" giants who don't have the BFG's tender heart. The cheeky BFG ultimately shows that heroes can come in all sizes.

***Clifford The Big Red Dog™ – Live!*** brings the return of the Emmy-nominated show on stage on **Tuesday, March 15, 2016**. It only takes a little to BE BIG!™ The 'big red dog,' a character beloved for generations, comes to life in a BIG way in this interactive musical. Join Clifford, Emily Elizabeth and all their friends as they embark on an adventure filled with singing, dancing and more. Share in the timeless values of Clifford's BIG Ideas: Share, Play Fair, Have Respect, Work Together, Be Responsible, Be Truthful, Be Kind, Believe In Yourself, Be A Good Friend and Help Others – with a family musical experience.

On **Sunday April 10, 2016**, the popular ***Story Pirates*** return with their hysterically funny interactive performance experience. Described as "Monty Python meets Schoolhouse Rock," *Story Pirates* create outlandishly funny sketches and mini-musicals based on stories submitted by children. The songs and stories explode with creative energy and the audience participation guarantees the show is never the same twice.

The season concludes with **Popovich Comedy Pet Theater** on **Thursday, May 12, 2016**. Following a tour of more than 20 countries, Gregory Popovich, winner of multiple international circus competitions, and his rescued furry friends, bring their Comedy Pet Theater to Santa Rosa. Critics describe the show as a unique blend of physical comedy, world-champion juggling and the extraordinary talents of more than 30 performing pets including housecats, dogs, parrots, even geese and mice.

## **Tickets**

4-show and 8-show season ticket packages to the **2014-2015 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series** are now available. 8-show season ticket packages range from \$50 - \$80 for children, and \$68 - \$112 for adults. New this year is the "Pick 4" season ticket package allowing patrons to choose any four shows and save 10% on ticket prices. All season ticket packages are available by phone at 708-546-3600, or at the Ticket Office located at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

Single tickets will go on sale in August. Tickets for individual shows range from \$16 - \$21 for adults and \$12 - \$16 for children and are available at [wellsfargocenterarts.org](http://wellsfargocenterarts.org), by phone at 707-546-3600, or at the Ticket Office located at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

*Generous additional support for the 2014-15 Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series is provided by Exchange Bank and Macy's. Media sponsors for the series are Mix 104.9, Hot 101.7, and Froggy 92.9.*

**PRINT QUALITY IMAGES AVAILABLE:**

<http://wellsfargocenterarts.org/media/>

## **2015-2016**

### **Clover Stornetta Family Fun Series**

*All performances 60 minutes in length unless otherwise noted.*

#### **Veggie Tales Live!**

Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 6:30pm

Tickets: \$21 adult, \$16 child

Recommended for ages 3 - 7

#### **Golden Dragon Acrobats**

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 6:30pm

Tickets: \$21 adult, \$16 child

Recommended for All Ages

*90 minutes with intermission*

#### **Lightwire Theater's A Very Electric Christmas**

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 6:30pm

Tickets: \$21 adult, \$16 child  
Recommended for ages 6 and up  
*95 minutes with intermission*

**The Cat in the Hat**

by Childsplay  
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 6:30pm  
Tickets: \$17 adult, \$12 child  
Recommended for ages 3 through 8

**The BFG**

by Dallas Children's Theater  
Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 3:00pm  
Tickets: \$17 adult, \$12 child  
Recommended for ages 3 through 8

**Clifford The Big Red Dog™ – Live!**

by Maximum Entertainment  
Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:30pm  
Tickets: \$17 adult, \$12 child  
Recommended for ages 3 through 8

**Story Pirates**

Sunday, April 10, 2016 at 3:00pm  
Tickets: \$17 adult, \$12 child  
Recommended for All Ages

**Popovich Comedy Pet Theater**

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 6:30pm  
Tickets: \$21 adult, \$16 child  
Recommended for All Ages

**About Wells Fargo Center for the Arts**

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary visual art, and many popular events. The Arts Center is located in the heart of the Sonoma wine country and ranked among California's top performing arts presenters. Together with its resident companies, the Center presents more than 100 performances in music, dance, theater, renowned speakers, and comedy; provides education programs serving 30,000 children and adults; and hosts more than 1,000 community events a year. Owned and operated by the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation, the Center relies on charitable community donations to achieve its mission – to enrich, educate, and entertain.

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