



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: _____

National Touring Production of *Building Stories* to Perform Locally

Bright Star Touring Theatre, a national professional touring theatre company based in Asheville, NC, is visiting the area with their performance of *Building Stories*.

Building Stories is a 45-minute original production which was created to help school-age audiences learn about the art of making a story. Terms such as character, plot, setting and theme are covered and, later, audience members join Bright Star's actor-educators in "building a story." Their suggestions and input help to create a brand new tale on the spot. Erin Schmidt, Director of Development at Bright Star, says this production was created because of input from teachers and librarians. "We always ask our sponsors what kind of show would best fit their needs and we received a lot of feedback that encouraging students to read and write would be really helpful", says Schmidt. "We know it can be tricky to get students excited about reading and writing, especially with technology being so present in the our lives. We thought if we could engage students in a live performance it might get them more involved in their English classes or at their local library."

Each year, Bright Star Touring Theatre serves nearly 1,500 audiences in schools, theaters, libraries, museums and more across the country. They offer a wide variety of curriculum-based programs ranging from *The Lady of Bullyburg* to *Heroes of the Underground Railroad*. "We travel with everything we need and we can perform just about anywhere," says National Tour Manager Reeni Dowd. "Our actors join us from all over the country and they sometimes visit ten different cities each week, playing a huge variety of characters. It's a great way for them to flex their acting muscles!" The company performs regularly at the National Theatre in Washington DC and has gained international attention, having visited Russia and Germany with their productions. Information about all their interactive shows, including production videos, photos, study guides and more is available online at www.brightstartheatre.com.

Bright Star Touring Theatre will appear at:

Venue: _____

Date and Time: _____

Venue Address: _____

Contact Person for Program: _____

Contact Information: _____