

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Puerto Rican Action Board and Early Childhood Education Centers in New Brunswick Participate in State Theatre New Jersey's Early-Childhood Literacy Through The Arts Project

New Brunswick, NJ (March 5, 2018)—The Puerto Rican Action Board (PRAB) and Early Childhood Education Centers in New Brunswick have signed on to participate in **State Theatre New Jersey's Early-Childhood Literacy Through the Arts Project**. The project—which takes place during the course of the 2017-2018 school year **with 1250 participating students and 180 teachers**—is an exciting initiative that uses live theater as a tool for developing reading skills in children five and under.

Working with the Puerto Rican Action Board (PRAB), the New Brunswick Public School District, and Early Childhood Education Centers in New Brunswick, State Theatre provides local preschool classrooms with tickets to school-day performances that are based on classic children's literature. The books featured in this year's program include ***Guess How Much I Love You* by Sam McBratney, *I Love My Little Storybook* by Anita Jeram, *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson, and *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister**. The State Theatre provides each classroom with copies of the picture books, along with tickets to the performance—all at no cost to the schools.

Students experience these delightful stories on both the page and the stage: by reading them with their class, then seeing them brought to life in a live performance ~~on~~ at the State Theatre.

The program was inspired by research showing that engaging young children with lively, colorful stories boosts comprehension, vocabulary, and interest. Associating the written text with creative, multisensory storytelling helps reinforce vocabulary for the students, some of whom are learning English as a second language.

Back in the classroom, teachers use the performance as a springboard for art projects and reading activities. State Theatre's *Keynotes* study guide is an additional resource for helping teachers integrate the performance into the school curriculum.

The Early-Childhood Literacy Project is sponsored by The PNC Foundation.

About State Theatre New Jersey

The theater exists to enrich people's lives, contribute to a vital urban environment, and build future audiences by presenting the finest performing artists and entertainers and fostering lifetime appreciation for the performing arts through arts education. State Theatre New Jersey's programs are made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. Grant funding has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund. United is the official airline of the State Theatre.

STATE THEATRE NEW JERSEY

Creating Extraordinary Experiences Through the Power of Live Performance

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PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS FURNISHED UPON REQUEST

Please contact Kelly Blithe at

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Information in this release is current as of March 5, 2018.

Up-to-the-minute information on events and State Theatre news,
online at STNJ.org.

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