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## **FROM THE BIG SCREEN TO THE STAGE: FIRST STAGE BRINGS DISNEY & PIXAR'S FINDING NEMO TYA TO MILWAUKEE THIS SPRING**

*Dive into the beloved underwater adventure featuring an ocean of puppets that are sure to be unforgettable!*

**MILWAUKEE** — [First Stage](#) — one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families — invites audiences to experience the beloved 2003 classic on stage: Disney & Pixar's FINDING NEMO, Theater for Young Audiences (TYA) version. Featuring new music by the award-winning songwriting team behind the hit movie "Frozen," this production promises to make a splash and delight audiences of all ages.

[Disney & Pixar's FINDING NEMO TYA](#) runs **March 8 through April 6, 2025**, at the Marcus Performing Arts Center's Todd Wehr Theater. **Tickets are available now on [FirstStage.org](#).**

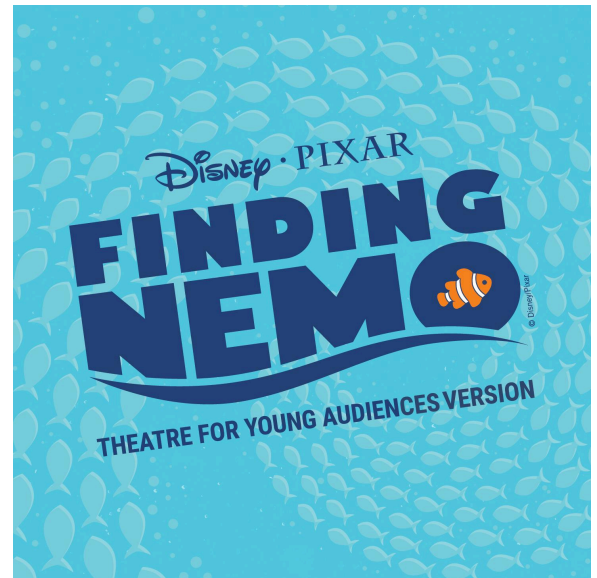
"Finding Nemo captured the hearts and imaginations of families everywhere, and now we're bringing that magic and wonder to Milwaukee," said Jeff Frank, artistic director at First Stage. "Audiences will be amazed and inspired by this production featuring nearly 40 puppets. It's a must-see show for all celebrating family, friendship, trust and courage. Marlin and Dory's epic journey reminds us all of the strength we can find within ourselves if we 'just keep swimming.'"

Marlin, an anxious and over-protective clownfish, lives in the Great Barrier Reef with his kid Nemo, who longs to explore the world beyond their anemone home. But when Nemo is captured and taken to Sydney, Marlin faces his fears and sets off on an epic adventure across the ocean. With the help of lovable characters such as optimistic Dory, laid-back sea turtle Crush and the supportive Tank Gang, Marlin and Nemo both overcome challenges on their journey to find each other and themselves.

DISNEY'S FINDING NEMO TYA is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com).

Dive into this underwater adventure!

*The show runs approximately 75 minutes, including a brief intermission. Recommended for families with young people ages 5-12 and theater lovers of all ages. This production's [Pay What You Choose Performance](#) is on*



Friday, March 14 at 7 p.m., the [Sensory Friendly Performance](#) is on Saturday, March 22 at 3:30 p.m., and the [Sign Language Interpreted Performance](#) is on Sunday, April 6 at 3:30 p.m.

#### **Creative Team**

Co-Directors ... Jeff Frank & Michael Dean Morgan  
Choreographer ... Michael Dean Morgan  
Music Director ... Paul Helm  
Scenic Designer ... Kristin Ellert  
Costume Designer ... Theresa Ham  
Lighting Designer ... Jason Fassl, USA  
Sound Designer ... Josh Schmidt  
Stage Manager ... Kelly L. Schwartz\*  
Assistant Stage Manager ... Aminah Rockett  
Second Assistant Stage Manager ... Vivian Madson

#### **Adult Performers**

Marlin ... Jake Horstmeier  
Dory ... Karen Estrada\*  
Bruce / Ensemble ... Zach Thomas Woods\*  
Coral / Ensemble ... Rachael Zientek  
Professor Ray / Ensemble ... Chase Stoeger

#### **Young Performers**

##### **Orange Cast**

Nemo .. Lainey Techtmann  
Tad / Young Ensemble ... Steven Gayfield  
Sheldon / Young Ensemble ... Cal Jordan  
Pearl / Young Ensemble ... Mara Iligaray  
Squirt / Young Ensemble ... Annabelle Miller  
Peach / Teen Ensemble ... Annalise Jordan  
Bloat / Teen Ensemble ... Quinn Sison  
Gurgle / Teen Ensemble ... Ava Sabel  
Teen Ensemble ... Aliyah Streicher

##### **Young Performers**

##### **Blue Cast**

Nemo ... Simone Gong-Murray  
Tad / Young Ensemble ... Ira Kindkeppel-Longden  
Sheldon / Young Ensemble ... William Jelenchick  
Pearl / Young Ensemble .. Eviana Gibbons  
Squirt / Young Ensemble ... Tegan Rae Stadler  
Peach / Teen Ensemble ... Emily Honigman  
Bloat / Teen Ensemble ... Elliot Lippman  
Gurgle / Teen Ensemble ... Jeremiah Cooper  
Teen Ensemble ... Annaliese Witz

*\*Appearing through an Agreement between First Stage and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States*

**Don't miss out on the rest of the season productions coming soon! Find tickets and additional information at [www.firststage.org/2024-2025-Season](http://www.firststage.org/2024-2025-Season).**

- **March 28 - April 13** RIDE THE CYCLONE: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION
- **May 2 - 18** ESPERANZA RISING
- **May 3 - 4** DOG MAN: THE MUSICAL

For additional information about the 2024-2025 season and to order tickets, please go to [firststage.org](http://firststage.org) or call (414) 267-2961.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCE:** [Download media assets and additional production information](#)

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#### **About First Stage**

Founded in 1987, First Stage is one of the nation's leading theaters for young people and families, and a driving force behind the creation of the best and most innovative plays for family audiences, theater training programs for young people, and education initiatives for its schools and community. First Stage ensures that all programming is not only accessible to its community but that it is reflective of the community it serves.

First Stage produces plays that honor the young person's point of view, include diverse and traditionally underrepresented voices, and inspire meaningful conversations. First Stage has presented more than 70 world premiere productions that

address important subject matters relevant to today's youth. The Theater Academy is one of the nation's largest high-impact theater training programs for young people (3-18 years old). Through a challenging curriculum taught by professional teaching artists, the Academy nurtures life skills through stage skills and includes the Next Steps Program that tailors Theater Academy classes to the needs of young people on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. As Wisconsin's leader in arts-integrated education in schools, First Stage's dynamic Theater in Education Programs cleverly blend theater activities with standard curriculum—allowing more than 10,000 students annually to learn traditional academic subjects through creativity and self expression.

First Stage is a member of TYA/USA, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education, the Wisconsin Alliance for Arts Education, Milwaukee Arts Partners and is a cornerstone member of the United Performing Arts Fund (UPAF). For more information, visit [firststage.org](http://firststage.org).