

ALLEY THEATRE

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Alley Theatre Creates an Engaging, Timely Play for Elementary School Children

***Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection* Will Help Children
Learn to Cope with the Unique Stressors of the School Year**

HOUSTON, TX – The Alley Theatre is proud to virtually present *Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection* by **Matt Ackels** and **Prince Gomolvilas**. Directed by the Alley’s Director of Education & Community Engagement, **Mary Sutton**, *Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection* is a timely, innovative, and interactive new play that is a part of the Alley Theatre’s acclaimed *Oskar* series. The Alley’s *Oskar* series was developed to give students the gift of laughter while they learn some of life’s toughest lessons and learn how to cope with crisis in a healthy way.

When an unforeseen global event forces Oskar to stay home and attend school online, he is not sure how to adjust. He has spent six months preparing a very special show-and-tell experience. It’s magical. It’s the best of the best, but it won’t work on the internet...at all! Soon, he stops feeling like himself and starts spiraling into a pit of worrisome ill-fitting coping strategies and troubling emotions. But with the help of his family, his peers, and his community, he learns to adapt and get back to doing the thing he’s best at: being Oskar!

In this new, groundbreaking series comprised of three 10-15-minute episodes, Oskar will be compelled to figure out how to adapt and transform, even in isolation. He will learn to strike a balance between the virtual and the real. And his friends—all the students watching him online—will walk away from the screen having learned valuable lessons about coping when life just isn’t going your way, being mindful when the world is out of control, and the value of staying connected amidst the noise. All the wonder, humor, and heart that are the signature of the *Oskar* stage shows have now been brilliantly adapted for the Zoom age.

The bite-sized hybrid theatre experience is designed as three short gems for teachers. *Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection* is designed to be flexible, which will suit teachers' unpredictable scheduling needs. Additional activities will allow teachers to tailor Social Emotional and TEKS-aligned classroom experiences, both pre-, during, and post-show, so that students will emerge in 2021 as heroes to each other and themselves.

The cast of *Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection* includes **Christina Austin Lopez** as Beth, **Alan Kim** as Frank, **Skylar Sinclair** as Oskar's Mom, and **Diego Villanueva** as Oskar. All actors will play additional roles as well.

The creative team of the play include Director **Mary Sutton**, Sound Designer & Lead Editor **Bradley Dean Whyte**, and Assistant Director **Lauren Julun**.

Teachers that are interested in bringing *Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection* into their classrooms should visit **virtualoskar** for more information.

Oskar and the Shockingly Bad Internet Connection is generously sponsored by **KPMG LLP** and the **George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation**.

PHOTOS OF PAST OSKAR SHOWS:

https://alleytheatreorg-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/larisag_alleytheatre_org/EvTUd3hrGXNHtQIgmTgTO10BjGsWCRWsuqfdGdPnohq2PQ?e=7APqf1

ABOUT THE ALLEY THEATRE:

The Alley Theatre, one of America's leading nonprofit theatres, is a nationally recognized performing arts company led by Artistic Director Rob Melrose and Managing Director Dean R. Gladden. The Alley is committed to developing and producing theatre that is as diverse as the Houston community. The Theatre produces up to 16 plays and nearly 500 performances each season, ranging from the best current work and re-invigorated classic plays to new plays by contemporary writers. Home to a full-time resident company of actors, the Alley engages theatre artists of every discipline—actors, directors, designers, composers, playwrights—who work on individual productions throughout each season as visiting artists.

The Alley is comprised of two state-of-the-art theatres: the 774-seat Hubbard Theatre and the 296-seat Neuhaus Theatre. The Alley reaches over 200,000 people each year through its performance, education, and community engagement programs. Its audience enrichment programs include pre-show and post-performance talks, events, and workshops for audience members of all ages.

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