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Get Yer Halloween Costume on and Head to Netcong's Growing Stage for 'How I Became a Pirate'

by [Warren Reporter](#)

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Halloween weekend is expected to attract a whole new cast of characters to The Growing Stage performances of "How I Became a Pirate." Children ages 5 to 12 are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to performances on Saturday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 2. The youngster judged as having the "most imaginative costume" at each performance will win four tickets to an upcoming Growing Stage production.

Based on the award-winning, best-selling book by Melinda Long and David Shannon, "How I Became a Pirate" is a hilarious tale of young, soccer-loving Jeremy Jacobs as he joins Captain Braid Beard and his pirate crew as they embark on a voyage for buried treasure.

Originally produced in 2007 by Emerald City Theatre in Chicago, the show features veteran Growing Stage actors Jeremy William Hilgert, Danny Campos, and Jason Szamreta.

Hilgert brought the beloved Toad to life in the 2006 production of "A Year With Frog and Toad" while Campos last performed at the Palace Theatre as Armando in last year's production of "The Dinosaur Musical." Szamreta played the title role in last year's production of "The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)." Making their Growing Stage debuts are actors R. David Robinson, Scott Zenreich and Natasha Martin.

The show will be on stage at The Palace Theatre through Nov. 9, with performances at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evenings and 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Tickets are \$12 for children and seniors and \$16 for adults and may be purchased by calling the Box Office at 973-347-4946 or online at www.growingstage.com.

Founded in 1981, The Growing Stage was the 2008 recipient of the prestigious Sara Spencer Artistic Achievement Award presented by the American Alliance for Theatre & Education. The award, named in honor of Sara Spencer, founder of Anchorage Press, and one of the founders of the Children's Theatre Foundation, was presented to The Growing Stage for sustained and exceptional achievement in the field of theatre for young audiences.

The Growing Stage, the Children's Theatre of New Jersey, is located in the Historic Palace Theatre, 7 Ledgewood Ave.