



Last week I arrived at home around 3:30pm after a long, busy day. A message was on my voicemail from my friend, Harvey, telling me about a special one-day-only deal at the Children's Theatre for the performance of Robin Hood. My heart rate sped up (one-day-only deals get me very excited) and I quickly called him to get the juicy details. Harvey explained that he had just snagged tickets to Robin Hood for his family of four for only \$28! What?! Normal ticket prices are \$20-\$40 each. He said that I should call right away, because when he called to make his purchase there was a long hold time, and the special was over at 4pm. Click! I don't even think I said thank you or goodbye to my friend, because my whole focus was on securing this deal before it ended and I only had about 20 minutes! I raced to the computer, googled [www.childrenstheatre.org](http://www.childrenstheatre.org), quickly found the phone number, and started dialing.

The man who answered the phone at the Children's Theatre informed me that all the tickets from this Pay-What-You-Can program were sold out. I was somewhat disappointed, but then he quickly added that there would be other opportunities like this throughout this year's theater season. Since I always like to keep you "in the know" about these types of things, here's the 411 on how you can plan for a great, budget-friendly family night out. In addition, you may be curious to hear about other opportunities to experience the Children's Theatre.

**Pay-What-You-Can Program** Intended primarily to target families in need, this program offers a limited number of tickets for shows during the 2010/2011 season for a minimum amount of \$3/each. Any donated amount that's above \$3 is used to help sustain the program. Tickets can be purchased in-person or by phone, starting at twelve noon on a designated day (see schedule below). I found out that the tickets for the Robin Hood show were gone within an hour, so you must be an early bird to catch this deal! In addition, you may purchase up to six pay-what-you-can-tickets. You won't find information about this program on their website, so call the theater directly for more details.

Do you have a drama queen or king living at your house, do you know one, *or are you one?* Consider putting that energy to good use by auditioning for an upcoming play at the Children's Theatre. The final show of the season is Annie, and auditions will take place October 10th-12th. You'll find more audition information on the website, including the details on the run dates of all

## Children's Theater celebrates 45th anniversary

Written by Marcia Humphrey  
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shows.

*Pay-What-You-Can Program Tickets sales are on the following Mondays, starting a twelve noon.*

**A Christmas Story** November 22, 2010

**Babe the Sheep Pig** January 24, 2011

**Bario Grrrl** March 7, 2011

**Annie** April 18, 2011

Aside from the Pay-What-You-Can Program the Children's Theatre, sells rush tickets- the remaining seats at discounted prices about an hour before the performance (For instance, you could get an unsold \$40 seat for only \$15). To figure out when you are most likely to get a rush ticket, go online or call to check seating availability. During times when resources are tight for many families, it's good to know that the Children's Theatre recognizes their opportunity and responsibility to share their gifts and resources with the community. That type of generosity, by organizations and individuals, always has a boomerang effect. Enjoy!

*Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at low costs. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.*