

PRESS CONTACT:

Press@TheWallis.org

Libby Huebner, 562.799.6055

Laura Stegman, 310.470.6321

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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Announces
The Story Pirates' *SLEEP SQUAD*
A Family-Friendly, Interactive, Virtual Theater Experience from
The Story Pirates and Tony Award-Winning Producer Eva Price**

(BEVERLY HILLS, CA, March 18, 2021) — Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts announces ***SLEEP SQUAD***, a family-friendly, interactive, virtual theater experience from **The Story Pirates** and Tony Award-winning producer **Eva Price** (*Jagged Little Pill*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*), available for purchase over a two-week period beginning March 29 through April 11, 2021. *SLEEP SQUAD* is a one-of-a-kind experience that leaps off the screen for performance-like, immersive family fun right at home. Featuring brand-new kid-driven comedy and music, this world-premiere production introduces a special new kind of bedtime ritual for kids ages 4-12. The imaginative on-demand show can be experienced after dinner, before bedtime, at naptime or anytime young “astronauts” feel like going on an adventure into their dreams. It can be experienced in one sitting, or each story can be enjoyed in three 15-minute segments.

Created and directed by Olivier Award nominee **Jennifer Weber** (*& Juliet*, *The Hip Hop Nutcracker*) and Drama Desk Award nominee **Lee Overtree** (*Found*, Story Pirates Artistic Director), *SLEEP SQUAD* stars Tony Award Nominee **Lilli Cooper** (*SpongeBob SquarePants*, *Tootsie*) as the Dream Queen. As pilot of the spaceship Ariem, the Dream Queen launches kids into the Slumber Galaxy on three different missions as they train to become members of the Sleep Squad, an elite group of the world’s most advanced dreamers.

Inventors of the #1 podcast for kids, downloaded more than 25 million times, The Story Pirates are winners of both the 2020 Webby and iHeartRadio awards for Best Kids and Family podcast. The Story Pirates have built “some of the best creators and performers in kids media today” (Sirius XM). At The Wallis, The Story Pirates appear regularly as a part of its Sunday Funday series of free outdoor programming for families and performed two Live Radio Show recordings in its Lovelace Studio Theater.

SLEEP SQUAD, launched in late November 2020, was recommended by *Review Wire* as a “stellar new bedtime ritual for the whole fam!” *Motherhood Later* remarked, “The best part was

watching the smile on my son's face as he listened to the stories, paused to write in his sleep journal, and watched the stars dancing on the walls of his room." And *New York Times* theater critic Alexis Soloski remarked that her kids enjoyed making up their own stories behind their sleep masks.

According to The Wallis' Artistic Director Paul Crewes, "It's a treat for us to be able to invite families with young children to experience such an inventive new virtual performance from our partners, The Story Pirates. Their story-telling is so inclusive for all ages."

There are two easy ways to experience SLEEP SQUAD:

Video Only - \$19 per household for repeated viewing over the next two weeks. Purchasers will receive instructions on how to create the *SLEEP SQUAD* interactive experience using items available at home and that can be imagined.

Video + Official Dreamtime Travel Kit - \$34, which features an official *SLEEP SQUAD* Dreamtime Travel Kit (shipped to the purchaser's address) that includes a dream journal, sleep mask, stickers, and a star projector. Additional kits may be purchased for \$15 each. Viewing access is extended from two weeks to four weeks.

SLEEP SQUAD can be viewed on desktop and mobile computer web browsers, as well as on iOS and Android devices. Viewing period begins at time of purchase.

For further information and to purchase tickets, please visit <https://thewallis.org/Sleep>.
310.746.4000 (Tue.-Fri. 9:30 am – 2:30 pm)
Tickets@TheWallis.org

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 300 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as "au courant" (LaLa Magazine), The Wallis was lauded by Culture Vulture, which proclaims, "If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis." Its programming has been nominated for 79 Ovation Awards and nine L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

SLEEP SQUAD

Produced by The Story Pirates and Eva Price
Created and directed by Jennifer Weber and Lee Overtree
Starring Lilli Cooper as the Dream Queen

WHEN:

Available for purchase from March 29 through April 11, 2021

RUN TIME:

45 minutes + 15 minutes of soothing music

TICKET PRICES AND INFORMATION:

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