



Photo by Karen Faley

Fun with summer reading

Gandalf the wizard (l) tells Bilbo Baggins the Hobbit (r) about the adventures he is about to undergo in "The Hobbit" a production of The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company of San Diego, Calif.



Photo by Karen Faley

Bilbo Baggins tells Thorin the leader of the dwarves he has indeed picked the right Hobbit for the journey.

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visit the Web site at travelinglantern.com.

from character to character, playing Gandalf the wizard, Thorin the leader of the dwarves, Gollum the goblin and more.

The actors also used the audience to help bring the story to life.

When the Hobbit put on the magic ring, audience members were instructed to call out, "Kazam." When the ring came off, they shouted, "Kazoom."

When Gollum, the goblin, snuck up behind the Hobbit, children from the audience warned him.

"Watch out," they cried. "He's behind you!"

Some children in the audience even got to join the actors on the stage.

Several kids got to join Thorin's band of dwarves. They were ordered to enter the stage single file.

Thorin introduced each "dwarf" to the Hobbit, using silly names. This made the dwarves giggle and the audience roar with laughter.

Prior to the show, Howard and Guggenheim

told the audience a little about the history of theatre.

Long ago, theatre troupes traveled from town to town by horse and wagon because there were no motor vehicles. And because there was no electricity, they lit the stage using lanterns.

That is how The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company got its name.

"The Hobbit" was part of the Derby Public Library's summer reading program and was sponsored by the Leonard and Celia Levand Trust, the South Central Kansas Library System and the libraries of Sedgwick County.

Traveling Lantern has been educating and entertaining children nationwide for the past 20 years.

Its mission is to bring great stories to children, to draw them into an active theater experience, to excite their minds and to tickle their imaginations.

For more information about The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company,

Children enjoy performance of 'The Hobbit'

By Karen Faley

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Bilbo Baggins leads a simple life as a Hobbit, but that changes drastically when a wizard knocks on his door.

Children and adults alike entered a world of adventure and fantasy Wednesday morning as they viewed J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit."

It was a production of The Traveling Lantern Theatre Company from San Diego, Calif.

The story was performed by two actors, Cory Howard and Jonathan Guggenheim.

Howard played Bilbo Baggins the Hobbit, while Jonathan jumped

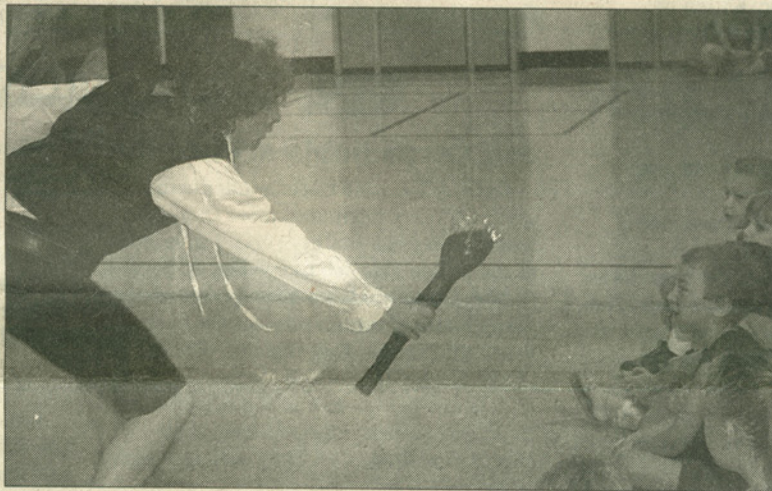


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The Hobbit uses a torch to guides his way through a dark goblin cave.

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