

# Kids and adults team up to hit us with 'The Hobbit'

By **Kristen Foster**

*Star- News Correspondent*

In the aftermath of the Lord of The Rings cinematic trilogy, when the ticket stubs are scrap-booked, the action figures are frozen in the final battle and the gilded commemorative plate begins to collect dust on the wall, let's take a moment to remember: It all started with just one hobbit.

Though Bilbo Baggins' adventures took a back seat to his nephew Frodo's in the trilogy, fans won't soon forget his bravery during the first discovery and protection of the legendary ring.

Stageworks Youth Theatre allows a live audience to witness the perils and triumphs of this unlikely hero firsthand as it presents Brainerd Duffield's adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's otherworldly novel *The Hobbit*.

With a cast of 35 kids and adults, director Gina Gambony recreates the land of Middle-earth, where elves, goblins, dwarves, trolls, hobbits, wizards and even dragons are perfectly commonplace.

While the adults take larger roles in the cast to anchor the production, *The Hobbit's* cast is overwhelmingly children, Ms. Gambony wrote in an email.

Of creating a world with so many young personalities, she added, "They make me laugh every rehearsal. I love them. It is very satisfying to see a diverse group of kids connect through their work on this project."

"It is amazing how much the children learn by watching the adult actors," she said. "The adults help the kids raise the performance expectation."

Striving to create an active learning community of creative youth and present three major productions a year, Stageworks relies on the support of family and community.

"Without the very hard work of the parents, we would not have a show," Ms. Gambony said. "I have never had so much enthusiastic support from cast parents. They are the backbone of this production."

Currents: 343-2343



[Enlarge image](#) | [Order reprint](#)

hopping 'the hobbit': Calvin Brown will freak your children out as Gollum (top); Kate Bakewell (as Alfreida) and Joey DiZoglio (as Bilbo Baggins) also star.  
staff photos - jeffrey s. otto

## **theater preview**

What: 'The Hobbit,' presented by Stageworks  
When: Thursday Friday 7 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m.  
Where: Thalian Hall Studio Theatre, 310 Chestnut St.  
Tickets: \$8  
Details: 343-3664