

# Children will be able to ‘discover’ a new kind of theater this year

By ANGELA JONES  
*The Winchester Star*

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**WINCHESTER** — While theater programs throughout the area are presenting their summer productions, a new variety of shows will begin this month.

The Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum recently announced that it has received grants from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and The Marion Park Lewis Foundation.

The money will be used to create Discovery Story Theater.

Jan Kirby, director of education and programs for the museum, said the shows will be based on familiar tales and will incorporate a science lesson.

“The idea is that the emotional content helps [the audience] remember the science of what they see,” she said.

The museum’s first show — “Jake and the Magical Seed,” a spin on “Jack and the Beanstalk” — is scheduled for July 21.

Kirby said each 30-minute play — set for the third Saturday of each month — will be presented five times, between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The current funding will allow the shows to continue through next June, Kirby said.

The second production will be a revised version of “The Three Little Pigs” — called “The Three Little Groundhogs.”

In favorable weather, actors will perform the shows on the Loudoun Street Mall outside the museum — at no charge. Shows inside will require the \$5 museum admission fee.

Kirby said that while the target audience is children, some adult humor will be mixed in.

“There’s nothing off-color,” she said. “Adults will be able to pick up on the tongue-in-cheek humor of it.”

Winchester Little Theatre actor Adam Breslaw is an actor-director for the museum’s productions.

They will include an audience-participation aspect that will incorporate a few children into every show.

Once the museum moves into its new facility in Jim Barnett Park, the shows will be held in a larger performance space.

Until then, the shows will go on at the downtown museum.

“Hopefully, it will be fun for everyone,” Kirby said.

The Shenandoah Valley Discovery Museum is at 54 S. Loudoun St. For more information, call 540-722-2020.