



Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

2011



DEBUT FOR NEW ERIC CARLE PRODUCTION

Mermaid's much-anticipated new production, *A BROWN BEAR, A CATERPILLAR AND A MOON: TREASURED STORIES BY ERIC CARLE*, brings together old favourites and new friends. Featuring evocative music, stunning visual effects and innovative puppetry, the triple-bill celebrates three of Eric Carle's most beloved tales.

A veteran of more than 2000 performances, *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR* joins a whimsical menagerie drawn from the pages of *BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR WHAT DO YOU SEE?* The poignant story of a young girl's unusual quest, *PAPA, PLEASE GET THE MOON FOR ME*, completes a fanciful hour-long production that is guaranteed to entertain and educate a new generation of theatregoers.

Audiences familiar with Mermaid's earlier adaptations of Eric Carle's books can expect the same attention to detail that has won international acclaim for the company. The use of 'black



light' for some aspects of the show will enable puppets and props to make their appearances as if they are animated on their own. Some changes to staging techniques, however, will mark the new show. The first two tales will utilize the familiar playboards, with colour-

ful objects and characters moving across their surfaces. The final story in the trilogy will incorporate the magic of both projection techniques and shadow puppetry, as well as fill the extended stage. Multiple narrators rather than a single voice are also under consideration.

On the road continuously since 1999, (along with compilations of four other Eric Carle stories) has generated remarkable statistics and earned considerable praise from audiences on several continents. By the close of 2010, more than 1,412,000 spectators in twelve countries had applauded the ravenous green fellow. To accommodate demand, duplicate sets of the puppets and props have been constructed in order to facilitate simultaneous engagements, with versions currently available in five languages. Mermaid Theatre was proud to participate in the 40ieth anniversary celebrations of the book's original publication in 2009 - the staged version follows closely the images and story of the phenomenally popular book, which has now sold more than 30 million copies in 49 languages.

First published in 1967, *BROWN BEAR, BROWN BEAR* was written and illustrated by Bill Martin, Jr. and Eric Carle, and has served to help hundreds of thousands of toddlers to associate colours and meanings to objects.





NEW ERIC CARLE PRODUCTION (Continued)

Capturing the rhythmic text and beautiful tissue-paper collage illustrations of the classic picture book, Mermaid's adaption will generate fresh appreciation of an endearing cast of characters, including a Brown Bear, Red Bird, Yellow Duck, Blue Horse, Green Frog, Purple Cat, White Dog, Black Sheep, a Goldfish, a Teacher and Students.

Regarded as one of Eric Carle's most imaginatively-designed works, *PAPA, PLEASE GET THE MOON FOR ME* has been delighting young audience since its publication in 1986. Mermaid's version mirrors the book's stunning images, drawn in thick, brilliant brushstrokes of blues and greens and dazzling reds. When Monica wants to play with the moon but can't reach it, she asks her father to get it for her. The ingenious picture book is recreated on stage, with fold-out pages which open to show Papa's very long ladder, his climb up a very high mountain, and finally the huge full moon, Papa's destination. As the moon is too big to carry, he waits until it becomes small enough to bring home to Monica. Her plaything, however, keeps shrinking, until one day it's gone. Soon a thin sliver appears in the sky, and grows increasingly larger. The story offers a splendid introduction to the wonderment of the lunar cycle, presented in a manner that makes the visual and performing arts immediately accessible.

Mermaid's accomplished creative teams, widely respected for their unique and well-travelled collaborations, will relieve their roles to create *TREASURED STORIES*. Jim Morrow will adapt the Carle stories from page to stage, as well as serve as Director and Production Designer. Steven Naylor will create the musical score and oversee the recording of the narration. Daun Windover and Bob Williams will provide the videography and animation elements; Jonathan Ford and Deborah MacLean will lend their production and design skills, and Michael Jamieson will consult on technical aspects of the new show.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr.; illustrations by Eric Carle. Copyright © 1967 by Bill Martin Jr. Illustrations Copyright © 1992 by Eric Carle. All Rights Reserved. *Papa, Please Get the Moon*

for Me by Eric Carle. Copyright ©1986 by Eric Carle. All Rights Reserved. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. Copyright 1969 and 1987 by Eric Carle. All Rights Reserved. Published by Philomel Books.



ABOUT MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA

- Founded in 1972, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia has performed for more than four million spectators on four continents.
- During an average season, Mermaid presents more than 400 performances for 200,000 spectators. In addition to regular performances at its home base in Windsor, NS, the company regularly crisscrosses the continent, visiting communities from Newfoundland to California, and British Columbia to Florida. To date Mermaid has appeared in forty-eight states (including Hawaii), all ten provinces, and the Northwest Territories.
- Mermaid has represented Canada in Japan (nine times), Mexico (three times), Singapore (four times), Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Hong Kong, Macau, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan. In recognition of its accomplishments, the Theatre has been awarded Export Excellence awards from both the Governments of Canada and of Nova Scotia, has received the Ambassador Award from the Tourism Industry of Nova Scotia, and earned the Atlantic Presenters Association's award for excellence in artist management. The company's touring circuit is unparalleled in North America.
- During the 2010/2011 season, Mermaid will travel throughout North America, visit the Republic of Ireland for the first time, and return to Macau, Hong Kong and South Korea. By using taped narration, Mermaid is able to offer performances in English, Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Mandarin and French. Simultaneous tours will enable the company to visit Alberta and South Korea on the same day - with the same show! Mermaid Theatre continues to make theatre history, both in Nova Scotia and in Canada.

“... J'ai adoré autant que les tout-petits le spectacle de marionnettes aux couleurs fluo dans la lumière noire, créées et parfaitement maîtrisées, depuis 1999 que ça roule, par la compagnie du Mermaid Theatre de la Nouvelle-Écosse. Et c'est un spectacle à voir... Une première qui est quasiment adorable -c'est ravissant, des beaux collages. Un spectacle au rythme lent, très agréable à suivre.”
• Francine Grimaldi, *Radio-Canada*

“... Always excellent – whenever Nova Scotia is in town, we always book the performance and are never disappointed.”
• SE, First Grade teacher,
Cleveland, OH

With support from The Canada Council for the Arts, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's signature production, *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVOURITES*, undertook another international adventure with the company's extensive visit to the Republic of Ireland in October 2010. The three-week tour was launched at Galway's prestigious Baboro International Arts Festival for Children with eight performances at the Town Hall Theatre that attracted capacity audiences. Seventeen subsequent shows were featured in seven additional centres, including Kilkenny, Dun Laoghaire (The Flip Flop Festival), Castlebar, Cork, Ennis, Blanchardstown and Bray. In all, the company performed for 7500 spectators, and earned unanimous endorsement for professionalism and artistry.

The Mermaid contingent particularly enjoyed visiting a country where theatre for family audiences is considered newsworthy, enabling venue managers to coordinate a national media campaign. It was rewarding to note that in addition to being technologically savvy, the Republic of Ireland still boasts a vibrant newspaper culture, with many local, regional and national papers which are widely distributed. Mermaid's presence and performances were widely documented on radio, television and the web. Mermaid's show received star billing, with the Irish Times calling our show "the Riverdance of recent children's theatre".

Touring company members included include seasoned performers John Allan MacLean and Rebecca Russell, and stage manager Patti Neice. Jim Morrow, Mermaid's Artistic Director (as well as Director and Production Manager of *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR*) travelled with the company for seventeen days, while Sara Lee Lewis, Managing Director and international tour coordinator, was on hand for the first week in Galway to meet with current and future presenters as well as to participate in a seminar for arts educators related to programming for young audiences.

There was considerable variation in the performance spaces where Mermaid's show appeared. Refurbished facilities, and a commitment to enhancing family life and arts education are reflected in the remarkable growth of Ireland's chain of ten children's festivals - all held within one month. Presenting theatres ranged from the tiny historic 90-seat Linenhall Arts Centre in the working-class city of Castlebar, to the elegant 800-seat Cork Opera House.

Mermaid's anchor host, the Baboro International Children's Festival, offered the most ambitious programme. About to embark on its fifteenth season, the Baboro presented theatre, music, dance, art exhibits and an arts-in-education seminar in multiple venues throughout the enchanting City of Galway. In addition to Mermaid, there were performances by companies

from Scotland, Germany, Spain, Italy and France, together with a strong Irish contingent.

Although the Mermaid company put in long days, they were enormously rewarded by the pleasures of a stunningly beautiful country and a warm and welcoming populace.

Audiences were enthusiastically vocal in their praise, and it was evident that parents, teachers and children alike - many of them native Irish speakers - had an inherent appreciation of the storytelling nature of our work. Without exception, venue operators expressed their interest in rebooking the company (and the same show) - a pleasing reconfirmation that the Mermaid approach to family audiences programming appears to have universal resonance.

OUR SISTER THEATRE IN BRAY



CELEBRATING THE CATERPILLAR'S VISIT



A GLORIOUS DAY IN INISHMOOR



STANDING ROOM ONLY IN GALWAY

THE CATERPILLAR WOWS IRELAND



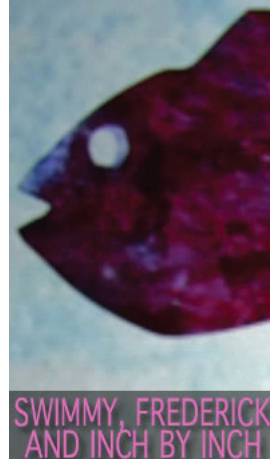
INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM



ANNIE LIONNI VISITS WITH
FREDERICK

TRIBECA PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER - DECEMBER 2010

WINNER
Citation of Excellence
UNIMA-USA



**SWIMMY, FREDERICK
AND INCH BY INCH**

Mermaid's acclaimed flagship productions continue to enjoy repeat engagements at hundreds of venues throughout North America, as well as to attract new fans abroad. The 2011/2012 calendar will include return visits to Hong Kong, South Korea and Singapore, as well as more than fifty weeks of touring in the United States and Canada.

Leo Lionni's *SWIMMY, FREDERICK & INCH BY INCH* is a favourite choice of audiences everywhere. Drawn from three of the author's exquisite children's books, *Swimmy* is a tiny fish that uses ingenuity to fend off danger. *Frederick*, a poetic mouse, makes everyday life an artful experience. The lovable *Inchworm* uses his wits to solve tricky problems. First produced in 2006, more than 450 performances have been presented for more than 245,000 spectators throughout Canada and the US, as well as in Singapore and Taiwan, where Mandarin as well as English-language versions were staged. The 2010/2011 tour will travel from coast to coast, with shows in Nova Scotia, Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario as well as in 18 states ranging from Massachusetts to California, and Washington State to Florida.

The highly successful show (as well as Mermaid's *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVOURITES*) earned UNIMA-USA's Citation of Excellence in July 2010, one of North America's most prestigious awards in the field of puppetry. The production was directed and designed by Jim Morrow, the whimsical score is the work of Steven Naylor, and the eloquent narration by Richard Donat. Company members include performers Rhys Bevan-John and Andrea Lee Norwood, and Christine Oakey, stage manager.

“ . . . Putting it all together - puppets, puppeteers, music, text, narration and audience - and the experience was utterly charming. A breath of fresh air generated by performers and public alike. ”
• Kate Greenway, *The Montreal Gazette*

“ . . . This entrancingly beautiful, masterfully designed production will touch anyone who appreciates theatrical excellence. I'm tearing up again, just writing about it! This is everything family theatre should be. ”
• Allison Roayes, *The Winnipeg Free Press*

“ Un fascinant et ludique quarante-minutes pour les tout-petits, dans tous les dédales du rêve et de l'imaginaire de l'enfance. A voir! ”
• Yves Rousseau, *VOIR, Montréal*

FOR MERMAID'S FLAGSHIP SHOWS

Mermaid's stunning adaptation of *GOODNIGHT MOON* & *THE RUNAWAY BUNNY* has been touring regularly since 2008. To date close to 165,000 spectators throughout North America have applauded more than 325 performances, with enthusiastic audiences in Hong Kong and Macau delighting in both English and Cantonese versions of the production.

Margaret Wise Brown's classic tales celebrate familiar nighttime rituals featuring endearing rabbit characters, and Mermaid's the beautiful imagery of the original stories. Jim Morrow directed the show and served as Production Designer; Steven Nay staging captures or created the memorable soundscape. The elegant taped narration was achieved by Nova Scotian performer Deborah Allen (English) and by Tsang Yuet Ngor for the Cantonese version. Continued touring is anticipated for the Fall of 2011.



Mermaid Theatre's signature production, *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVORITES*, is now recognized as one of North America's most popular productions for family audiences.

The English-language version features narration by Gordon Pinsent, one of Canada's most respected performers. The current roster of touring company members include performers John Allan MacLean, Rebecca Russell, Dan Bates and stage manager Patti Neice.

During 2011 the production will return to South Korea for the third time, and to Singapore for the fourth time. Negotiations are underway for a first-time visit to the United Arab Emirates.

The Institute of Puppetry Arts was launched in 1998 with the objective of promoting and enhancing the art of puppetry both at home and abroad. Classes, workshops, lectures and demonstrations are tailored to the specific needs and abilities of family participants, educators, recreation leaders, theatre professionals and industry. Jesse MacLean is the Institute's Director, while Jim Morrow is the project's principal advisor. Mermaid's senior puppetry experts serve as faculty members, and are available for longer-term residencies and performance projects in addition to shorter assignments. Future plans include regularly scheduled classes for all ages at Mermaid's spacious headquarters in Windsor, NS. The Institute's two-week and four-week intensive sessions (*PLAY-THINGS* and *ANIMOTION*) are intended for those with a strong interest in puppetry and physical theatre and the desire to expand their range of abilities. The most recent edition, held during August 2010, introduced six participants with diverse backgrounds to a wide range of puppetry styles. Graduates of these programs are eligible for apprenticeships and eventual touring engagements with Mermaid's flagship productions.

Institute instructors have been warmly welcomed in widespread locations during the past calendar year. Teaching activities took place in Nova Scotia (Wolfville, Windsor, Windsor Forks, Hantsport, Halifax, Chéticamp, Oyster Pond), New Brunswick,

Nunavut, Illinois, Maine, New York, Florida, Hong Kong and Macau. Already scheduled for 2011 are sessions in Windsor, Hantsport, Halifax, Toronto, Calgary, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

UNIQUE ADVENTURE IN NUNAVUT

The Institute of Puppetry Arts senior staff travelled to Canada's North in February 2010 to participate in a unique training session in Pangnirtung, Nunavut. Organized by Chris Heide, Director of the Mermaid Youtheatre and currently resident in that community, the five-day workshop was directed to teenagers and young adults, and had as its objective the exploration of health issues affecting young people in region. Mermaid instructors Jim Morrow and Jesse MacLean joined Chris to facilitate the sessions, which touched on topics such as the consumption of junk food, dental care, smoking, hygiene and cultural diversity.

Chris assembled a core group of eight young people who eagerly helped with the development of the script (in both English and Inuktitut), the choreography, and the design. Two respected sewers from the community assisted Jim with the creation of an appealing cast of characters, including a seal, a polar bear, an owl, mice and a beluga whale. Traditional materials such as animal skins were incorporated, so that the puppets reflected familiar imagery enhanced by new technology. A short documentary video was filmed on the final day of the workshop that documented the achievements of the participants. Further funding is being requested, in the hope that the project can be revisited and expanded in the near future.

HONG KONG



FREDERICTON

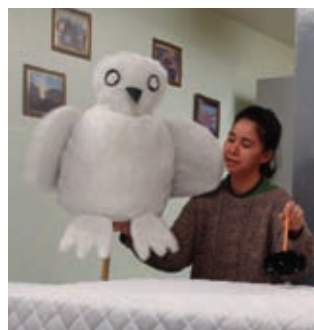


Weekes Photo

WINDSOR



PANGNIRTUNG



MIPAC

MERMAID IMPERIAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre continues to earn praise and support from both artists and audiences for its imaginative programming and outreach.

Diverse entertainment options for youth and their families are featured again this year, highlighting the work of two renowned young audience companies from Montréal, Moulin à Musique and Théâtre de L'Oeil. Musical offerings include the heralded singer/songwriter David Myles, the acclaimed Spinney Brothers, blues 'greats' Garrett Mason and Joe Murphy, and a Spring concert showcasing the Town of Windsor's community-based Four Seasons Orchestra. Mermaid's beloved *SWIMMY, FRED-ERICK & INCH BY INCH* launched the 2010/2011 program, and *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR* will be the closing attraction.

Local businesses support MIPAC generously - New Valley Homes, Super 8, Windsor Home Hardware, Bella Roma, Valley Radio, Transcontinental, Moe's Place Music Sales and Michael J's Audio and Lighting Productions. The Town of Windsor, The Department of Canadian Heritage and the Province of Nova Scotia through its Bringin' It Home Program are valued patrons. A team of dedicated volunteers, a skilled technical crew and diligent front of house staff all work hard to ensure audiences have the best experience possible at Windsor's most active performance facility.

Lisa Gleave, General Manager and MIPAC Coordinator, and Peter Smith, Logistics Coordinator and Booking Consultant, are actively negotiating with artists from across the country to program next season's lineup of music, theatre, dance, comedy and more.

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia fully owns and manages the 400-seat facility, which was acquired in 2003 and upgrades with support from private and corporate citizens as well as ACOA, the Province of Nova Scotia's Office of Economic Development, the Department of Canadian Heritage and the Department of Community Services. All proceed from the Entertainment Series are directed towards ongoing renovations and upgrades to MIPAC, a valued community asset. For more information please see www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca or email lisagleave@mermaidtheatre.ns.ca. and ask to be added to our mailing list.

GARRET MASON



THE SPINNEY BROTHERS

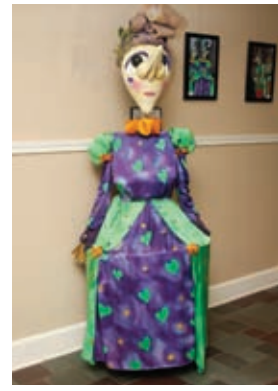
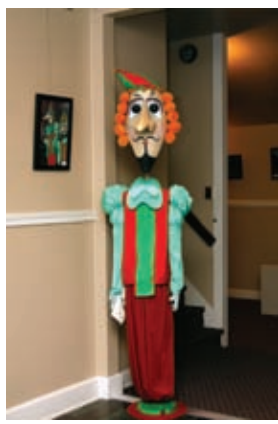


THEATRE DE L'OEIL



THE MERMAID ART GALLERY

The Mermaid Art Gallery had its formal launch on September 25th, 2010, during the Canada-wide celebrations of Culture Days. Gracing the walls of MIPAC (the Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre), the inaugural exhibit features renown artist Holly Carr's production-related designs on silk as well as a sampling of the unique puppets they inspired.



“...I just want to tell you how amazing my family think your productions are.. We hope the troupe will be back again soon. We can't wait to see another magical production. No one does children's theater like you do. Thank you.”
 • VM, Clearwater, FL

“... We just returned from your production at the Kennedy Center. Wow! What a GREAT performance. . . For sure, the next time we see that the Mermaid Theatre is performing, we will be sure to be there!!!”
 • SG, Washington, DC

“... Mignon et charmant, d'une simplicité désarmante, La chenille qui fait des trous et autres petits contes nous fait tous retomber en enfance, le cœur joyeux et l'âme émerveillée.”
 • David Lefebvre, Critique Mon Théâtre.qc.ca

THE MERMAID TEAM



JOIN US!

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia invites you to join us, and celebrate almost four decades of achievement. Become a member of our non-profit society, and keep us “on the road” at home and abroad. To date we've performed for more than four million spectators on four continents – with your help we'll augment our worldwide circuit, as well as visit every corner of Nova Scotia. We welcome inquiries about corporate partnerships and participation in community activities.

Charitable registration number: # 119038768 RR 0001

MERMAID THEATRE STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
 MANAGING DIRECTOR
 MIPAC COORDINATOR/
 GENERAL MANAGER
 ARTISTIC ADVISOR FOR
 MUSIC AND SOUND
 DESIGN LOGISTICS
 COORDINATOR DIRECTOR
 OF YOUTHEATRE
 ADMINISTRATOR
 DIRECTOR OF
 THE INSTITUTE
 OF PUPPETRY ARTS
 PRODUCTION MANAGER
 SHOP MANAGER
 TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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 Sara Lee Lewis
 Lisa Gleave

Steven Naylor

Peter Smith
 Chris Heide
 Cathy White
 Jesse MacLean

Deborah MacLean
 Jonathan Ford
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MERMAID THEATRE OF
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 IS REPRESENTED BY

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GENERAL INFORMATION

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