

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

presents

Leo Lionni's

Swimmy, Frederick & Inch by Inch

Fall 2007

Writer: Leo Lionni

Director/Production Designer: Jim Morrow

Composer: Steven Naylor

Narrator: Richard Donat

Performers: Suzy Crocker, Jesse MacLean

Stage Manager: Skye Perry

Associate Designers: Jonathan Ford, Deborah MacLean

Video Design: Windoverdaun Films

Animation: Bob Williams

About Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia:

Founded in 1972, Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia ranks among North America's most respected theatres for the young. Productions such as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Guess How Much I Love You*, *Very Eric Carle* and *Goodnight Opus* have toured nationally and internationally, enabling Mermaid to perform for more than three million spectators on four continents.

About the Production:

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's latest production is drawn from Leo Lionni's exquisite Caldecott Honor Books, *Swimmy*, *Inch by Inch and Frederick*. *Swimmy* is a tiny fish that uses ingenuity to fend off danger. *Frederick*, a poetic mouse, makes everyday life an artful experience. A lovable inchworm shares his facility for measuring absolutely everything. All these stories provide wonderful scope for translation to the stage through the gentle storytelling style, innovative puppetry and evocative original music, which have earned international acclaim for Mermaid Theatre.

About the Author/Illustrator:

Leo Lionni was born in Holland in 1919. As a child, he taught himself to draw by copying the work of the masters in Amsterdam's museums. Following his immigration to the USA in 1939, he embarked on a highly successful career in the world of graphic design. Shortly before retiring, he turned to the creation of children's literature, a field in which he could combine his interests and talents in both applied and fine art. He subsequently earned worldwide popularity as the author and illustrator of more than thirty books, many of them translated into numerous languages. Among other honors, Leo Lionni was a four-time winner of the prestigious Caldecott Honor Book award. He died in Tuscany in 1999, at the age of 89, leaving a remarkable legacy for future generations.

About the Creative Team:

Jim Morrow, Director/Production Designer

Jim creates puppets for stage, television and film. He's directed numerous shows for the Theatre, including *Puss in Boots*, *Borrowed Black*, *Goodnight Opus*, *Very Eric Carle*, *Guess How Much I Love You*, *I Love My Little Storybook* and has designed many others. A gifted performer, Jim

has toured extensively in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan. He serves as director of puppetry for Symphony Nova Scotia's production of *The Nutcracker*, and frequently conducts master classes in puppetry in North America and abroad. Jim Morrow is Mermaid Theatre's Artistic Director.

Steven Naylor, Composer

Steven has created the music for more than a dozen Mermaid shows, including *Stuart Little, Just So Stories, Gulliver's Travels, Very Eric Carle, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites, Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook*. His many other professional activities include original film and television scores; contemporary music and 'musique actuelle' performance; university teaching and curriculum development; and a long-term international involvement with electroacoustic concert music. Steven is Mermaid Theatre's Artistic Consultant, Music and Sound Design.

Richard Donat, Narrator

Richard Donat was born in Kentville, NS. He studied acting at the University of British Columbia and at the National Theatre School in Montreal, graduating from the latter in 1967. He appeared at Centaur Theatre in Montreal during the 'seventies, prior to accepting roles throughout Canada, including at Neptune Theatre and Neptune's Second Stage in Halifax, and at the Chester Summer Theatre, which he helped organize.

Highlights of his career include a Dora Mavor Moore award, and performing in the Stratford Festival production of *Hosanna* which played off-Broadway for a month as well as toured across Canada. He recently won the Montreal English Critics Circle Award for directing *The Drawer Boy* at Centaur Theatre and *Wade In the Water* at Black Theatre Workshop. Since returning to Nova Scotia in 1994 he has appeared at Neptune Theatre and was a 'regular' in the TV series *Emily of New Moon* and *Blackfly*. He is an active director, and is frequently heard as a reader on the CBC.

About the Company:

Skye Perry, Stage Manager

Skye is a native of Bonnyville, AB. She attained a BFA in Stage Management from the University of Alberta, as well as a BA from Carleton University. She's worked throughout North America as a stage manager, production manager, performer, publicist, journalist and event supervisor. Her recent assignments have included the Edmonton International Street Performers' Festival, and the International Festival of Animated Objects, a unique puppetry event. This is her first assignment with Mermaid Theatre.

Suzy Crocker, Performer

Suzy was born and raised in Halifax, Nova Scotia; she went on to study dance at Halifax Dance Association and theatre at Bishop's University in Quebec. Since graduation in 2002 she has worked for Theatre New Brunswick, Shakespeare by the Sea in Halifax, and with the Mermaid Institute of Puppetry Art's touring production of *Sunken Treasures*. This is Suzy's second tour with this *Swimmy, Frederick & Inch by Inch*.

Jesse MacLean, Performer

Jesse grew up in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. He studied theatre at Bishop's University in Quebec graduating in 2002. He has since worked steadily in theatre and film in Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. He served as Associate Director at Shakespeare by the Sea in

Halifax, from 2003-2005, directing or acting in more than twenty productions. This is Jesse's second assignment with Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia.

SWIMMY: Published by Random House Children's Books, © 1963,1991 by Leo Lionni

FREDERICK: Published by Random House Children's Books, © 1967, 1995 by Leo Lionni

INCH BY INCH: Published by Astor-Honor Inc., © 1960,1988 by Leo Lionni

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is represented by
KIDS' ENTERTAINMENT

For booking information, please contact them at:

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Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia Staff

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Administrator: Cathy White

Office/Tour Manager: Karen Gasser

Production Manager: Deborah MacLean

Head Seamstress: Sarah Jane Harvey Hart

Shop Manager: Jonathan Ford

Technical director: Marcel Boulet

Senior Stage Manager/Management Intern: Lisa M. Cochran

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