

# **Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia**

**presents**

**Eric Carle's**

# **The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites**

**Winter/Spring 2008**

**Writer: Eric Carle**

**Director/Production Designer: Jim Morrow**

**Composer: Steven Naylor**

**Narrator: Gordon Pinsent**

**Performers: John Allen MacLean, Mary Ellen MacLean**

**Stage Manager: Lisa Marie Cochran**

Following upon the international success of THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR and THE VERY QUIET CRICKET, Mermaid Theatre draws upon the magic of black light to capture the charm of three favorite Eric Carle stories. The triple-bill includes the wonderful story of THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR's metamorphosis into a beautiful butterfly; the fanciful account of LITTLE CLOUD's travels through the sky; and the MIXED-UP CHAMELEON's discovery of his own unique nature. These whimsical tales have enchanted several generations, and have been translated into twenty languages.

## **About Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia**

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia ranks among North America's most respected theatres for the young, and plays an important ambassadorial role for Nova Scotia and for Canada. The company regularly crosses the continent, and has represented Canada in the United States, Japan, Mexico, Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Vietnam and Taiwan. Mermaid Theatre has earned Export Excellence awards from both the Governments of Canada and of Nova Scotia. Based in the Town of Windsor, Mermaid has performed for more than three million spectators on four continents.

## **Eric Carle, Writer**

Eric Carle, internationally acclaimed author and designer, has written and illustrated more than seventy books for young children. Born in Syracuse, New York, he spent his youth in Germany where he studied fine art in Stuttgart prior to returning to the United States in 1952 to work as a graphic designer for The New York Times and later as art director of an international advertising agency. His delightful books, which

combine stunning collage artwork with an imaginative approach to learning, have sold more than 25 million copies worldwide. Eric Carle lives in Northhampton, Massachusetts.

**Jim Morrow, Director/Production Designer**

Jim Morrow creates puppets for stage, television and film. He's directed numerous shows for the Theatre, including *Borrowed Black*, *Goodnight Opus*, *Noah and the Woolly Mammoth*, *Very Eric Carle*, *Guess How Much I Love You* and *I Love My Little Storybook*, *Swimmy*, *Frederick*, *Inch by Inch* as well as 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 for Music and Sound Design.

**Gordon Pinsent, Narrator**

Born in Grand Falls, Newfoundland, Gordon is an actor, director, writer and singer of great versatility, and one of Canada's most beloved artists. His work for more than three decades in theatre, film, radio and television has earned him international recognition, as well as honorary doctorates from three universities. In 1999 he was named a Companion of the Order of Canada, the country's highest award of merit.

**About the Company:**

**Lisa Marie Cochran, Stage Manager**

Lisa is from Windsor, NS, and is a graduate of Acadia University's Theatre Studies program. She has toured and worked extensively in British Columbia, the Atlantic Provinces, Ontario, the United States, Japan, and Singapore. Lisa has been touring with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* since 2005, and divides her time on the road with management duties at Mermaid's headquarters.

**John Allen MacLean, Performer**

John Allen moved to Halifax from his native Prince Edward Island after completing his B.A. (Psychology) and B.Ed. degrees at UPEI. He has since performed at the Halifax Feast, Neptune Theatre, Festival Antigonish and Live Bait Theatre. His screen credits include *Emily of New Moon*, *Street Cents* and *Liocracy*, as well as the CBS movie *Catch a Falling Star*. John Allen has been touring with this production since September 2005.

**Mary Ellen MacLean, Performer**

Mary Ellen was born in Halifax, NS and studied movement theatre with master teacher Tony Montanaro at the Celebration Barn Theatre in Maine, USA as well as various other studies in theatre/dance/stage combat throughout her career. She was a founding member of the physical theatre quartet, Jest in Time, with whom she toured worldwide for twenty years as well as created three national television specials for the Canadian Broadcasting Company. She has earned numerous film, stage, and television credits in Canada as a playwright, director, performer and movement/fight choreographer, and her award-winning one-woman play, Frankie, toured across Canada and aired on Bravo TV. She's returning to Mermaid Theatre for her second engagement.

**Mermaid Theatre staff:**

Artistic Director: Jim Morrow

Managing Director: Sara Lee Lewis

Director of Youtheatre: Christopher Heide

Administrator: Cathy White

Office/Tour Manager: Karen Gasser

Artistic Consultant for Music and Sound Design: Steven Naylor

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

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is represented

by **Kids' Entertainment Inc.**

For booking information, please contact them at:

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email: [info@kidsentertainment.net](mailto:info@kidsentertainment.net)

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For general information, please contact:

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