



HIGH PRAISE FOR “TREASURED STORIES”

The warm response to Mermaid Theatre’s newest production has ensured the prospect for widespread touring throughout the seasons ahead. The company’s latest compilation of Eric Carle favourites, *A BROWN BEAR, A MOON AND A CATEPILLAR: TREASURED STORIES BY ERIC CARLE* made its debut at the Skirball Center for the Performing Arts in Manhattan on 14 October 2011 where spectators of all ages enthusiastically applauded the show’s unique blend of innovative puppetry, evocative music and eloquent storytelling.

More than two hundred performances will be offered over an eight-month tour to eighteen states during the 2011/2012 season, and include a month-long residency at the invitation of the Chicago Children’s Theatre. A homecoming performance in Windsor, NS is scheduled for Sunday, 9 June 2012, under the auspices of the Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre Entertainment Series. The show will visit Singapore in July 2012, and further extensive touring throughout Canada and the US is planned for 2012/2013.

Mermaid’s accomplished creative team, widely respected for unique and well-travelled collaborations, has reprised their roles to create *TREASURED STORIES*. Jim Morrow has ingeniously adapted the Carle stories from page to stage, as well as served as Director and Production Designer. Steven Naylor has created the musical score and overseen the recording of the engaging narration by Richard Donat. Daun Windover and Bob Williams contributed to videography and animation elements, while Struan Robertson and Deborah MacLean have lent their production and design skills. The touring company comprises puppeteers Dan Bates and Sarah Jean Begin; Christine Oakey is stage manager.

“... Hi there - I just wanted to write a quick note of appreciation. We took our two-year-old daughter to the Eric Carle show this weekend in NYC and we were so impressed and enthralled by the performance. She was completely mesmerized by the puppets and especially loved the Brown Bear, Brown Bear performance. My husband and I were particularly proud to find out that the puppeteers/theatre were Canadian, since we are from BC ourselves! We will definitely be on the lookout for more performances by Mermaid Theatre in the future, Thanks! ”
RACHEL

Brown Bear and Red Bird



Mermaid puppeteer Dan Bates with a student from New York University’s Tisch School at a post-performance workshop.



THE CATERPILLAR WOWS THE UNITED KINGDOM

NEW FANS FOR OLD FAVOURITES

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's signature production, *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVOURITES*, embarked on another major international adventure in the Fall of 2011 with a three-month 120-performance engagement in the United Kingdom. The tour opened at the prestigious Oxford Playhouse on 2 September and closed at the Palace Theatre in Southend on 21 November. Company members included veteran performers Rebecca Russell and John Allen MacLean, and stage manager Shawn Sorensen. Presenting partners were KW and NB Ltd. (Kenny Wax and Nick Brooke), noted producers of family theatre of high quality.

On the road continuously since 1999, Mermaid's compilations of five Eric Carle stories have generated remarkable statistics and earned considerable praise from audiences on several continents. To date close to 2400 performances in six different languages have been seen by more than 1,525,000 spectators in thirteen countries. The show was directed and designed by Jim Morrow; incorporates original music by Nova Scotian composer Steven Naylor, and features the recorded narration of Gordon Pinsent.



Oxford Playhouse



Darlington Civic Centre

SOUTH WALES ARGUS

“Children and adults alike were enthralled by the glowing stage adaptation of three Eric Carle classics. The colourful stories . . . leaped off the printed page and onto the stage courtesy of Canada's talented and internationally acclaimed Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. . . . As striking as Carle's books, this wonderful production entertains children and adults alike and will no doubt leave memories that will last a lifetime. . . don't miss this brilliant show!”

BY ANDY HOWELLS, 28 OCTOBER 2011

THE STAGE

“ . . . Jim Morrow and his team deserve ten out of ten for the authenticity of a show which uses ultraviolet light and stick or rod handle puppets to capture Eric Carle's bright colours and simplicity. . . . all the movement is accompanied by music with sparky little references to folk tune, JS Bach, Beethoven, steel pan, jazz, samba and much more. Every visual movement sits in the music as precisely as it would in a classical ballet.”

BY SUSAN ELKIN, 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

NOTTINGHAM POST

“ . . . Three of Carle's tales . . . were beautifully brought to life by the puppetry skills of Nova Scotia's Mermaid Theatre in an hour of enchanting family entertainment . . . Captivating throughout, the group used ultraviolet light to create magic, dancing images on stage while a lovely musical accompaniment and narration explained the simple stories.”

BY NICK PARKHOUSE, 19 SEPTEMBER 2011

Mermaid's United
Kingdom Tour
was generously
supported by:



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

. . A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES

- Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia celebrates its 40th Anniversary in the Spring of 2012. The company has performed for more than 4.5 million spectators on 4 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, the company regularly crisscrosses the continent and visits Asia Pacific each year. Mermaid's touring circuit is unparalleled in North America.
- Mermaid Theatre has been awarded Export Excellence awards from both the Governments of Canada and of Nova Scotia, as well as an Ambassador Award from the Tourism Industry of Nova Scotia, and the Atlantic Presenters Association's award for excellence in artist management.
- During the 2011/2012 season, Mermaid will travel extensively in the United States, tour throughout the UK, and return to South Korea. The company offers performances in English, Spanish, Korean, Japanese, Mandarin and French, and frequently visits several counties simultaneously - sometimes with the same production! Mermaid Theatre continues to make theatre history, both in Nova Scotia and abroad.

GOODNIGHT MOON DELIGHTS AUDIENCES FAR & NEAR

On tour continuously since 2008, Mermaid Theatre's *GOODNIGHT MOON & THE RUNAWAY BUNNY* continues to attract new and returning fans. Prior to the start of the Fall 2011 tour, more than 166,000 spectators throughout Canada and the US as well as in Hong Kong and Macau, have applauded more than 325 performances.

Adapted from Margaret Wise Brown's classic tales, both stories feature the endearing puppets and elegant narration and music that have become Mermaid's trademark. Jim Morrow directed the show and served as Production Designer. Steven Naylor, Mermaid's Artistic Consultant for Music and Sound Design, created the whimsical soundscape and Deborah Allen provided the recorded narration. Company members include Kaitlin Morrow, Seann Murray, Robin Toller, and stage manager Tammy Faulkner.

The fifty-performance tour to the US and Canada concludes with a homecoming performance in Windsor, NS on Sunday, 11 December 2012 under the auspices of the Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre Entertainment Series.



A Special Moment

Seann Murray



“ . . . I recently saw your production of “Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny” at the Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford MA. I was there with my kindergarten class of 26 students from Saint Margaret School in Buzzards Bay. I had seen it 3 years ago when you were there. I loved it so much that I came again. I think it is one of the most creative and well done productions I’ve ever seen (and I’ve seen many). . . . Keep up the good work!!! You are awesome!!! ”

T.L. OCTOBER 2011



MERMAID IMPERIAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

Over the past three seasons, the Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre (MIPAC) has presented an exciting variety of live entertainment showcasing local talent and prominent touring artists. The 2011/2012 calendar includes a new feature - a Family Fare series, with six attractions geared specifically to children and families. The 416-seat facility (formerly a storied cinema and vaudeville centre) was acquired in 2003, and has again become a vital community asset thanks to strong support from audiences, local services and businesses, and government agencies.

For listings, please see :
www.mermaidtheatre.ns.ca



Canadian Heritage

Patrimoine canadien

Bell Aliant





INSTITUTE OF PUPPETRY ARTS

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. Master classes, workshops, lectures and demonstrations are tailored to the specific needs and abilities of family participants, educators, students of all ages, recreation leaders, businesses and theatre professionals. Inquiries about our expanding program are invited.

PLAY-THINGS 2011

LEFT TO RIGHT:
RENEE NEWELL
JONNY THOMPSON
AND KAT MCCORMACK
INSTRUCTORS:
(NOT SHOWN)
JIM MORROW,
JESSE MACLEAN,
STRUAN ROBERTSON



MARA ZIGLER



BEN IRVINE

MERMAID THEATRE STAFF

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	Jim Morrow
MANAGING DIRECTOR	Sara Lee Lewis
GENERAL MANAGER/ MIPAC COORDINATOR	Lisa Gleave
ARTISTIC ADVISOR FOR MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN	Steven Naylor
ADMINISTRATOR	Cathy White
LOGISTICS COORDINATOR	Peter F. Smith
PRODUCTION MANAGER	Deborah MacLean
PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE	Struan Robertson
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Michael Jamieson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	Jason Tucker
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Richard Cochran

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
2010/2011
CHAIR
VICE CHAIR
TREASURER
SECRETARY
DIRECTORS

Ed Macdonald
Jon Oulton
Gary Johnson
Alex Jurgens
Jennifer Bolt
John Bregante
Andrew G.M. Kirk
Linda MacDonald
Judy Rockwell
Beverley Smith
Lay Yong Tan

MERMAID THEATRE OF
NOVA SCOTIA
IS REPRESENTED BY

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Communities, Culture and Heritage