



MERMAID  
THEATRE  
OF NOVA SCOTIA

2019/  
2020

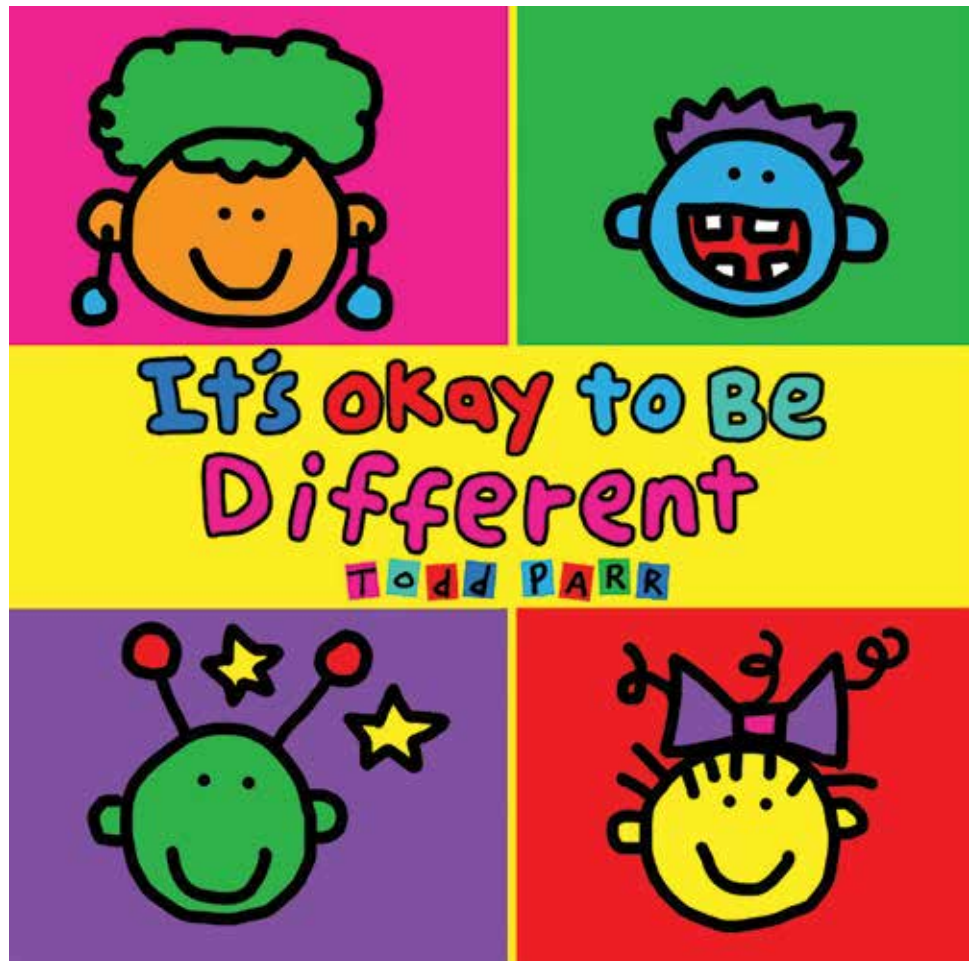
## MERMAID'S NEW PRODUCTION CELEBRATES CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia will mark its forty-eighth season with the first staged adaptation of three favorite contemporary storybooks. Directed to very young audiences, the hour-long production entitled *It's Okay to Be Different – Stories by Todd Parr* will be launched in 2020-2021, following intensive workshops and prototype development.

Todd Parr is the author and illustrator of more than 40 books for children, including the New York Times bestsellers *The I Love You Book*, *The Earth Book*, and *The Thankful Book*. His books are available in over forty countries throughout the world. He was the co-creator of the 3X EMMY-nominated children's television show ToddWorld™, and he has created several short films for Sesame Street. His work is published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group.

Todd Parr

*"It's inspiring for me to see my books come to life on stage, especially with Mermaid Theatre. I've always believed that storytime should be a fun and exciting time for my readers. Now seeing them come alive on stage will be the ultimate experience for young and old alike." - Todd Parr*



Mermaid's new work will be directed and adapted by Jim Morrow, creator of numerous internationally-acclaimed Mermaid productions. The show will feature a diverse cast, an innovative approach to puppetry manipulation and construction, combined with playful original music for which the company has earned worldwide praise. The world premiere performances are scheduled to take place in Singapore on August 1, 2020 under the auspices of Act 3 International, Mermaid's long-time presenting partner.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, A division of Hachette Book Group [www.lbyr.com](http://www.lbyr.com) Artwork courtesy of Little, Brown Books for Young Readers.

# MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA : 2019-2020 SEASON

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL TOURING

### THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVORITES

Hong Kong  
Ko Shan Theatre New Wing Auditorium  
Kowloon, HK  
July 12 - 14, 2019  
6 performances

### THE RAINBOW FISH

Singapore  
August 27 – September 5, 2019  
Victoria Theatre, Singapore  
18 performances

### THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR & OTHER ERIC CARLE FAVORITES

US and Canada  
September 3-20, 2019 – March 30, 2020  
110 performances in 14 states, 1 province

### THE RAINBOW FISH

US and Canada  
September 26, 2019 – April 15, 2020  
133 performances in 19 states, 2 provinces

### ERIC CARLE CLASSICS

Singapore  
April 27 – May 10, 2020  
18 performances

### GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU & I LOVE MY LITTLE STORYBOOK

Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Wuhan, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Nanjing, Suzhou  
April 5 – May 18, 2020  
40 performances

## LOCAL AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

### INSTITUTE OF PUPPETRY ARTS:

#### A) PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM:

**ANIMATION**, a three-week intensive program for theatre professionals, community recreation leaders and educators. Dates for the twelfth annual event, augmented by a new segment, are April 20 – March 5, 2020 (Performance) and May 25 – 29, 2020 (Production). The sessions are designed for those with a strong interest in puppetry and physical theatre and the desire to expand their range of abilities in both creation and manipulation.

**B) OUTREACH PROGRAM:** (year-round) A series of specialized puppetry workshop programs, ranging from several hours to ten-week sessions, designed for students from primary school through university. In addition to programs offered at the Institute's headquarters, instructors regularly travel to other communities in the Maritime region, and have established a teaching circuit in China and Singapore.

**C) THEATRE LOFT:** Unique in Canada, the Theatre Loft offers professional artists mentoring in all aspects of puppetry arts.

#### THE NUTCRACKER:

(ongoing 1991 to the present)  
An annual collaborative effort between Symphony Nova Scotia, Halifax Dance, and Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. Twenty-ninth season.

#### MERMAID IMPERIAL PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE:

A wide variety of live music and theatre events (including regular Mermaid performances) is annually hosted and presented in the Center's elegant 400-seat theatre. Attracting diverse audiences from surrounding counties as well as the metro region, the Centre has earned the support of local sponsors and has become recognized as a vital community initiative.

#### LEADERS AT HOME – AMBASSADORS ABROAD

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's unique adaptations of children's literature have delighted more than 6 million young people in 19 countries on 4 continents. The company performs annually for more than 200,000 spectators, and ranks among North America's most active touring organizations. Closer to home, Mermaid maintains a strong local and regional presence through teaching, mentoring and presenting activities.

support  
4 culture

NOVA SCOTIA

Conseil des arts  
du Canada Canada Council  
for the Arts

Arts  
NOVA SCOTIA  
NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE

# MERMAID'S UNIQUE OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

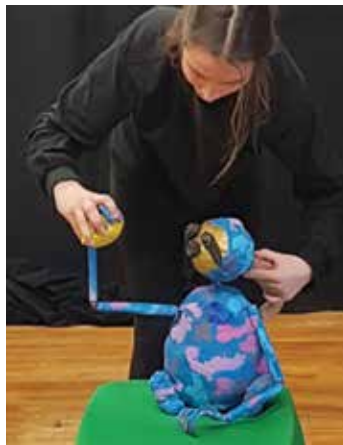
## THE INSTITUTE OF PUPPETRY ARTS

With an inviting new storefront studio, a considerably expanded program of instruction and the appointment of Struan Robertson as its Education and Outreach Director, Mermaid's Institute of Puppetry Arts has quickly earned recognition as a major Canadian initiative.

For many years, Mermaid's Institute instructors have been warmly welcomed in worldwide locations, with workshops frequently offered in conjunction with the company's global touring. Closer to home, the Institute's broad array of programs directed to puppetry fans of all ages and levels of proficiency is unique in Canada. Mermaid's home community has eagerly embraced sessions for Grown-Ups (featuring libation and music), classes for youngsters in both school and studio settings, and pre-and post-performance workshops following family audience programming at the Mermaid Imperial Performing Arts Centre. The newly-launched YouTheatre initiative enables local adolescents to share their own stories, as well as provides access to arts programming not generally available in rural Nova Scotia. At the other end of the spectrum, the Institute's annual three-week intensive program for theatre professionals regularly attracts national and international participants, and has added a component providing an introduction to design and construction. In the seasons ahead, the Institute hopes to offer instruction to Seniors.



Shanghai Workshop



Alynn Sinnema, a dedicated ANIMOTION participant

## THE THEATRE LOFT

Now in its tenth year, The Loft is a welcoming open concept space dedicated to the pursuit of puppet excellence and the advancement of puppetry as an art form. Mermaid offers cost-free residency opportunities to individual theatre artists, organizations, and companies with a desire to use objects as a medium for telling stories. By sharing its facilities, creative and administrative skills and other resources, Mermaid continues to invest in the development of emerging theatre artists and companies at home in Atlantic Canada, across the country, and beyond.

Recent and scheduled Loft residents include Three Gallows Theatre (Oregon, Robertson/Michelle Urbano (Windsor/Toronto), Laura Stinson (Halifax), Jenny Rogers (Michigan), Laura-Beth Bird (Fredericton), Steve Day (Montreal), Kaitlin Morrow (Toronto), Logan Robins (Halifax), Kathleen Doyle (New York City) and Jeighk Koyote (Lower Ship Harbour, NS).



Kaitlin Morrow explores the power of foam



Kathleen Doyle's unique perspective on the insect world



Logan Robins and The Great Auk



Stories & Songs of Stompin' Tom  
Featuring **Whiskey Jack**  
Saturday, October 5, 2019 – 7:30PM  
A Taste of DEVOUR! in Windsor  
Saturday, October 19, 2019 - 6:00 PM  
**Terra Spencer & The Bombadils,**  
Saturday, November 2, 2019 – 7:30 PM  
**Theresa Malenfant**  
Saturday, November 16 – 8:00 PM  
**The Rainbow Fish\***  
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia  
Sunday December 8, 2019 - 2:00PM  
**Lennie Gallant**  
Saturday, December 14, 2019 – 7:30PM  
**Ria Mae**  
Friday, March 6, 2020 – 8:00PM  
**Celidh**  
Saturday, March 14, 2020 – 8:00 PM  
**\*The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Carle Classics**  
Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia  
Saturday, April 11, 2020 – 12:00 PM & 3:00 PM\*  
**Roland Smith (Flamenco Guitarist),**  
Saturday, April 18, 2020 – 7:30 PM  
**The Amazing Max**  
Saturday, May 2, 2020 – 2:00 PM  
**Trevor Gould**  
Saturday, May 16, 2020 – 2:00 PM  
**The Comic Strippers**  
Saturday, June 6, 2020 – 7:30 PM

\* Family workshops in conjunction with performances:  
Institute of Puppetry Arts Workshops at Mermaid Theatre -  
Hosted by Education & Outreach Director, Struan Robertson.  
One-hour sessions before and following the performances.



Homecoming for *The Rainbow Fish*



Join Us!

## ABOUT UNIMA ATLANTIC

Headquartered at Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, The Atlantic Canada Puppetry Association was created in 2015 to provide platform for the region's puppet theatre artists. The organization is formally affiliated with UNIMA- Canada, whose mandate is to link puppeteers nationally and internationally; to support professional programs; to stimulate the general public's interest in the art of puppetry; and to promote the visibility of Canada's puppeteers all over the world.

## ABOUT UNIMA INTERNATIONAL

The Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA) is the oldest international theatre organization in the world. Its 6000 members in 100 countries represent a diverse network of passionate artists, researchers and educators. A strong Canadian presence is anticipated at the 2020 UNIMA World Congress and Festival to be held from April 13 - 19 in Gianyar, Bali (Indonesia).

[mermaidtheatre.ca/atlanticunima](http://mermaidtheatre.ca/atlanticunima) • [www.unimacanada.com](http://www.unimacanada.com)

### MERMAID THEATRE STAFF

Executive Director: Danny Everson  
Managing Artistic Director: Jim Morrow  
Financial Administrator: Cathy White  
Public Affairs Consultant: Sara Lee Lewis  
Administrative Associate: Pam Moore  
Production Manager: Deborah MacLean  
Education and Outreach Director: Struan Robertson  
Technical Director: Michael Jamieson  
Artistic Consultant for Music & Sound Design:  
Steven Naylor  
Front of House Manager: Heather Donohue  
Box Office Manager: Jess Weir  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2019/2020**  
Chair: Ed Macdonald • Vice Chair: Jon Oulton  
Treasurer: Gary Johnson • Secretary: Alex Jurgens  
Directors: John Bregante • Andrew G.M. Kirk  
Linda MacDonald • Andrew Sheehy

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is represented by:

### SHAW ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

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Charitable Registration Number: 119038768 RR 0001

Newsletter design: Margo Ellen Gesser ([margoweb.com](http://margoweb.com))

Photo credits: Wayne Walker, Jim Morrow, Pam Moore