



Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In a Play!"

Based on the Elephant & Piggie books by Mo Willems

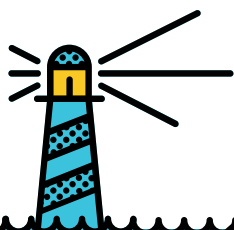
Published by Hyperion Books for Children

Script and Lyrics by MO WILLEMS

Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

April 14-June 14, 2025



About The Show

Enjoy a musical adventure, ripped from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved, award-winning, best-selling children's books. Willems' classic characters Elephant and Piggie storm the stage in a rollicking musical romp filled with plenty of pachydermal peril and swiney suspense perfect for young audiences. Carefully cautious Gerald and spirited playful Piggie share a day where anything is possible in an imaginative exploration of the meaning of friendship. The comedic duo addresses such important questions as: What do you wear to a fancy pool costume party? Should you share your ice cream? And how can two friends play with one toy? Together with nutty back-up singers The Squirrelles, our duo even gets the audience involved in the action.

Elephant and Piggie's "We are in A Play!" is based on seven different Elephant and Piggie books:

- "I Am Invited to a Party!" • "Elephants Cannot Dance!" • "Listen to My Trumpet!" • "I Am Going!" • "Should I Share My Ice Cream?" • "I Love My New Toy!" • "We Are In a Book!"

Find the books in the show [here](#):

Know Before You Go

Where You Will Go

Long Island Children's Museum Theater is a professional family theater at the heart of the Museum. We offer a range of performance styles for families and schools including musicals, plays, puppetry, dance, and music. Our high-quality live performances celebrate audience interactivity, are often literature based, and always tell a great story.

Question Quest! What is the difference between live theater and a movie? Have you ever seen a live theater performance? What do you do when you see something on stage that you like? Do you clap? Cheer? Smile?



Question Quest! What is the difference between live theater and a movie? Have you ever seen a live theater performance? What do you do when you see something on stage that you like? Do you clap? Cheer? Smile?

Image by brgfx on Freepik

Give acting a try with [On Stage: Theater Games and Activities for Kids](#). Seeing Live theater has many benefits for children. [Read about the research](#).

Who You Will See...

The Cast

Elephant Gerald –
Finn MacDevitt

Piggie –
Anneka Shepherd

Squirrelle/Dog –
Josie McSwane

Squirrelle/Penguin/Piggie u.s.-
Rosie Allenson

Squirrelle –
Amy Herzberg

ASM/Swing–
Hila Kremer

The Production Staff

Theater Artistic Director/Choreographer –
Lisa Rudin

Theater Technical Director/Stage Manager –
Austin Costello

Musical Director–
Willard Meeks, Jr.

Set Designer–
James Packard

Costume Designer –
Christina Litvaitis

Percussionist–
Michael Leuci

Bassist–
Rich Hefner

ABOUT THE COMPANY

James Packard (Producer/Set Designer) has 40 years of professional and educational experience working in theater arts. Prior to joining LICM in 2001, he worked in theater & event management for numerous New York City companies and has taught stage technology and design at several institutions including Florida State University & New York City College of Technology. He earned his M.F.A. in Theater from the University of Iowa and his B.A. in Theater from Westmar College (IA).

Lisa Rudin (Theater Artistic Director/Choreographer) has choreographed and appeared in multiple productions here at LICM Theater. Favorite roles include the Little Old Lady in Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! and Piggie in Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play!" Prior to her work at LICM, she toured the country as a performer, worked in theater administration, casting, and as a teaching artist in both NY and Los Angeles. She holds a BFA in Acting from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Austin M. Costello (Theater Technical Director/Stage Manager) received his BFA in Puppet Arts from the University of Connecticut. Since then, he has built and performed countless puppets of varying styles for shows such as Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus, Uncle Vlad's Pumpkin Patch, Journey to Oz, and Happy as Clams: The Musical. He has also worked for The Jim Henson Company's New York Shop and Archives, as a director for The Hudson Vagabond Puppets, as a giant backup dancing monster for Danny Weinkauf's Red Pants Band, and as a puppeteer for Helpsters and Sesame Street.

Willard Meeks, Jr. (Musical Director) A lifelong musician, Willard has played on Broadway and national tours for both The Wiz, Bob Fosse's Dancin', and others. He has also worked with Stephanie Mills and Whitney Houston, doing tours and music videos, Jennifer Holliday, Jessye Norman, Elton John, Whoopi Goldberg and Maya Angelou.

Anneka Shepherd (Piggie) is so excited to be playing Piggie in LICM Theatre's production of Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!" Some select favorite previous roles include Wendla in Spring Awakening, Little Red in Into The Woods, Carolyn in Bridges of Madison County, and Maureen in Rent. Anneka is a recent graduate of AMDA, and is so happy to have Elephant and Piggie as her first post college show! She hopes you enjoy, and feels lucky ducky to have you here.

Finn MacDevitt (Elephant Gerald) is a writer, musician, and actor from Huntington, NY. After graduating with a BFA in Acting from Shenandoah Conservatory, he went on to play Nicely-Nicely (Guys and Dolls) at Theater Three as well as starring as Larry in the original musical, The Narcissist. Previous roles at LICM Theater include Frederick (Frederick) and Teenager/Construction Worker in Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

Josie McSwane (Squirrelle/Dog) is a LI based performer and choreographer. She has her BFA in Dance and has danced professionally in NY, LA and TX. You may have previously seen her on this stage as Bus driver in Don't let Pigeon Drive the Bus or Mary the fairy in My Butterfly, and most recently as the Stepmother in Interstellar Cinderella. She is thrilled to be back at LICM performing with the incredible cast and crew of Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"

Amy Herzberg (Squirrelle) is an international artist with credits ranging from off-Broadway to short films, music videos and more. Credits include: The Magical Journey of Arlekina (Off-Broadway, Sean), Issue #9 (Off-Broadway, choreographer, Taylor), The Wild Party (Choreographer, Nadine), The Polar Express (Elf) and many more. Amy is so excited to be back on stage at LICM after appearing as Hulla in Interstellar Cinderella.

Rosie Allenson (Squirrelle/Penguin) is a recent graduate of The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and The Academy Company. She is delighted to be returning to the LICM Theatre after playing Gidra in Interstellar Cinderella. Notable credits include Romeo and Juliet (Juliet), Dancing at Lughnasa (Maggie), Fright Night (Judy), and An Enemy of the People (Mrs. Stockman u/s). Love to Mom and Dad.

Hila Kremer (ASM/Swing) is thrilled to be a part of this production!

She recently appeared at LICM as Amelia Mouse in the most recent production of Mouse on the Move. She also took part in productions such as Assassins (SOOP Theater), Sound and Fury and Shakespeare (Parkside Players) as Lady Macbeth and even appeared in the show Carpool Karaoke on Apple TV. Hila thanks her family for their constant support.

Michael Leuci (Percussion) has maintained an active music career in the New York area for over 25 years, performing on drums and percussion, keyboard, guitar and bass, in addition to songwriting, composing and studio recording/production activities. This is Michael's twelfth year working as an ensemble musician with the LICM Theater, with past productions that include Happy as Clams: The Musical, The Princess Frog, Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, Interstellar Cinderella, and Frederick.

Richard Hefner (Guitar/Bass) has performed for over three decades throughout the tri-state area in everything ranging from nightclub bands through large society big bands, covering a great cross section of many genres of music. Rich has enjoyed playing as a pit musician in the LICM Theater for the last 11 years. Shows he's been part of have included classics from the brilliant Mo Willems catalog like Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!", Frederick and Don't let The Pigeon Drive the Bus! as well as "Happy as Clams: The Musical and Princess Frog from the stellar Lena and Brian Smith collection.

ALL ABOUT PIGGIE

Piggie is a happy, fun-loving pig, who is always ready for a new adventure. She loves hanging out with her best friend, Elephant Gerald. She always finds a solution to a problem. She enjoys using her imagination and playing, and encourages Gerald to join her. She cheers Gerald up when he is sad, and helps him see events in a new light when things do not go as planned.

- **Best Friend:** Elephant Gerald
- **Favorite color:** Pink
- **Favorite foods:** Bubble gum and slop
- **Hobby:** Dancing
- **Birthday:** May 2



Happy Pig Day!

Have a Pig Day Party with Pig Day-themed activities to get you in the Elephant and Piggie spirit! Learn about pigs, friendship, and complete puzzles and coloring sheets in this pig-tastic [packet](#).

ALL ABOUT ELEPHANT GERALD

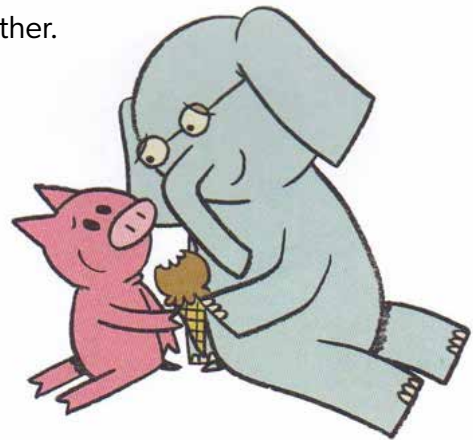
Elephant Gerald is thoughtful, honest and careful. He considers all sides of a situation and proceeds cautiously. He is a loyal friend. He always tries to be kind to Piggie and likes to do nice things for her. Piggie encourages him to try new things, and even though he is scared, he will try them for her. He values their friendship above all else.

- **Birthday:** February 5
- **Best Friend:** Piggie
- **Favorite Color:** Pink
- **Food I like best:** Quiche
- **Hobby:** Safety monitor

FRIENDSHIP

Elephant Gerald and Piggie are best friends and love playing together. Here are some qualities that make their friendship so great:

- Caring
- Compassion
- Sharing
- Listening
- Understanding
- Respect
- Honesty



Question Quest! What qualities would you want in a best friend? What do you do when a friend is sad? Has a friend ever done something nice for you?

Friendship Building Games for Groups

The Matching Game (a great icebreaker)

What you will need: small items to give out (crayons, blocks, legos, etc) that have a matching color (i.e. two red crayons, two blue legos).

- Ask the kids to cover their eyes.
- Give each child one item, chosen at random.
- When everyone has one, tell the kids to open their eyes.
- Then they look for another child with the same color item.
- Once they find a friend with the same color item, they should stay together until everyone is matched up.
- While waiting with their new friend, they should find something that they have in common, like a favorite food or hobby.



Image by rawpixel.com

Group Drawing

What you will need: large pieces of paper and crayons

- Kids should be in groups of 3 or 4.
- Give them something to draw all together, such as a park, their school, a beach, etc.
- Each child in the group contributes to the drawing, choosing a different element (one draws the grass, the other a swing set, etc).
- After everyone is finished, each group can show their drawing to the rest of the class and talk about how they created it: which person drew which part, why they chose a particular color, etc.



Image by rawpixel.com

Make a Friendship bracelet!

The Main Man Mo

Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!" would not have been possible without the magical, miraculous, marvelous and magnificent Mo Willems. Willems' work in children's books, animation, television and theater have garnered him three Caldecott Honors, two Geisel Medals, six Emmy Awards, five Geisel Honors and a Helen Hayes nomination. He is best known for his characters *Knuffle Bunny*, *The Pigeon* and *Elephant and Piggie*. He has also worked in television as a writer





and animator for PBS's *Sesame Street*, Cartoon Network's *Sheep in the Big City* and Nickelodeon's *The Off-Beats*. Willems also makes sculptures and writes plays, including the rollicking musical romp *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"*

Willems's *Elephant & Piggie* books debuted in 2007 with *Today I Will Fly!* and *My Friend is Sad*. Today a total of 25 books surround the friendship of this comedic duo. These books are the fuel and inspiration for the musical, which directly features seven of the most popular books of the series.

Learn more about Mo Willems on his [website](#).

Show Time! During Your Visit:

Before the Show:

- Please do not bring food or beverages into the Theater (bottled water is permitted).
- Please turn off or silence cell phones when entering the Theater.

During the Show:

- Please keep the aisles clear as per fire safety regulations and in case of emergency.
- The use of recording and/or photographic equipment to record the performance is strictly prohibited.



After the Show:

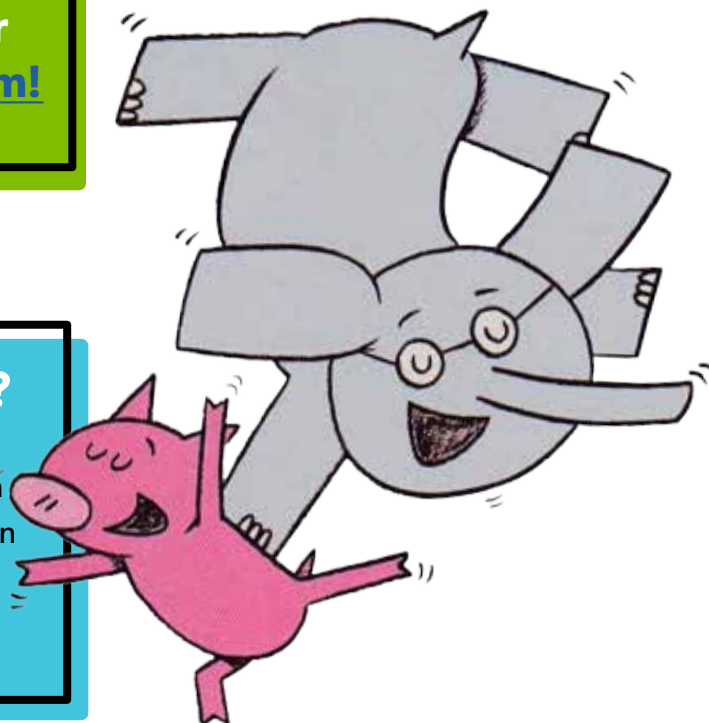
- Stay and meet the performers!



Put your science skills to the test as you make your own [homemade ice cream!](#)

Want more Elephant and Piggie?

Here is an expansive activity packet and [teaching guide](#) for background information, activities and lesson materials courtesy of PigeonPresents.com and Hyperion Books for Children. .



Making Connections

Sound Showers

Play with musical instruments like Piggie does, with her trumpet. Piggie plays her trumpet to sound like an elephant. Can you find any other instruments that sound like animals?

Hear the sound in music and the music in sound. Ambient sound is everywhere, and music is something all cultures have in common. Just like language, music is a shared, expressive, inventive, portable way for people all around the world to be together. We may not speak the same language, but we can have conversations through music by creating and listening to rhythms, melodies and harmonies.

What You Learn:

Rhythm

Listening skills

Fine and gross motor control

Global and cultural diversity



TotSpot

Visit the ice cream truck at the back of the gallery to scoop ice cream like the Ice Cream Penguin!

Perfect for crawlers, cruisers and toddlers, our little town celebrates the work people do in our communities. A lighthouse, farmer's market, post office, train station and more spark the youngest imaginations.

What You Learn:

Socialization skills

Gross motor skills of crawling, walking, climbing stairs

Counting and Sorting

Language skills

Role Play

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