



## **My Butterfly**

Music and Book by Lena Pennino-Smith  
Musical Arrangement by Brian Smith with Willard Meeks Jr.

**Spring 2022**

May 4th - June 23rd



# Know Before You Go

## Where You Will Go

**Long Island Children's Museum Theater** is the only theater on Long Island presenting performances specifically for family audiences on a year-round basis. It has presented vibrant and engaging performances for families since the Museum opened in 1993 and plays a central role in the range of educational experiences provided to visitors. In 2008, the LICM Theater expanded its role and began producing professional level family theater shows. Scripts are selected that encourage audience interaction and create personal experiences that we hope children will take with them throughout their lives.



**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?

**Click Further:** : **Watch** Rachel Harry explain how theatre education can save the world.

**Literary Link:** Learn about determination and introduce young audience members to the art of theater with the fun and light hearted, **Amandina** by Sergio Ruzzier.

## Who You Will See...

### The Cast

**Shai** – Zoey Zo  
**Mary** – Josie McSwane  
**Bob** – Scott Earle  
**Meadow** – Lisa Rudin  
**Lark** – Jojo Minasi

### The Orchestra

**Keyboard & Arrangements** – Willard Meeks Jr.

### The Production Staff

**Theater Manager, Director, and Designer**– Jim Packard  
**Puppet Director and Stage Manager**– Austin Costello  
**Costume Designer** – Maggie Gray  
**Choreographer** – Lisa Rudin



**Question Quest!** What is an actor? What is a director? How do an actor and a director work together? What is a puppet? What is the difference between an actor and a puppet?

**Click Further:** Meet the duo that created the music for this show!

**Literary Link:** Prepare for your own acting career by playing some theater and improv games!

## The Show

"I can still feel its little feet from the time when a monarch butterfly crawled up, up, up and perched itself on my head as if I was a tree! After raising about a dozen monarchs last summer (2018), it was hard to let them fly off as butterflies towards Mexico. It was like saying goodbye to part of the family. But in a way, I got to relive the friendship by writing this show!

As a granola mommy and life-long Long Islander, I enjoy writing plays that not only bring families together through interactive music and theatre, but also help families nurture and celebrate the nature we have right here on Long Island! Just as *Happy as Clams: The Musical* advocated for the Great South Bay's clam population, *My Butterfly* lifts attention to the monarchs whose population has declined 90 percent in the last 20 years! We can help by planting native milkweed because Long Island is on the migration path.

If you have a sunny spot in your yard (and heart) we encourage you and your family to plant this host flower to support the monarchs from egg to hungry caterpillar to high-flying sensations. While I wrote the book and music, many people helped in this process to bring it from page to stage including my talented husband, Brian Smith (music arranger), James Packard (Theatre Manager at LICM), Austin Costello (Puppet Artist) and many friends, family and of course, the talented LICM crew! THANK YOU SO MUCH!"

–Lena Pennino-Smith



**Question Quest!** Have you ever written a story or a play before? Do you think that Lena had to work hard to create a play? If you were writing your own musical, what would it be about?

**Click Further:** Meet Lena Pennino-Smith and listen to her inspiration for writing *My Butterfly*.

**Literary Link:** Write your own play with the help of [this workbook!](#)

## Vocabulary

- **Aphid:** a bug that feeds by sucking sap from plants. It reproduces rapidly, often producing live young without mating, and may live in large colonies that cause extensive damage to crops.
- **Caterpillar:** a wormlike and often hairy larva of a moth or butterfly.
- **Chrysalis:** the hardened outer layer of the pupa of a butterfly that serves as a protective cover as the pupa grows to a butterfly.
- **Elf:** a supernatural creature of folk tales, typically represented as a small, elusive figure in human form with pointed ears and magical powers.
- **Fairy:** a small supernatural being of human form that has magical powers, especially a female one.
- **Larva:** the immature free-living form of most invertebrates, amphibians and fish, which at hatching from the egg. A larva is fundamentally unlike its parent and must metamorphose.
- **Life Cycle:** the series of changes in the life of an organism.
- **Metamorphosis:** the process of transformation from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinct stages.
- **Milkweed:** an American plant with a milky sap that is crucial for a monarch butterfly's life cycle. The only plant that monarchs will lay their eggs on because it is the only source of food for the emerging baby caterpillars.
- **Monarch Butterfly:** an American insect that has a long thin body with orange and black wings and flies mostly during the day.
- **Pupa:** an insect in the inactive stage of development (when it is not feeding) between larva and adult.

**Question Quest!** Have you seen any of these words before? Could you write your own story using these vocabulary words?

**Click Further:** Watch the butterfly's metamorphosis in [this video](#).

**Literary Link:** [Read about](#) the monarch butterfly's journey to Mexico.



# During Your Visit

## Show Time!

### 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. This makes the experience more enjoyable for everyone.



### During the Show:

- LICM Theater is a place that encourages audience interaction in most of our shows. However, we ask that the audience remain seated until prompted by the actors to enter the stage area or respond to questions.
- Keep the aisles clear as per fire safety regulations and in case of emergency.
- We know that young children are curious and will want to ask you questions during the performance—feel free to talk quietly with your children.
- The use of recording and/or photographic equipment is strictly prohibited. You will have an opportunity to take photos of our performers and chat with them at the end of every show.

### After the Show:

- Stay and meet the performers!

## Making Connections

When you come to see the show, be sure to stick around afterwards and check out all of the galleries in the Museum. There are some specific ways you can use the galleries to expand upon your trip to see *My Butterfly*. Teachers should look into extending your school visit if you have not already!

## Feasts for Beasts



Feast your eyes on our Feasts for Beasts gallery where you can learn about all kinds of creatures, including insects. Learn about how different types of insects eat. For example, a housefly soaks up juices, a honeybee scoops and laps flower nectar, a cockroach clips its food, and a female mosquito pierces skin and sucks up blood. Can you find out how butterflies eat nectar? How do insects use their special mouthparts to eat their food? The shape of an insect's mouth can give you clues about what and how the insects eat.

## Sound Showers

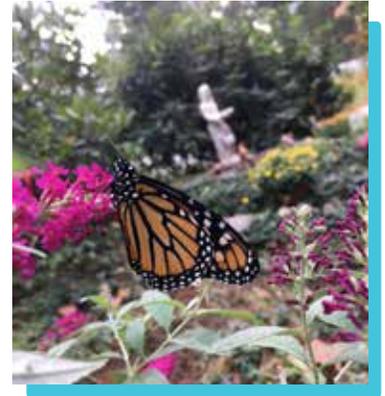
Feeling inspired by the catchy songs in *My Butterfly*? Head to our Sound Showers gallery to tap, clap, bounce, and dance into a world of percussion instruments and everyday objects that make sound! Express yourself with music and have some fun exploring rhythm, melodies, and harmonies! Practice playing a new instrument while still listening to your fellow music-makers. Musicians work together to create songs and they make sure to listen to the rhythms of their friends to make great songs as a team.

# After Your Visit

## Milkweed and Monarchs

Milkweed is incredibly important for our monarch butterfly friends. Adult monarchs eat the nectar from the flowers and only breed where milkweed is found. Without milkweed, the monarch caterpillar wouldn't be able to develop into a butterfly.

Milkweed contains a chemical that is poisonous to most animals but does not hurt the monarch. When the monarch eats milkweed, they become poisonous to their predators. The caterpillar's brightly colored bodies and the butterfly's brightly colored wings both serve as a warning to predators that they are poisonous.



Unfortunately, milkweed is considered to be a weed in some areas especially because they can be poisonous to livestock. The population of monarch butterflies is rapidly declining and we can help by planting more milkweed.

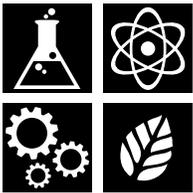
**Question Quest!** Why is milkweed so important for monarch butterflies? What can you do to help monarch butterflies survive?

**Click Further:** Apply for free milkweed plants for your school or nonprofit [here](#) OR [here](#).

**Literary Link:** Learn more about monarch butterflies: [WWF Monarch Butterfly Resource Guide PDF](#)

**Activity Time:** Make your own [milkweed bomb](#) to plant more milkweed for the monarchs.

## STEM at LICM



Explore the Children's Museum's [STEM programs](#). Claire Flynn, our STEM Initiatives Program Director, oversees countless programs for schools and visitors. She leads the Monarch Larva Monitoring Project, a citizen science program, in which visitors monitor LICM's Milkweed Garden and collect data that scientists at the University of Minnesota [Monarch Lab](#) use. You can take part in this study, too!

**Question Quest!** Scientists that study the weather are called meteorologists. Scientists that study volcanoes are called volcanologists. What do we call a scientist that studies butterflies?

**Click Further:** : Help scientists gather information on monarchs by participating in this [Citizen Science Monarch Tagging](#) project.

**Literary Link:** Read about [monarch migration updates](#) to learn more about our insect friends.

## Cue the Kindness

In *My Butterfly*, the elves practice kindness by helping humans. Mary the fairy is especially kind to nature, and by the end of the show, everyone learns to show kindness to each other. Sometimes we have a hard time being kind to others but it is so important to be kind and to treat others with respect. One way we can do this is to create a Kindness Calendar.

A Kindness Calendar will help us set an achievable goal for the day resulting in putting more kindness into our world. We can use provided prompts or we can **create our own**.

What are some things we could do for others that would make them feel happy and appreciated? Who are some people we could show kindness to? Brainstorm new ways to show someone you care about them. Practice being kind to people and to nature and see how it brightens their day and your day!



## Elves and Fairies

Elves and fairies need comfy places to rest and relax after a long day of work! You can help them out by making some cozy houses in your backyard. All you need is a milk carton, some glue, scissors and natural materials from the backyard. You can create the perfect oasis for your fairy friends with just these materials and some creativity. Place your **fairy and elf houses** in a safe spot in your backyard and they will be so excited to have a new space to hang out!

## Butterfly DIY

Now that you're a monarch expert, try raising your own monarch butterflies! You can be like Shai and help your butterfly grow up before they fly off to Mexico. Here are two options for butterfly kits:

- **Insectlore**
- **Educational Science**

Not ready to raise your own butterflies? You can pretend with your very own **monarch butterfly craft**. Shai would be very proud of you practicing with these cute creations!

## Tell Us What You Thought!

We would love to hear from you. Share your feedback regarding your experience at the LICM Theater with us: **Schools** and **Families**.

LICM is grateful for the supporters of the LICM Theater and performing arts programming:

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