

Long Island Children's Museum

Education Packet



Gruff! The Musical

Created by Doppelskope

Text and Concept by Ora Fruchter and Christopher Scheer

Music by Toby Singer

Performances:

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 through Friday, May 18, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Wednesday, May 23, 2018 at 12:15 p.m.

Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, May 29, 2018 through Friday, June 1, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, June 2, 2018 at 2 p.m. – **Relaxed Performance**

Tuesday, June 5, 2018 through Friday, June 8, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Know Before You Go

The Theater

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: Check out [Theater Website](#) for further information and other upcoming performances.

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.

The Cast and Crew

The Cast

Gruf– Emily Marsh
Grif– Morgan Meadows
Clancy– David Quinn
Frack – William Vaughn
Aquifer/Frick – Dan Yaiullo
Mimir/Mavis – Jenny Hann
Swing/Gruf Understudy – Liz Jeffrey



The Orchestra

Composer/Musical Director/Keyboard– Toby Singer
Guitar– Jordan Elman
Bass– Kevin Liabson
Percussion– Jessie Nelson



The Production Staff

Producer/Set Designer/Lighting Designer– James Packard
Director/Playwright– Christopher Scheer
Assistant Director/Playwright/Puppet Creator – Ora Fruchter

Stage Manager/Puppetry Specialist– Austin Costello

House Manager/Education Packet Author – Samantha Impellizeri

Choreographer– Madeline Hoak

Costume Designer – Alexis Gurst

Question Quest! What is an orchestra? What is a choreographer? How do an actor and director work together? What is your favorite instrument?

Click Further: **Meet the cast** as they share their favorite things about the show.

Literary Link: Give acting a try with **On Stage: Theater Games and Activities for Kids**.

The Creators

Doppelskope is the creative partnership between **Ora Fruchter**, **Christopher Scheer** and **Toby Singer**. Christopher and Ora started as an experimental performance duo that made open-hearted new theatre to approach life's darkest problems through comedy. Toby then added his diverse musical expertise and together they created three off-the-wall, family-friendly, fairy tale musicals. These shows explore environmental justice (*Gruff!*), the relationship between humans and technology (*Grimm!*) and the complex social ramifications of commerce (*Growl!*). They're also uproarious comedies that highlight their unique hybrid of clown theatre and inventive puppetry. *Gruff!*, *Grimm!* and *Growl!* ("The Grilogy") premiered at Muhlenberg Summer Music Theatre from 2014-2016.



Question Quest! What do you think the word "doppelskope" means? How does working in a group make completing a task easier or harder?

Doppelskope believes that audience interaction empowers people to be active participants in the world. Their shows celebrate life and inspire connection, discovery and community.

Click Further: Follow Doppelskope on **Facebook** and check out their **website** for more performance details and updates.

Activity Time: Name Game

Doppelskope got to create its own name by making up a new word. Now it's your turn! Come up with a name for these different groups. Feel free to use words you already know or make up a completely new word!

- A group of dogs on their way to the moon
- A baseball team that uses ping pong paddles instead of bats
- A species of sloths that move really fast
- Veterinarians that only work with bees
- A type of flower that can talk

The Show

Gruff! is an interactive, family-friendly and puppet-filled musical about saving the world from environmental disaster! In this reinvention of the Three Billy Goats Gruff fairy tale, you will learn the importance of environmental stewardship. In a world where goats have transformed their home into a junkyard, nothing green grows. On the verge of running out of food, the elder goats send young goats Gruf, Clancy and Grif to seek new food which grows from the ground. Meanwhile, in the Valley of the Trolls, Aquifer and the troll community are protecting green plants from invaders. Gruf and Aquifer meet on the bridge between their two lands and discover they have much in common. Can the elders see the benefits of working together for a new future?



Question Quest! What do you think the actors will do to make themselves look and act like goats? What is a type of food that grows from the ground? What is your favorite food?

Click Further: Rock out to original cast recording of the **Gruff! soundtrack**.

Literary Link: The younger goats are on a mission to find food that grows from the ground. Make stew using things that come from the ground with **Rainbow Stew** by Cathryn Falwell.

Activity Time: Junkyard Jumble

Goats have transformed their home into a junkyard where nothing green grows. Make a collage of what you think the goats' world looks like using garbage and recyclables. Just make sure to ask a grownup before digging through the trash and make sure to clean everything before you attach it to your masterpiece!

The Fairy Tale

Fairy tales are a type of folktale that is found in every culture. While their exact origins are unknown, it is understood that these short stories were told orally (without being written down) for thousands of years. As they travelled from person to person, town to town and country to country, different versions evolved as individual storytellers added their own twists and takes; causing many cultures to have their own version of the same basic tale.



This is true of the *Three Billy Goats Gruff* fairy tale that *Gruff!* is based on. It is a Norwegian fairy tale first published between 1841 and 1844, but versions of it can be found in numerous cultures across the world. The story introduces three male goats, sometimes identified as a youngster, father and grandfather, but more often described as brothers. In other adaptations, there is a baby or child goat, mama goat and papa goat. "Gruff" was used as their family name in the earliest English translation, while the original Norwegian version used the name "Bruse."

In the story, there is almost no grass left for the goats to eat near where they live, so they must cross a river to get to a fresh meadow on the other side of a stream. To do so, however, they must cross a bridge guarded by a fearsome troll that is known to eat anyone who tries to cross the bridge.

The smallest goat is the first to cross and is stopped abruptly by the troll who threatens to gobble him up! However, the little goat convinces the troll to wait for his big brother to come across, because he is larger and would make for a more gratifying feast. The medium-sized goat passes next and is also stopped by the troll and given the same threat. The second goat is also allowed to cross after he tells the troll to wait for the third goat who is the largest and therefore tastiest of the three. The third goat then gets on the bridge and is stopped by the hungry troll who threatens to devour him. However, the third goat charges at the troll and knocks him off the bridge with his horns. The troll falls into the stream and is carried away by the current. From then on the bridge is safe, and all three goats are able to go to the rich fields around the summer farm in the hills, and they all live happily ever after.

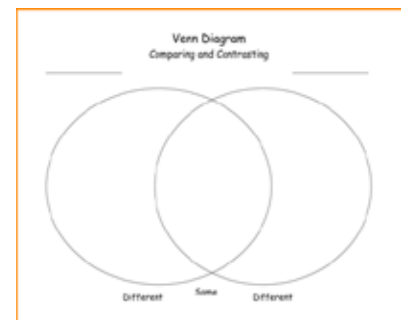
Question Quest! How many fairy tales can you name? What is your favorite fairy tale to listen to or read? What about the story makes it your favorite? Once you see the show, how is *Gruff!* different from this classic tale?

Click Further: Sing and dance along to the swinging *Three Billy Goats Gruff Song*.

Literary Link: Read the beautifully illustrated *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Paul Galdone.

Activity Time: Compare and Contrast

Choose *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Cinderella* or another fairy tale of your choice and read two different versions of the story. Read through each of the two versions carefully and create a list of similarities and differences between the two. Then organize your observations into a Venn diagram. Which version do you like more? Why?



The Puppets

There are many different types of puppets used in *Gruff!*. A puppet is a moveable model of a living thing that is controlled by a human. Puppetry was originally used by adults for religious purposes, and records of puppets date back to 3000 BC.

1. Object Puppet: Three Tomato Can “Goats”

Not all forms of puppetry need specially created items. Object puppets are created with found everyday objects. If the objects are assembled before the performance they are called object puppets. If they are assembled during the performance they are called found object puppets. The three tomato can goats in the show are made out of doorstops, stainless steel scouring pads and actual tomato cans.



2. Hand and Rod Puppet: Aquifer and the other smaller trolls

Hand puppets are controlled by a person's hand that fits inside the puppet's interior. In this production, the puppeteers are usually hidden from view while working with hand puppets. The hand inside of the troll controls the mouth and the puppeteer uses rods to control the arms. This is a type of hand puppet called hand and rod.

3. Live Hand Puppet: Mimir

A live hand puppet is similar to a hand puppet but is larger and typically requires two puppeteers. One puppeteer places their dominant hand inside the puppet's head operating the puppets head and mouth while putting their non-dominant hand into a glove and sleeve attached to the puppet. If possible, a second puppeteer will operate the other hand by wearing the opposite glove and sleeve. Otherwise that other hand will hang sympathetically at the puppets side or can be pinned to the puppet's body. This type of puppet is able to perform more complicated hand gestures and tasks.

4. Shadow Puppet: Mimir's visions

Shadow puppets are flat, cut-out figures that, when projected from behind, cast a silhouette on a thin screen. This very old form of puppetry originated in Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia.

Light travels as a wave. When you put your shadow puppet in between the lamp and the wall, the puppet blocks some of the light waves. The closer you put your shadow puppet to the lamp, the more light waves are blocked. This makes a bigger shadow. Moving the shadow puppet away from the lamp makes a smaller shadow as fewer light waves are blocked.

5. Rod Puppet: Flowers

A rod puppet is a puppet that is manipulated by holding onto rods that are connected to the puppet. The puppeteer moves the rods up, down and side to side to move the puppet. Some rod puppets are controlled by one rod and one puppeteer, and some rod puppets are brought to life by many rods and many puppeteers.

Question Quest! Have you ever played with a puppet? What types of puppets have you seen? Did you know that a lunar eclipse is the Earth casting a shadow on the moon? Just like a shadow puppet!

Click Further: Meet **Ora Frutcher**, one of the playwrights, assistant director and puppet artist, as she explains some of the puppets found in the show.

Literary Link: Read about **Jim Henson**, the creator of one of the most popular band of puppets, the Muppets.

Activity Time: In The Shadows

1. Choose what type of puppets you want. How about your favorite animal? Or your friends and family? Or characters from Three Billy Goats Gruff?
2. Draw outlines for your puppets on cardboard and carefully cut them out.
3. Use tape or glue to attach a wooden skewer or popsicle stick to the back of each of your puppets.
4. Put the lamp on the floor or on a table. Point it at a solid white or lightly colored wall and turn it on. Turn off other lights and close the curtains.
5. Hold your puppets between the light and the wall. Can you see a shadow on the wall? Move the puppets between the light and the wall to make the shadow different sizes.

The Goats

Most of the characters in Gruff! are either goats or trolls. While trolls are a mystical made up creature, goats are very real. Here are some **goat facts** to feast on!

- Goats are related to sheep but have a shorter tail, straighter hair and horns that arch backwards.
- Baby goats are called kids and can stand and walk within a few minutes of being born.
- Goats' pupils are rectangular giving them vision for 320 degrees (compared to humans with 160-210 degrees).
- Goats are very good at climbing and have been known to climb to the tops of trees and dams.
- Goats have four stomachs and love to burp!



Goats are known to eat almost anything, including tin cans and cardboard boxes. This is one reason why they are often portrayed in post-apocalypse stories, such as this one. While goats will not actually eat inedible material, they are very curious browsing animals that will chew and taste just about anything remotely resembling plants to decide if it is good to eat. This includes cardboard, clothing and paper!

Question Quest! What is one new thing you learned about goats? If you could be any animal what animal would you want to be? Have you ever seen a goat? What sound do you think a goat makes?

Click Further: Watch these **cute videos** of baby goats causing mischief. Then browse **this list** of nearby petting zoos and plan a trip to go see a goat!

Literary Link: Cuddle up and read **Polly and Her Duck Costume**, the true story of a little blind rescue goat.

Activity Time: Get Your Goat On!

Craft your own billy goats and use them to act out the story!

The Environment

In Gruff! the goats destroyed their home and food sources by destroying their environment. They polluted and over consumed; harvesting their resources faster than they could replenish. They now live in a garbage-filled wasteland and have run out of food. The show acts as a cautionary tale about what could happen to our world if we do not take care of our environment and resources.

One of the most damaging types of pollution is air **pollution**. Global climate is the general weather patterns across the entire planet. Scientists have observed that the earth's global climate is changing. It is warming up faster than at any time in the earth's history! Scientists have discovered that humans are the primary cause of this warming. **Greenhouse gases** are gases in our **atmosphere** that trap in heat. Over the last century the burning of fossil fuels, like coal and oil, and other types of air pollution have drastically increased the amount of greenhouse gases, therefore trapping more and more heat in the atmosphere.

This overall warming has many negative effects on the earth and all of the creatures that call it home. One negative effect of this warming is extreme and unpredictable weather. For example, bad hurricanes and floods, heat waves and blizzards will continue to strengthen and become more common! It also makes the oceans rise by melting glaciers, which hurts **infrastructure**, **agriculture** and **ecosystems**. As water absorbs air pollution, oceans become more **acidic**, which makes them less habitable for sea creatures.



Other types of pollution are water pollution and land pollution. Some causes of water pollution are easy to see. People dump garbage and sewage into rivers, ponds and oceans. Some causes are not so easy to see. Factories or cities sometimes release oils, poisonous chemicals and other wastes into the water. Water and land both get polluted with chemicals from farming. It can cause a buildup of dangerous chemicals that contaminate the land and water. Littering is a form of land pollution that can easily destroy the homes and health of plants and animals.

Many governments, environmental groups and ordinary people are working to control pollution. We must all step up and do everything we can to help protect our planet!

Question Quest! What is one thing you can do at home to reduce pollution? What is recycling? Have you ever seen litter in your community?

Click Further: Tackle the “**Big Questions**” with NASA’s Climate Kids. Also be sure to check out their **games** and **activities**!

Literary Link: Read your way through this **list of top children’s books** on the environment.

Activity Time: Plant It!

Planting a garden is a great way to give back to the environment. Take planting to the next level by creating **seed balls** or **seed paper**. Plant them in your own garden or share them with friends!



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!



Question Quest! What was your favorite part of the show? How did the show make you feel? What do you think the performers did to prepare for the show? What question would you like to ask our performers?

Click Further: Read about **research** that proved the importance of live theater for children.

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. These are some specific ways you can use the galleries to expand upon your trip to see *Gruff!*.

Activity Time: TotSpot

TotSpot has many options for younger visitors to explore pretend play.

First, head to the bridge in the center of the gallery to act out the final scene of the show. Next, pretend you are in Troll Valley and go to the farm stand and plant and harvest vegetables. Then, go to the puppet theater and put on your own puppet show like *Gruff!*.



Question Quest! What fruits and vegetables can you find? What types of puppets can you find? What is your puppet show about and why?

Click Further: Join us for the **Grow With Gruff!** Special Theater Package on May 30 at 10:15 am and receive a Sprout pencil! Can't make that performance? Get your own **Sprout pencil** and **watch** your garden grow.

Literary Link: Kick your garden up a notch with the 52 fun garden experiments in *Gardening Lab for Kids* by Renata Brown.

Activity Time: Pattern Studio

Play with patterns in this classic gallery; great for all ages! Help the flowers grow tall and beautiful like in Troll Valley by putting on their petals. Check out three types of bridge arches and follow the steps to build them: corbel arch, roman arch wedges and roman arch puzzle. Then go to the building blocks table to design your own bridge.



Question Quest! What patterns can you make with the flower petals? How much weight can your bridge hold? Which type of bridge arch looks most like the bridge in the show?

Click Further: Make your bridge digital with *Build the Bridge*.

Literary Link: Hunt for more patterns in nature in *Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails* by Betsy Franco.

Activity Time: Our Backyard

Celebrate the opening of our seasonal outdoor gallery! Explore the different gardens and see how many flowers, fruits and vegetables you can find. How many of them have you eaten before? Be sure to look for critters too, such as insects, birds and squirrels. Also check out our sunflower solar panels and experiment with "Mavis Energy!"

Question Quest! What color plants and trees can you find? How many circles can you find? What is the weather today?

Click Further: Plan your visit to Our Backyard on a day of one of our *Summer STEM programs*, including Citizen Scientist and Green Teens.



Literary Link: Get ready to play outside with *Elephant & Piggie's Are You Ready to Play Outside?* by Mo Willems.

After Your Visit

Building Bridges

In *Gruff!* the kid goats and young trolls judge and fear each other even though they know nothing about each other. The kid goats think that trolls are scary and eat goats while the young trolls think that goats are bad and cannot be trusted or taught to help the environment. Judging someone or having an idea about them before actually getting to know them is called prejudice. It can also mean having an opinion about something without knowing anything about it. Unfortunately we do not always see that we are being prejudiced. We do not always see that we have strong ideas that may have been influenced by friends, family, other grownups and what we have seen on television, instead of being based on true personal experiences. We need to make sure that these strong ideas do not involve judging people before you get to know them. After all, you may end up finding out that they are “cute and fuzzy” just like you!



Question Quest! What other lessons did you learn from the show? How would you feel if someone was scared of you? How would you feel if people didn't want to play with you?

Click Further: Try some of these [understanding prejudice activities](#) with your friends, family or classmates.

Literary Link: Learn more about different worlds coming together in *Neither*, by Airlie Anderson.

Activity Time: Point of View Switcheroo

Just like the characters in the show, the audience learns not to assume anything. *Gruff!* takes a familiar fairy tale and turns it upside down by retelling the story from a different point of view. Choose your favorite story and tell it from a different character's point of view. For example, talk about the Wizard of Oz from the point of view of the Wicked Witch of the West or Cinderella from the point of view of the Stepsisters. It is always interesting to practice [empathy](#).

Mavis Energy

In the end of the show we learn that Mavis has invented Mavis Energy, an energy source that runs on wind and water. Did you know this technology actually exists! It is called solar energy and wind energy.



Using the wind to create electricity has been around for a long time. One example is farms using windmills. In the Middle Ages they were used to pump water and grind flour and in the late 1800s they were first used to generate electricity. When the wind turns the blades of a windmill, it powers a generator that produces electricity. Today power companies build “wind farms” with dozens of giant windmills called wind turbines.

Solar energy uses big shiny panels called solar collectors that absorb energy from the sun. When we use solar and wind power we do not use any of the earth's resources, like coal or oil. This makes solar and wind power a renewable energy source, which means we can never run out! Solar and wind power also create little or no pollution.

Question Quest! Have you ever seen giant windmills in a “wind farm?” The energy your body needs comes from food. How do you feel when you are hungry?

Click Further: Learn more about “wind farms” while watching one on a [live webcam](#)!

Literary Link: Read about the heroic young inventor who brought electricity to his Malawian village in [The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#) by William Kamkwamba.

Activity Time: Energizing With Energy

Play with solar and wind energy with [activities](#) such as solar ovens, pinwheels and wind socks.

Tell Us What You Thought!

We would love to hear from you. Share your feedback regarding your experience at the LICM Theater by emailing us at theater@licm.org.

We appreciate the support of the following:



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the Arts

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