

Long Island Children's Museum
Education Packet



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

Based on the Elephant & Piggie books by Mo Willems

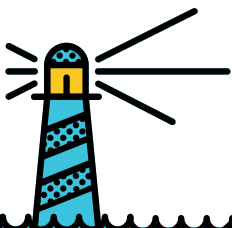
Published by Hyperion Books for Children

Script and Lyrics by MO WILLEMS

Music by DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA

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

April 10 - June 3, 2023



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 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. Productions 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?

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 – Lisa Rudin

Squirrelle- Molly Bremer

Squirrelle-Agustina Cedraschi

Squirrelle – Annabel Espinal

Dog/Penguin-Jonah Levinowitz

The Production Staff

Theater Program Director-James Packard

Musical Director-Willard Meeks, Jr.

Choreographer – Lisa Rudin

Costume Designer – Joe Kassner

Stage Manager- Austin Costello

Assistant Stage Manager/Swing- Carrie Heffernan

Percussionist-Michael Leuci

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

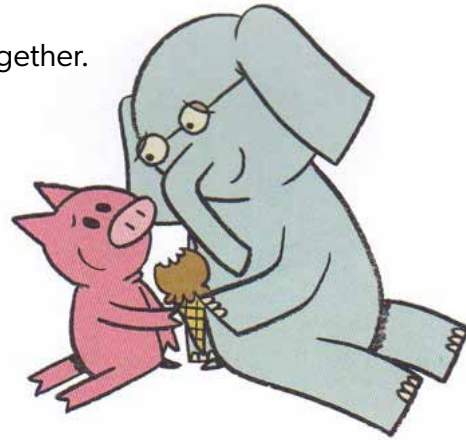
Elephant Gerald is thoughtful, honest and careful. He considers all sides of a situation and proceeds cautiously. He is a loyal friend. He always tries to be kind to Piggie and likes to do nice things for her. Piggie encourages him to try new things, and even though he is scared, he will try them for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



Image by rawpixel.com

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.

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!



Making Connections



The Pigeon comes to Long Island! A Mo Willems Exhibit

Visit the whimsical world of Mo Willems and his cast of lovable characters, including best friend duo Elephant and Piggie, faithful companion Knuffle Bunny, and The Pigeon, the wily city bird best known for his antics in *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* Here, simple stories inspire hours of play and reveal rich emotional lives of Mo characters. The challenges of growing up, like learning to make yourself understood or figuring out what it means to be a good friend,

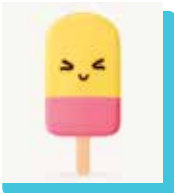
are gentle themes throughout. Along the way, children get to make their own art, surprises abound, and every exploration ends in fits of laughter!

Sound Showers

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



TotSpot



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

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.

