

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

This play was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was first produced at the Kennedy Center during the 2013-2014 Season. It is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.

Performances:

Wednesday, August 22, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Thursday, August 23, 2018 and Friday, August 24, 2018 at 2 p.m.

Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Monday, August 27, 2018 through Friday, August 31, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Know Before You Go

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 & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!" is a perfect way to introduce young people to theatre.



Activity Time: 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.

Question Quest! What is one new thing that you learned about pigs? What is your favorite animal and why? What is your favorite holiday and why? What does friendship mean to you?

Click Further: **Meet the cast and crew** of *Elephant & Piggie's: We Are in a Play* as they share their thoughts about friendship, a reoccurring theme in the show.

Literary Link: Read about another charismatic pig in ***Olivia* by Ian Falconer**.

Who You Will See...

The Cast

Gerald– Austin Costello

Piggie– Liz Jeffery

Squirrelle– Freyja Goldstein

Squirelle/Dog – Lauren Cocco

Squirelle/Penguin – Matt Spina



The Orchestra

Musical Director/Pianist– James Cottone

Percussion/Trumpet– Edgar Meeks

Clarinet– Matt Spina



The Production Staff

Director/Lighting Designer– James Packard

Stage Manager– Kyle Mahoney

Choreographer– Allison Schindler

Costume Designer– Barbara Kirby

Prop Designer– Becky Goldhammer

Theater Program Coordinator – Samantha Impellizeri

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

Click Further: Meet the Theater Manager and Theater Program Coordinator as they answer questions about the theater in a [Facebook live video](#).

Literary Link: Give acting a try with [On Stage: Theater Games and Activities for Kids](#).

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.



Activity Time: Hyped for Hyperion

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

Question Quest! What is your favorite book and why? What is an author? If you could give yourself an award, what would it be for?

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

Literary Link: Read through the Elephant & Piggie books featured in the show.

- ***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!***



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.

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 *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"*

Activity Time: Broken? Fix It!

Have you ever accidentally broken someone else's toy? Make your way to our Truth Booth and confess a time you broke someone else's toy, or a toy of your own. How did you feel when you broke that toy?



Question Quest! How did you feel walking into the Truth Booth? How did you feel walking out of the Truth Booth? Has someone ever broken a toy of yours by accident? How did it make you feel? Did you forgive them? If so, why?

Click Further: Check out **an article** by family psychotherapist and parent educator Jamie Perillo for seven ideas on teaching children forgiveness.

Literary Link: Join the Berenstain Bears and explore forgiveness further by reading *The Forgiving Tree* by Jan and Mike Berenstain

Activity Time: 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?

Question Quest! What is your favorite song? How does that song make you feel? How many spoons can you find in this gallery?

Click Further: Piggie isn't the only one that can make music like an elephant. Read about the **Thai Elephant Orchestra** and then **watch them** in action!

Literary Link: Sergei Prokofiev's **Peter and the Wolf** is a classic symphonic fairy tale in which a narrator tells the children's story while an orchestra illustrates it using musical instruments that sound like animals. Listen to the creative classical music while you read along with the narration.



Activity Time: TotSpot

Visit the ice cream truck in the back of the gallery to scoop ice cream like Penguin. Stack as many scoops of ice cream on your cone as you can and then see if you can share your ice cream with others, like Gerald and Piggie do with each other.

Question Quest! What is your favorite ice cream flavor? How many flavors of ice cream are in this gallery? How many forms of transportation can you find in this gallery?

Click Further: Put your science and baking skills to the test as you make your own **homemade ice cream!**

Literary Link: Through vivid photos and engaging text, learn how ice cream is made in the fun and fact-filled **Milk to Ice Cream**.

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:

