

## **Frederick**

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY, INC of Woodstock, Illinois. Frederick was developed and initially presented at Omaha Theater Company (The Rose), March 2014, Matthew Gutschick, Artistic Director. The world premiere production was at Chicago Children's Theatre, October 2014, Jacqueline Russell, Artistic Director.

**November 29 - December 30, 2023**

**February 19 - February 24, 2024**



# About the Show

*Frederick* - Pre-K to Grade 3

Based on the book by Leo Lionni

Book by Suzanne Maynard Miller

Music and lyrics by Sarah Durkee and Paul Jacobs

It's a beautiful sunny summer day in the meadow. Mouse friends Nellie, Sunny, Baby, Ernest and Frederick are playing their musical instruments and having fun singing, until a leaf falls from the sky... autumn is here! Winter will be coming soon! All the mice get to work gathering supplies for winter, except... where is Frederick? He is gathering supplies, too, in his own unique way.

Told through the eyes of our mice friends, the musical expands on the themes of the classic Leo Lionni book: What is work? What does it mean to be "different?" What is the value of the arts? With toe-tapping Americana music inspired by bluegrass, gospel and folk, *Frederick* is an energetic, engaging story about the power of community, and that no mouse gets left behind.

## 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?

Give acting a try with

### Who You Will See...

#### The Production Staff

**Theater Program Director** – James Packard

**Director/Choreographer** – Lisa Rudin

**Musical Director** – Willard Meeks

**Puppet Director/Stage Manager** – Austin Costello

**Set/Lighting Designer** – James Packard

**Assistant Stage Manager/Swing** – Carrie Heffernan

**Assistant Puppet Builder** - Christina Litvaitis

#### The Cast

**Frederick** – Finn MacDevitt

**Ernest** - Scott Earle

**Nellie** - Lauren Gismondi

**Baby** - Kate Budney

**Sunny** - Freyja Goldstein

**Puppeteer/Swing** - Kyle Mahoney

#### Musicians

**Pianist** - Willard Meeks

**Violin** - Steve Rudin

**Bass Guitar** - Rich Hefner

**Guitar/Percussion** - Mike Leuci

## Mice in the winter

In our show, the mice need to gather enough food to make it through the winter. They spend the winter in their hideaway, inside the stone wall. Real mice do the same thing to survive. As fall turns to winter, they begin to create food caches, or stores, so they have enough food to last through the cold winter. What do mice eat? Field mice, a common type of mouse in North America, are omnivores, which means they eat plants and animals. Some of their favorite foods are seeds, nuts, fruits, flowers and fungi.



Photo credit: Image by rawpixel.com

## Activity

If you had to stay in a hideaway for the winter, what would you want to bring with you? What are some of your favorite foods? Draw a picture of three favorite things you would bring with you and three favorite foods.

A large dashed-line rectangular box intended for drawing.



## Activity

The mice in our show play instruments and sing in the morning. It's part of their morning routine. They enjoy making music together. You can make your own instrument and play music with your friends too!

Watch this [video](#) to learn how.

Photo credit: Image by pch.vector on Freepick

## Philosophical Questions

Philosophy is the study of some of the most basic questions of human life. *Frederick* explores some of these questions. What are your thoughts about the themes below?

### About Work

- What is considered work? Is Frederick working when he is collecting his supplies?
- What makes a particular type of work important?
- Do you think Frederick's work was worth as much as the other mice's work? Why or why not?
- What is the difference between work and play? Give an example of something you do that you think is work and something you think is play.
- Do you have to be paid for working? Why or why not?
- Some people play professional sports, and they get paid, are they working?

### About Community

- What makes a community?
- Can you think of some communities you are a part of? How do you know they are communities?
- Your school is a community, and everybody contributes something to it. The mice have a community, too, and everyone is contributing something. What and how do the mice contribute?

Explore more questions [here](#).

## Teamwork

According to *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* teamwork is "work done by a group acting together so that each member does a part that contributes to the efficiency of the whole."

In *Frederick*, the mice community works together to gather supplies for the winter.

What are some examples of teamwork that you do at home? At school?

## Fun Teamwork Activities

### Turn a picture book into a play!

Take your favorite picture book, grab a few friends and assign everyone a character to act out. One person can read the book, while the others can act out the story. Don't forget the costumes! If you want to share your work, you can invite others to watch your play. Theater is a team activity.

### Group art projects



Photo credit: Image by pch.vector on Freepik

# Social Emotional Learning

## Nellie's Nerves

Nellie is a nervous mouse. She is worried that the mice will not have enough food to make it through the winter. Her fears help her lead the mice community to prepare for winter. However, she knows she worries a little too much, and wishes she could be more like Frederick: more relaxed and able to appreciate the beauty of the world around her.



Photo credit: Image by pikisuperstar on Freepik

What do you do when you feel nervous and worried? Try these mindfulness exercises to appreciate the world around you and help you relax.



Photo credit: Image by Amelie Burfitt

## Worry Monster

Design and build your own worry monster. The worry monster “eats” any worries you may have. Take any type of small box and cut a rectangle in it for a mouth (a tissue box works well as it already has an opening). Then design your monster using crayons, cut-outs, markers, paints, anything you would like. Once your monster is complete you can write your worries down on little pieces of paper and feed them to the monster. Alternatively, you could use any small object (dried pasta, bottle caps, etc.) and use it to represent your worry and then feed it to the monster.

## Mountain Breathing

Sit quietly and put one hand out in front of you, palm facing in towards you. Starting at the base of the thumb, trace the outline of your hand up and around your thumb and around each finger. As you trace upward, breathe in. As you trace downward, breathe out.

## Frederick's Five Senses

Frederick sees beauty in the world around him. He uses his five senses: sight, sound, taste, touch and smell to experience the world. He takes it all in and tries to remember the beauty so that he will have joy in the darkest hour of winter. How do you use your five senses to experience the world?

Try these [activities](#).

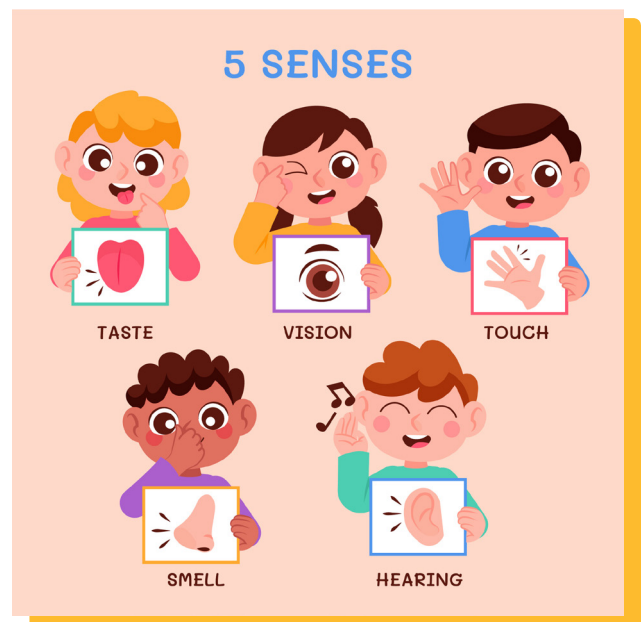


Photo credit: Image by Freepik



## About Leo Lionni

Leo Lionni (May 5, 1910-October 11, 1999) produced more than 40 children's books. He received the American Institute of Graphic Arts Gold Medal in 1984. He was also a four-time Caldecott Honor winner, for *Inch by Inch* (1961) *Swimmy* (1964) *Frederick* (1968) and *Alexander and the Wind-Up Mouse* (1970). Lionni was the first children's book author/illustrator to use collage as the main medium for his illustrations. Many of Lionni's books include themes of community, creativity and existential conditions. He was also a mentor and lifelong friend of Eric Carle.

## About The Book

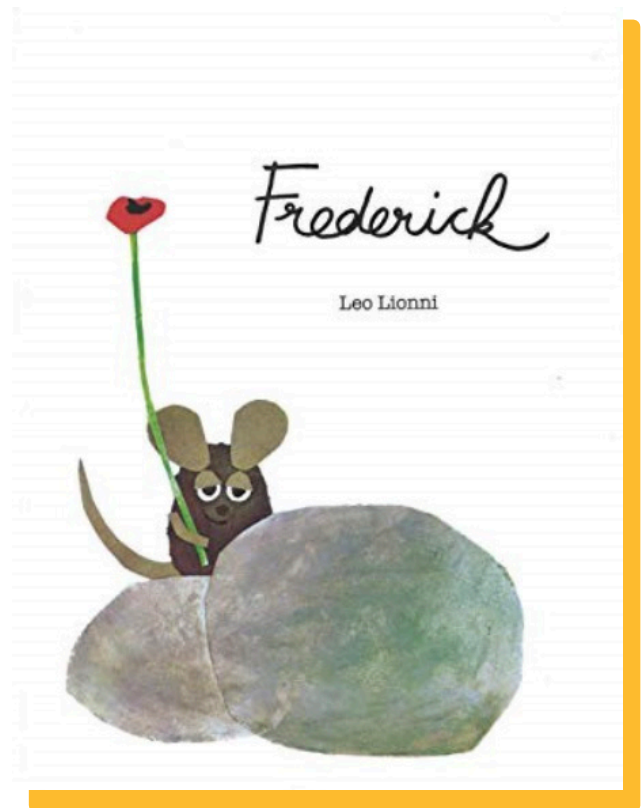
*Frederick* is the story of a family of field mice who are gathering food for the winter. All except Frederick, who prefers to store up something special for the winter instead. Winner of the 1968 Caldecott Honor, the book has been cherished for generations.

"A splendid achievement."  
-- *School Library Journal*, starred review.

"In *Frederick*, a mouse who is a poet from the tip of his nose to the end of his tail demonstrates that a seemingly purposeless life is indeed far from that - and that we need not live by bread alone!"  
--Eric Carle

### More Works by Leo Lionni

*Swimmy*, *A Color of His Own*, *Fish is Fish*, *Little Blue and Yellow*, *Tillie and the Wall*



## 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.

### 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 respond to questions.
- The use of recording and/or photographic equipment is strictly prohibited.

### After the Show:

- Stay and meet the performers!

## Making Connections

### Sock Skating

The mice in *Frederick* spend time out in the winter snow and ice. You can enjoy some wintry outdoor play time too, indoors, in our Snowflake Sock Skating exhibit!

Snowflake Sock Skating in residence: November 11, 2023, through January 7, 2024.

Slip on “sock skates” and take a spin on our indoor rink. Enjoy all the fun of this winter sport without runny noses or cold hands. Our indoor rink is made from a high-tech synthetic polymer surface that lets kids slide around without blades.



This exhibit offers plenty of opportunities for active play as kids stretch, twirl and glide at LICM. As visitors step off the “ice” they can jump into winter dramatic play in our Snowflake Village. Become a baker in our holiday sweet shop, step inside a giant snowman and serve up some hot cocoa, take a turn in our rink “ticket booth” and “warm up” around our rink side “fire” pit as the whole family enjoys cozy winter fun.



### Sound Showers

The mice in *Frederick* make music together. You can too!

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, intensitive, portable way for people all around the world to be together. Tap, clap, bounce and dance into a world of percussion instruments and everyday objects that make sound.

### Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy Exhibit

In Residence January 27 through May 12, 2024

Eric Carle, and the author of *Frederick*, Leo Lionni, were very good friends. In fact, Leo Lionni was Eric Carle’s mentor. Enjoy our Eric Carle exhibit, and look for similarities in the style of their art.

Step into colorful adventures based on the work of renowned and beloved author/illustrator Eric Carle, including the Very Hungry Caterpillar. Co-organized by Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.



Photo credit: Image by Kristi Jan Hoover

“Very Eric Carle: A Very Hungry, Quiet, Lonely, Clumsy, Busy Exhibit” is the first North American traveling exhibit for children inspired by the art of the beloved children’s book author and illustrator Eric Carle. Art this play-and-learn exhibit, visitors step into the pages of Eric Carle’s colorful picture books. His classic “Very” series, all illustrated in his hand-painted tissue paper collage technique, introduces five special insects who take journeys of discovery. Each story is a testament to Eric Carle’s love of nature, his respect for the emotional lives of children, and his recurring themes of friendship, creativity, and the power of imagination.

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