



Happy as Clams: The Musical

Music and Book by Lena Pennino-Smith
Musical Arrangement by Brian Smith

Performances:

Tuesday, December 12, 2017 through Friday, December 15, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. and noon
Tuesday, December 19, 2017 through Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. and noon
Wednesday, December 27, 2017 through Saturday, December 30, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 pm
Sunday, December, 31 2017 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 20, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 23, 2018 through Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. and noon



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: Check out the [LICM Theater Website](#) for for info 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.

Who You Will See...

The Cast

- Clammy**– Lauren Coccaro
- Grabby/Fisherman**– Matt Spina
- Fluke**– Joe Mankowski
- Jelly**– Allison Shindler
- The Star of the Sea**– Shuga Henry
- Stomach**– Kyle Mahoney
- Gilly/Horseshoe**– Austin Costello



The Orchestra

- Musical Director/Keyboard**– James Cottone
- Percussion**– Edgar Meeks



The Production Staff

- Theater Program Coordinator**– Samantha Impellizeri
- Stage Manager**– Antoinette Sorgente
- Director/Lighting Designer**– James Packard

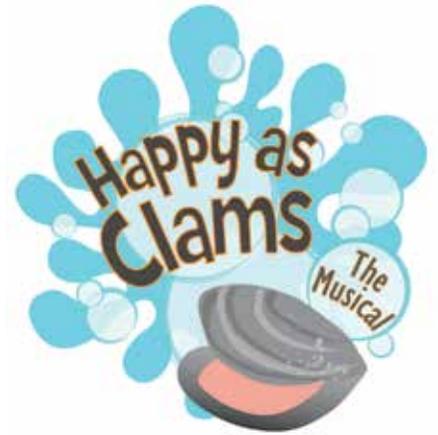
Question Quest! What is an actor? What is a director? What is a musician? What is your favorite instrument and why? How do an actor and director work together?

Click Further: Meet **Lauren Coccaro**, the actor who plays Clammy, as she tells us her favorite part about being an actor.

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

The Show

Join us for a live musical adventure set in Long Island's Great South Bay. Meet Clammy the clam who confesses she is not "happy as a clam." Clammy and her best friend Grabby the fiddler crab set out to find her happiness by wishing on a star. They learn about creating friendships when they befriend a love-struck fluke and float with a jellyfish. This new quartet of friends meets the hungry rock and roll performer, Sea Star, and the chase is on! This popular STEAM-filled show gets everyone singing, dancing and clam-oring for more (while sneaking in some local environmental science and geography).



Question Quest! What is something that makes you happy? What does your face look like when you are happy? What can your face look like if you're not happy? If you are not happy, what is something you do to try to make yourself happy again? What do you do to cheer up a friend or loved one if they are not happy?

Click Further: See what makes **these** kids happy as you talk about what makes you happy with your family.

Literary Link: Read along with **The Jar of Happiness** by Ailsa Burrows as Meg tries to create the perfect jar of happiness.



Activity Time: Prediction Powers

Create a mini comic strip about what you think is going to happen in the show.

1. Create picture of what you think is going to happen in the beginning, featuring what conflict you think the characters are going to face.
2. Create a picture about what you think is going to happen in the middle of the show, featuring what you think the characters are going to do to try and solve the problem.
3. Create a picture about what you think is going to happen at the end of the show. Do the characters solve their problem and live happily ever after?

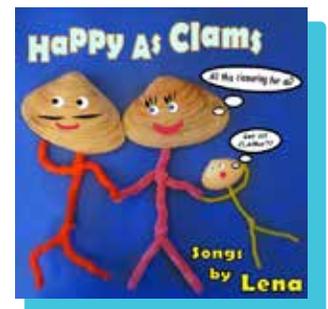


You can make your illustrations by hand drawing your pictures (using crayons, markers, pencils, etc.) or you can make collages by printing out pictures and gluing them to a piece of paper. Your comic strip can have more than three pictures if you would like to fill in more of the story. You can use **speech bubbles** to show what your characters are saying. **Here** are directions for a more complex comic strip if you are up for the challenge! Not in an artsy mood? You can write a story about what you think is going to happen instead or verbally tell your story to a friend or loved one.

The Origin

Lena Pennino-Smith is an award-winning family performer and writer who calls Long Island her home. Her journey into family music began when her son was born because she wanted to share something special with her baby. Lena has a background in journalism, writing for various newspapers on Long Island, NY. She has also served as a full time youth minister, church cantor and proofreader for newspapers. She currently works as the co-director of communications for the Sisters of St. Dominic and performs her music with her husband Brian and her band, for families, schools, libraries, festivals and more. She is now the mommy of 7-year-old Jonah and 4-year-old Claire.

Released in 2012, the Happy as Clams album is Lena's first album for families. Recording it was a team effort, with a cast of 20 performers and musicians, including her talented piano-playing husband, Brian Smith. The compilation of 13 songs highlight Lena's love of a good story, musical games and theatrical humor. The album was created so that families and friends can "shellebrate" with each other.



This lively children's album was given a plot and transformed into a full-length musical adventure; Happy as Clams: The Musical! debuted at LICM in January 2014. It has been developing ever since, undergoing continuous additions and rewrites. In 2015, Lena created and presented The Princess Frog, another original musical, at the LICM Theater. Lena and the Happy Clam Band have also worked on other projects at the LICM Theater, including Shiver Me Patterns and Full Circle.

Question Quest! What is a musical? How is it different from a play? What is your favorite song? How does it make you feel?

Click Further: Check out [their website](#) to learn more about Lena and the Happy Clam Band.

Literary Link: Watch the illustrations come to life in [this animated video](#) of Eric Carle's *I See a Song* and follow along with a [copy of your very own](#).

Activity Time: Movin' and Groovin'

Some of the songs on the *Happy as Clams* album allow listeners to participate in musical games. Grab the [album](#) to get in on the fun!

These are some activities you can try and be sure to check out the [website](#) for a complete list of games and activities.

- **Grabby the Crabby:** There is a Fiddler Crab on you! Shake him off as you hear what he pinches next! This kind of play teaches human body parts as the crab pinches different parts of the body.
- **Stacking Blocks:** Play like "Ring-around-the-Rosie." Hold hands, walk in a circle and when you hear "wobble, wobble," teeter on one leg and then the other, before you fall down!
- **Fireflies:** Fly around the room like fireflies, when you hear "Yes, I will," adults turn into the "catchers" to chase their little ones. When caught, the little fireflies freeze.

The Great South Bay

At 45 miles long, about three miles wide and about 20 at its deepest, the Great South Bay is the largest shallow saltwater bay in New York. But did you know the Great South Bay is actually a lagoon? A lagoon is a shallow body of water separated from a larger body of water by [barrier islands](#) or reefs. The Great South Bay is protected from the Atlantic Ocean by Fire Island, a barrier island, as well as the eastern end of Jones Beach Island and Captree Island. More than 5,000 gallons of fresh water flow into the bay every second. Of that, 575 gallons comes in directly through the bay floor. Eighty-five species of fish have been identified in the bay, 40 of which are present on a regular basis. At one time half of the nation's clams were harvested from the Great South Bay, but over-harvesting and pollution from suburban development have almost completely wiped out the clam population.



Question Quest! What is an island? Have you ever been to the beach? If so, what did you see there?

Click Further: Learn more about the [Great South Bay](#) and its history.

Literary Link: Learn more about different [bodies of water](#).

Activity Time: Sea Slime

Make your own **underwater themed slime** to play with as you read through this Activity Packet. This sensory stimulator can also act as a helpful **fidget**.

Bay Buddies

In the show, *Happy as Clams: The Musical!*, all of the characters you meet will be creatures found in the Great South Bay. How many of these critters have you seen?

Clam

- Clams belong to a group of **invertebrates** called **shellfish** and they are the type of shellfish called **mollusks**.
- Clams do not have five senses like humans. They cannot smell, hear or even see because they have no noses, ears or eyes.
- Each clam filters about one gallon of water per hour.
- The bands or rings on the clam's outer shell indicate its age, just as the rings of a tree do, and no two clams' shells are the same.
- There are over 15,000 different species of clams worldwide. The clams of the Great South Bay are called hard clams.
- Clams' main source of food is plankton.
- Clams are bivalves, meaning they have two shells.
- Clams use their foot to burrow in the sand or mud to avoid predators which include snails, crabs, shrimp, sea star, fish and birds.



Crab

- Crabs are also known as decapods because they have 10 legs. The first pair of legs are claws, called **chelae**.
- Crabs have their skeleton on the outside of their bodies. This is called an "**exoskeleton**."
- Crabs are **omnivores** that eat different kind of algae, fungi, bacteria, other crustaceans, mollusks and worms.
- The collective name for a group of crabs is "cast."
- Crabs communicate with sound. They produce drumming and flapping sounds by using their claws and pincers.
- Crabs have large compound eyes made up of hundreds of tiny lenses.
- Crabs can walk slowly in any direction, but when they need to hurry, they usually move sideways.



Fluke

- Fluke typically grow 1 to 3 pounds, but can grow to more than 30 inches and weigh in excess of 20 pounds.
- When they first hatch from the egg, fluke larvae look just like any other fish. Then, they undergo a **metamorphosis** where their right eye migrates over the top of their head to the left side as the body flattens.
- Fluke belong to a larger group of flat fishes called flounders.
- Fluke are like chameleons; they change color to blend in with their surroundings.
- Fluke have teeth and eat a mixed diet of fish and invertebrates.
- Mature fish live their life burrowing into seafloor sand.



Jellyfish

- Jellyfish have drifted along on ocean currents for 650 million of years, even before dinosaurs lived on the Earth.
- Despite their name, jellyfish aren't actually fish. They are **invertebrates**.
- Inside their bell-shaped body is an opening that is the mouth. They eat and discard waste from this opening.
- Jellyfish can propel forward by squirting water from their mouths, but usually move by floating along with ocean currents.
- Jellyfish don't purposely attack humans. Most stings occur when people accidentally touch a jellyfish. This can be painful and sometimes **dangerous**.
- Some jellyfish are clear, but others are in vibrant colors such as pink, yellow, blue and purple, and often are **luminescent**.
- A group of jellyfish is called a "bloom," "swarm" or "smack."



Sea Star

- Sea stars, often called starfish, are not actually fish and cannot swim. They are **echinoderms**.
- They can be found in every ocean, but cannot survive in fresh water.
- Sea stars usually have 5 arms, but some species have up to 40!
- They can regrow their arms and will sometimes drop an arm if caught by a predator.
- Sea stars have many tiny eyes at the end of each arm, but cannot see very well.
- They do not have blood and instead use filtered sea water to pump nutrients through their nervous system.
- When they capture prey, they hold it tightly using numerous tiny suction cups. Then, their stomach exits their mouth to digest the food, and reenters the body when they're done eating.



Question Quest! Have you seen any of these animals before? What do they all have in common? What is one new thing you learned from the above information? Define one new word that you learned from the above information.

Click Further: Clamoring for more information? Check out **this packet** of Clam facts, games and activities!

Literary Link: Get ready to rock under the docks by reading along with **Commotion in the Ocean** by Giles Andreae.

Activity Time: Bay Design



Create your own **diorama** of the underwater bay community. Make sure to include all our bay buddies listed above! You can use paper plates to make a **simple one**, or a **more complex one** using a shoebox.

Happy as a What?

The phrase “as happy as a clam” refers to one who is extremely happy and content. It has been suggested that open clams give the appearance of smiling. However, the expression more likely comes from the fuller version of the phrase, now rarely heard – “as happy as a clam at high tide.” High tide is when clams are free from the attentions of predators, the safest, and therefore, happiest time for any clam.

The phrase “happy as a clam,” is an example of a **simile**. A simile is a part of speech that is used to compare two things, like a **metaphor**. However, similes use the word “like” or “as” to compare things as you can see in “happy **as** a clam.”

Question Quest! What parts of speech can you name? What other similes can you think of? In the phrase “happy as a clam,” which part of speech is the word “clam.”

Click Further: Search through some **similes**.

Literary Link: See how many similes you can find as you read along with *My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks*, by Hanoch Piven.

Activity Time: Smile with Similies

Play with similes with this **free downloadable printout**. Similes are a great introduction into the world of poetry! Can you come up with any similes that are not on the printout?

Activity Time: Making the Bay International!

Below are some Spanish and French translations of the creatures in Happy as Clams: The Musical!. How do you think they are pronounced? What languages do you and your family speak? Check out **Google Translate** to see what other languages you can translate these words into.

English

Clam

Crab

Fish

Flounder

Jellyfish

Sea Star

Seagull

Fisherman

Spanish

La Almeja

El Cangrejo

El Pescado (As food), El Pez (Alive)

La Platija

La Medusa

Astrella de Mar

La Gaviota

El Pescado

French

La Palourde

Le Crabe

Le Poisson

La Sole

La Méduse

Étoile de Mer

La Mouette

Le Pêcheur

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 students.

Literary Link: Learn about the process of writing a play as you read the playful picture book, **Full Moon and Star**, by Lee Bennett Hopkins.

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 *Happy as Clams: The Musical!*. Teachers should look into **extending your visit** if you have not already!

Activity Time: Sandy Island

Take a trip to our very own indoor beach! The Sandy Island gallery is all about the beaches of Long Island, including those that border the Great South Bay.



First, head to the Seafood Shack where you can sort beach critters including clams and crabs, just like Clammy and Grabby! Then, fish off the “dock” and see which other bay fish you can identify. Find the map of Long Island and see if you can outline the Great South Bay. As you learn about how sand is made, take a look at the wall of sand samples and see if you can find the one is from the coast of the Great South Bay. And of course, while you’re at the beach, see who can make the biggest sand castle!

Question Quest! How many crabs could you find? What color were they? What is sand and how is it created? How far is LICM from the Montauk lighthouse? Which direction on the map (north, south, east or west) is the Great South Bay from LICM?

Click Further: Test and strengthen your memory with this [beach-themed online game](#).

Literary Link: Let your imagination run wild as you travel to the beach with [Stella Star of the Sea](#), by Marie-Louise Gay.

Activity Time: Communication Station

Storm the silver screen as you present a news story about another creature from the Great South Bay, bay scallops! Jump behind the Channel 12 news desk and select "Places" and then "Bay Scallops" on the touch screen. Then follow along on the [teleprompter](#) straight ahead and inform your adoring fans about these "jewels of the bay."

Question Quest! How did it feel to be "on camera?" Was it difficult to read the teleprompter with the words moving? How do scallops move? What is scallop season?

Click Further: Learn about [how green screens work](#), just like the one behind you as you read the news!

Literary Link: Want to be a news reporter? Read [Big News! \(Emma is on the Air #1\)](#), by Ida Siegal.



Activity Time: Feasts for Beasts

Feast your eyes on our Feasts for Beasts gallery where you can learn about [carnivores](#), [herbivores](#), and [omnivores](#). Study what each category means and then see if you can classify the critters from the show into those three groups. Also check out how animals have different teeth depending on what type of food they eat and see if you can complete the Diner Dash activity in the center of the gallery!

Question Quest! Are you a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore? Which animals did you see in this gallery? Which is your favorite?



Click Further: Rock out to some [funky tunes](#) as you learn more about the differences between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Literary Link: Consider picking up this [book series](#) about carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

After Your Visit

Shellfish-team

In *Happy as Clams: The Musical!*, Clammy discovers what it means to be happy. In the beginning, she isn't happy because she believes she doesn't matter. She doesn't have much besides her shell and a foot and thinks she needs more to make a difference. Clammy does not feel capable, effective or accepted. This is why she sets out to wish upon a star to become human. Through her adventure she discovers that she is actually beloved by her friends and one of the most important creatures of the bay!



Clammy learns to develop self-esteem. Self-esteem is a positive way of thinking and feeling about yourself. When you feel good about yourself, you're set up for success in everything from school to friendships. In contrast, having low self-esteem can block success. Those that don't feel accepted may not participate as often and those who don't expect to do well may avoid challenges, give up easily or be unable to bounce back from mistakes.

Because of this, it is important for everyone to learn positive self-esteem, whether you're a clam, a child or even a grown-up. Self-esteem is the result of experiences that help a child feel capable, effective and accepted. When individuals learn to do things for themselves and feel proud of what they can do, they feel capable. People feel effective when they see that good things come from efforts like trying hard, getting close to a goal or making progress. When individuals feel accepted and understood they are likely to accept themselves too. Their good feelings about themselves multiply as they are praised for good behavior, helped when needed and given encouragement and support.

Question Quest! What does being happy mean to you? What is something that you are good at? What is something you have accomplished?

Click Further: For source information and more about developing good self-esteem, check **both** of **these websites**.

Literary Link: Celebrate yourself and read along with *I'm Gonna Like Me* by Jamie Lee Curtis.

Activity Time: Happy Clams

Focus on what makes you happy by creating a happiness clam! Draw a simple outline of a clam or **print one** and fill it with reasons why you are happy. Younger members of our "clam-ily" can draw or collage pictures of what makes them happy instead. Hang your happiness clam up somewhere where you can see it every day so you can always be reminded of what makes you happy.



Marine Menace

The Great South Bay is facing many environmental threats that are affecting our saltwater friends, especially clams. Over the past 50 years, the population of Long Island quadrupled, and with that, so has pollution.

Hundreds of thousands of **septic tanks** have been buried in Long Island's sandy, **porous** soil, polluting our ground water with **nitrogenous waste**. The fertilizer we are spreading on our lawns doesn't stay there long. It gets washed into the nearest stream, pond, river or bay after a rain. These fertilizers are often high in nitrogen, further adding to the nitrogen excess. Illegal garbage dumping by individuals and companies directly adds to the pollution problem as well.

Water pollution has countless negative effects on our environment, such as the death of **aquatic** animals and disruption of **food chains** and **ecosystems**. Aquatic animals, such as fish and clams, may get sick from dirty water or choke on or get caught in solid garbage.

One example of harmful ecosystem disruption in the Great South Bay is the creation of "brown tide." Brown tide occurs when **algae** eat all of the extra nitrogen polluting the water and multiply rapidly. As they multiply the algae gets thicker and turns the water dark brown. This large amount of algae blocks out the sun. This hurts eel grass, which need sunlight to survive. The eel grass is home to many species of the bay, including clams and many types of fish. Clams cannot feed correctly because the algae blocks out their food sources and clogs their filters. Hungry clams do not do a good job reproducing so there are fewer clams. Fewer clams filtering means the bay is not clean, which leads to poorer bay conditions for everyone. The cycle continues and the conditions continue to get worse for all of our bay buddies.



Question Quest! Why do you think it is called "brown tide?" How can damage to the Great South Bay affect you? What are ways that you can help your environment?

Click Further: Explore **reference materials** and further information on **water pollution** and ways you can reduce it.

Literary Link: Find out more about what you can do to help the environment with **50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth**.

Activity Time: Save the Bay!

Brainstorm different ways you can work towards helping to save the Great South Bay. One example is encouraging your grownups to use safe and natural fertilizers and make sure your sewage systems are up to date and well maintained. See how many ideas you can turn into action!

Playful Puppets

Many characters in *Happy as Clams: The Musical!* are brought to life through puppetry. A puppet is any inanimate object that humans bring to life for an audience. Puppetry has been around for thousands of years and has been used for telling stories throughout history. There were two different types of puppets in *Happy as Clams: The Musical!*.



Rod puppets are figures that are operated and supported by rods. Gully the seagull is an example of a rod puppet. The puppeteer manipulating Gully uses one hand to move the rods that control the wings and the other hand to support Gully's body and pull the switch that opens Gully's mouth.

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.

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 our Puppetry Director, **Austin Costello**, as he explains one of the puppets in *Happy as Clams: The Musical!*.

Literary Link: Learn about the power of puppetry as you read about one of the most famous puppeteers of all time, **Jim Henson**.

Activity Time: In the Shadows

Test your powers of puppetry by putting on your very own shadow puppet show!

1. Choose what type of puppets you want. How about your favorite animal? Or your friends and family? Or characters from *Happy as Clams*?
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.
6. Don't have supplies for shadow puppets? Practice making **hand shadows** instead.
7. Now use your puppets to tell a story! Be sure to think carefully about what makes a **good story**.



I Like to Move it, Move it!

There is more to acting than memorizing lines! In *Happy as Clams: The Musical!*, the actors used their body movements and posture to help the audience understand different things about their characters. In the show, most of the actors were playing animals. Properly portraying this required a lot of research and rehearsal to appropriately mimic aspects of the animals' behavior, such as how they move, walk or swim. An important skill for all actors is to be able to show the audience how they are feeling. Actors need to be able to create realistic reactions and emotions to make the story engaging and relatable. One of the most difficult things for actors to do is to use their bodies to express their character's personality. This may be done in many ways, such as posture, energy, eye contact and body movement.

Question Quest! How did Grabby move to show you he was a crab? How did Clammy hold her body to let you know she was sad? How did Jelly move to let you know that she had an easygoing and carefree personality?

Click Further: Sing along with *The Emotions Song* from Sesame Studios and see if you can act out the different emotions they list.

Literary Link: Get up and moving as you read about how different animals move in *Move* by Steven Jenkins and Robin Page.

Activity Time: Animal Action

Put your acting skills to the test! Grab some friends or family for this fun group game. Take turns choosing an animal and an emotion, such as a sad sloth, and acting it out for the group. You can make noises if necessary, but try to do it without speaking. See if the group can guess your animal and emotion!



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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