



Contact: Maureen P. Mangan

Direct Line: 1-516-224-5828

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM KICKS OFF SUMMER WITH "INSECT-IVITIES"

Bug Bonanza & East Coast Premiere of *Ants* by Australia's Polyglot Theatre

Summer fun kicks off in spectacular fashion at Long Island Children's Museum. Families will be swarming into LICM on Sunday, July 1 (12:30-4 p.m.) for *Bug Bonanza* -- a multi-sensory day devoted to the largest group of animals on the planet. Buzz for the popular insect-themed event is growing with the announcement that the day will include the East Coast Premiere of the interactive theater piece "Ants" by Australia's Polyglot Theatre.

"Bug Bonanza has been an incredibly popular event at LICM for many years thanks to the support of Arrow Exterminating," says Aimee Terzulli, LICM Director of Education and Visitor Experience. "This year we're super-charging the event with the addition of an unforgettable theater experience that involves all our visitors."

Launched in 2009, Bug Bonanza has become one of the most anticipated days on the LICM calendar. The day helps children ... and their adults ... become comfortable with the variety of flying and crawling creatures that share this natural space with us. A range of "insect-ivities" will be offered throughout the afternoon that allows visitors to see, touch and feel insects:

- **Meet** Arrow's Bug Scientists and several of their wiggly and crawly "friends"
- **Make** fun insect themed crafts
- **Create** a collaborative and eco-friendly sculpture inspired by artist Louise Bourgeois' larger than life insect sculptures
- **Become** a favorite bug (face painting)
- **Chow** down on an insect-inspired treat

This year, ants will be among the "insects" visitors encounter during Bug Bonanza ... thanks to the creativity of Polyglot Theatre performers. "We knew that 'Ants' would be the perfect complement to Bug Bonanza and Polyglot Theatre's touring schedule

has finally lined up to allow us to bring this unique production to LICM visitors," explains Terzulli.

"Ants" is an improvised performance that brings enormous insect characters into public spaces that culminates in a site-specific installation. The roving "ants" scurry around the Museum as they search for "crumbs" around the Museum. Young visitors naturally become part of the "colony" as they help the ants in an interactive building project. The production celebrates the nature of collaborative play and children's relationship with their environment. "Ants" will be in performance at LICM Sunday, July 1 through Tuesday, July 3 and Thursday, July 5.

Polyglot Theatre performances are assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria and the City of Melbourne. "Ants" is made possible at LICM with the support of Roni Kohen-Lemle and Robert Lemle.

About Arrow Exterminating

Arrow Exterminating has been in business since 1947 and services Long Island and the New York metropolitan region. The company of certified professionals tackles all aspects of pest management concerning insects, rodents and nuisance wildlife. To learn more, please visit www.arrowexterminating.com.

About Polyglot Theatre

Australia's Polyglot Theatre is an internationally known leader in site-specific, interactive spectacle for children. Their artistic experiments encourage creative confidence and participation in a barrier-free spectacle. The children control how the performance unfolds, using their authority and purpose to determine play. What results is the smallest humans taking the lead, becoming the actors, and transforming public space beautifully. Drifting from their parents, children invite onlooking adults to shift perceptions about capability and the beauty of exploring "work" with focus, seriousness and fun.

Polyglot Theatre is Australia's leading creator of experiential, interactive and installation theatre for children and families, encouraging kids to turn the simplest things into extraordinary creations. Inspired by the artwork, play and ideas of children, Polyglot creates imagined worlds where audiences actively participate in performance through touch, play, and encounter. At Polyglot, theatre is child's play.

Ants recently performed in Victoria, Sydney, and at the Darwin Festival; in Cleveland and Fayetteville, USA; in Sao Paulo and Singapore. It was originally commissioned by Federation Square, Melbourne.

About the Long Island Children's Museum

Long Island Children's Museum invites visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to explore freely, discover their passions, and appreciate the communities and world we share. The 40,000-square-foot museum is a learning laboratory where hands-on exhibits invite visitors to experiment, examine, and play. The Museum welcomes 250,000 children and adults annually. The private, not-for-profit institution chartered by the New York State Board of Regents, offers museum-based educational programs and cultural experiences, as well as an extensive community outreach program offered in schools, libraries and youth centers across Long Island. The Museum is the recipient of the 2012 National Medal for Museum & Library Service, the highest honor conferred on museums for extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions.

The Children's Museum takes seriously its role as an introductory setting to launch a child's lifelong interest in the performing arts. Presentation of the performing arts has played a central role within the diverse range of educational experiences provided by the Museum since it opened in 1993. The LICM Theater presents an active, year- round schedule of interactive multimedia performances featuring locally, regionally, nationally and internationally acclaimed groups.

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Photo Captions/Video Links

No Fear Here – Visitors get up close with insects of all kinds and learn about the positive role they play in our lives.

Crumb Chase – Children follow a band of roving insects around LICM when Australia's Polyglot Theatre presents the East Coast premiere of "Ants."

[Ants Performance Preview](#)