



## **Princess Frog – A Musical Fairy Tale**

Book, Music & Lyrics by Lena Pennino-Smith

Adapted from a story by Italo Calvino

Musical Arrangements & Stage Direction by Brian C. Smith

### **Performances:**

Wednesday, February 15 and Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10 a.m. and noon  
Monday, February 20 through Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 7 through Friday, March 10, 2017 at noon  
Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.



# Know Before You Go

## 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?

## Who You Will See...

### The Cast

- Amanda Camille**– Prissy
- Austin Costello**– Prince Pompeii/Puppetry Director
- Paul Edme**– Prince Tre
- Carrie Heffernan**– Francesca
- Liz Jeffery**– Rana
- Elaine Kessler**– Queen Philomena Maddalena Zanzara Calamari
- Joseph Mankowski**– Prince Frank



### The Orchestra

- James Cottone**– Musical Director/Keyboard
- Richard Hefner**– Guitar/Bass
- Michael Leuci**– Percussion/Guitar

**Click Further:** Meet **Lena Pennino-Smith**, the writer of *Princess Frog*, as she talks about the character Rana.

### The Production Staff

- Samantha Impellizeri**– Theater Program Coordinator
- Kyle Mahoney**– Stage Manager
- James Packard**– Director/Lighting Designer
- Rebecca Wallis**– Costumes



**Question Quest!** What is an actor? What is a director? What is a musician?

## The Story...

“Princess Frog – A Musical Fairy Tale” is a new stage production by Lena Pennino-Smith, which began development in March of 2015 at the Long Island Children’s Museum. It is based on an Italian fairy tale called “**The Prince Who Married a Frog**,” which was written by Italo Calvino and published in 1956. Calvino’s story depicts three princes who, in search of their perfect bride, each cast a rock. The youngest son’s rock lands near a princess who has been transformed into a frog, his supposed true love. The frog uses magic to pass a series of tests and the prince agrees to marry her. This breaks the spell and transforms her back into a human... and they live happily ever after.

While Calvino is recognized as the tale’s author, his story is based on a variation which is native to northern Italy. Alternate versions of the story include **The Three Feathers** (Germany) and **Tsarenva Frog** (Russia).

## Activity Time: Different Takes

Read multiple versions of the Princess Frog story and see what is the same and what is different. Then, organize your information into a Venn diagram. Which version is your favorite? Why?

## What is a Fairy Tale?

Fairy tales are a type of folktale that is found in every culture. While their exact origins are unknown, it is understood that these short stories were told orally (without being written down) for thousands of years. As they travelled from person to person, town to town and country to country, different versions evolved as individual storytellers added their own twists and takes. Like the variations of Princess Frog, many cultures have their own version of the same basic tale.



It is generally accepted that fairy tales have the following traits:

- They are set “far away” and begin with “once upon a time”.
- Main characters are kings, queens, princes, princesses and other nobles.
- The world of the story is filled with MAGIC!
- A happy ending, usually leading to a marriage.
- But fairy tales do NOT have to include a fairy!

**Question Quest!** How many fairy tales can you name? What is your favorite fairy tale to listen to or read? What about the story makes it your favorite?

**Click Further:** Other fairy tales mentioned in our version of *Princess Frog* are **Jack and the Beanstalk**, **Cinderella**, **Pinocchio**, **Snow White**, and **Sleeping Beauty**. Also be sure to check out other **Italian fairy tales, folktales and fables**.

## Activity Time: Once Upon A Time

Write or illustrate your own fairy tale! After your masterpiece is finished, be sure to share it with a loved one. Does your fairy tale have the traits listed above?

## Where in the World?

Although fairy tales are set “once upon a time” in “a faraway land,” the setting typically serves as a reflection of a real-life place. Princess Frog is no exception, as the magical Kingdom of Froggia is inspired by the area of Italy known as Foggia.

Located in the “spur” of Italy’s boot, Foggia is the name of both a town and province that is well known for its agricultural heritage. Nicknamed “the granary of Italy,” Foggia provides a perfect pasture land for sheep and other livestock. It became famous for its quality and quantity of wool and vegetables, including wheat, beets, tomatoes, olives and grapes. Orecchiette pasta (“little ears”) with broccoli rabe is one of the region’s most famous dishes. The region is also home to several castles that date back to the middle ages.



The northern part of Foggia lies on the coast of the Adriatic Sea. It’s also home to a number of marshes - a perfect area for frogs to live in!

**Question Quest!** What is a country? Which country do you live in? Which town do you live in? Which country or countries is your family from?

**Click Further:** [Lena Pennino-Smith](#), the writer of *Princess Frog*, talks about Foggia and its similarities to Froggia.

## Activity Time: Map It Out!

Grab a map of the world or [print one](#) out. Locate Foggia and mark it with a pencil or pushpin. Then, do the same for where you live. What types of transportation would you need to get from your house to Foggia? Mark anywhere else in the world you have visited or would like to visit.

For our older friends, see how long it would take you to fly directly from the Long Island Children’s Museum to Foggia. This trip is about 4419 miles and a plane travels an average speed of 575 miles per hour. Use this information to fill in and solve the equation below.

$$\text{Distance (miles)} / \text{Speed (miles per hour)} = \text{Length of trip (hours)}$$

**Click Further:** [Take a peek](#) at what you could see in modern day Foggia and be sure to explore the [castles](#) in Foggia and the surrounding region.



## Words of the World

Because Froggia is based on the real Italian area of Foggia, some Italian words are used in the show. Italian is a Romance language which means it evolved from Latin. Other Romance Languages are French, Spanish and Portuguese. Italian words and phrases found in *Princess Frog* are:

English	Spanish	Italian
Family	Familia	Famiglia
Eat	Come	Mangia
Sorry	Triste	Scusi
Mouth	Boca	Bocca
A kiss	Un beso	Un Bacio
Silence	Silencio	Silenzio
My name is...	Mi nombre es...	Me chiamo...
Thank you, miss	Gracias, seniorita	Grazie, signorina

## Activity Time: Translation Station

Using [Google Translate](#) fill in the translation grid below:

English	Spanish	Italian
Frog	_____	_____
_____	_____	Musicale
I love you	_____	_____
_____	Habia una vez...	_____

**Question Quest!** What do these words and phrases have to do with *Princess Frog*? How are the translations of each word similar? How are they different? How many languages does your family speak? What language(s) do you speak?

## A Guide to Froggian Wildlife

There are many animals in the kingdom of Froggia. Many of them also live on Long Island, or have close relatives that do.

**Great Egret** - A large, white, graceful wading bird found in wetlands. It holds its neck in an 'S-shape' and catches its prey (fish, snakes, amphibians, insects, crustaceans, lizards, small birds and mammals) with a swift stab from its beak. In the late 1800s, this bird was nearly hunted to extinction for its beautiful plume, sparking some of the first animal conservation movements and laws.



**Snapping Turtle** - The snapping turtle is New York's official state reptile. One of the largest turtles, they live in lakes, rivers, marshes, ponds and streams throughout the state and will snap at anything they find threatening. Their bite is very powerful and can harm fingers so if you see one, be careful!

**Cat** - Housecats are the most common pets in the United States. These carnivorous mammals are valued by humans for their companionship and ability to hunt. In the wild, cats will eat mice, voles, rabbits, fish and other small animals that they can catch. They can sleep up to 16 hours a day - what a life!

**Dog** - Dogs are the oldest domesticated animals and, as such, have become greatly attuned to human behavior. Nicknamed "man's best friend," dogs act as companions and have been valued for their loyalty and ability to perform many useful roles, such as hunting, herding, pulling loads, protection, assisting police and military, companionship, and, more recently, aiding people with special needs.



**Bullfrog** - The largest frog in New York, the American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) is a very solitary animal and spends most of its life alone. Bullfrogs live near lakes, ponds and streams and often use the water or plant life to hide from predators. They eat a wide range of animals: worms, flies, grasshoppers, small turtles, mice and ducklings. In the wintertime, they burrow in the mud and hibernate. Bullfrogs get their name from their loud vocal call, which many think sounds like a bull!

**Question Quest!** Which of these animals have you seen? What is your favorite animal? Why is it your favorite?

**Click Further:** Hop online and discover some more **fun facts** about frogs! See some of the animals found in "Princess Frog," live and in-person. There are **seven unique animal sanctuaries** on Long Island - visit one near you!

## Activity Time: Life Cycle Living

Frogs, like Rana in *Princess Frog*, begin their lives as eggs. As they grow up into adult frogs, they go through stages. This is called a life cycle! Watch a **video** about the life cycle of a frog and use the information to create a Frog Fact Hat!

1. Cut a piece of green construction paper in half long ways to make two strips roughly 4 ½ inches by 12 inches.
2. Using glue, tape, or a stapler, attach the two strips together by the short ends, so you have one long strip, approximately 4 ½ inches by 24 inches.
3. Wrap the strip of construction paper around your head and carefully cut off any excess paper. Be sure to leave about 2 inches of overlap to allow for the two ends to be connected at the end.
4. Decorate your green band with the five stages of the frog life cycle mentioned in the video. Feel free to draw them, describe them in your own words, or cut out and collage pictures from magazines or printed from the internet.
5. Once you have finished decorating, wrap the band around your head again, this time fastening the two ends together using tape, glue, or staples.
6. Cut two circles out of white paper, each about 4 inches in diameter.
7. Draw or paste a black circle in the center of both white circles, each about 1 ½ inches in diameter.
8. Attach these circles to the front of your hat as frog eyes.
9. Show your Frog Fact Hat to a friend or family member and be sure to explain to them each stage of the frog life cycle!



## We Are Family!

Many different examples of family relationships are seen in *Princess Frog*. The story explores the complex structure and importance of family, the most significant social unit of society. In the family unit, a child learns and develops key social skills. It is important that the adults in the family unit help the children to understand that families can be similar and different from their own, yet each family is unique and important.

## Activity Time: Family Grows On Trees

Create your own family tree in preparation for this theatrical family fiasco! Draw or collage a picture of your family using your choice of art supplies. You might choose to include your immediate family, extended family, or pets if you have any. There are no rules - however you want to represent your family is totally up to you!

**Question Quest!** How would you describe your family portrait? Who did you include? What are the different strengths of each person? What are the similarities and differences between your family members? How is your family unique from other families?

**Click Further:** Genealogical sites are available and some even offer a **free ancestry trial**. Grab a grownup and see if you can expand upon your family tree!

## 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 are some of the similarities between the original story and the action in the show? What was the funniest 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.



## 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 and your child can use the galleries to expand upon your trip to see *Princess Frog*.

### Activity Time: Feasts for Beasts

Take a trip to our Feasts for Beasts gallery to see a real life frog! While you're there, see how many pictures of frogs you can find.

**Question Quest!** What is a carnivore? What is an herbivore? What is an omnivore? Which one are you? Which one is a frog? What does a frog eat? How does what an animal eat affect the shape of its teeth? What different animals do you see in this exhibit? Which one is your favorite?

**Click Further:** Rock out to some **funky tunes** as you learn more about the differences between carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores.



### Activity Time: Sound Showers

This show is a musical, which means it often uses music to help tell the story. Using the instruments in this gallery, make your own song and perform it for a friend or family member. Then, see if you can use this song to help you tell a story.

**Question Quest!** What is music? How do different songs make you feel? What is tempo? What is rhythm? What is your favorite song? What was your favorite song in *Princess Frog*? How did it make you feel? How do the songs in the show tell stories? Which instrument is your favorite and why?

**Click Further:** When you get home, **listen to a song** by *Princess Frog* playwright Lena Peninno-Smith! Be sure to check out all of the songs off her 2013 Parents' Choice Award winning album, "**Happy as Clams.**"

### Activity Time: Klutz Amazingly Immature

While competing for the kingdom, Prince Tre does a magic trick that makes it appear as if a scarf appears out of nowhere. Check out our new traveling exhibit to see if you can master some magic tricks of your very own!

See if you can make playing cards zing across the room, juggle scarves, or perform the classic table cloth pull trick! You can also make a ring out of money that would even impress Prissy and Pompei!

**Question Quest!** What is immature? Is it a good thing, bad thing, or both? What is something you do that is immature?

**Click Further:** Find out more about Klutz by visiting **their website** for craft ideas, information on their book series, and more!



# After Your Visit

## Complex Connections

*Princess Frog* explores the different types of family relationships and their complexity. In this theatrical familial fiasco you saw diverse examples of sibling and parental relationships. There were also varying personal relationships that developed during the show, some more successful than others. Let's see what you remember about the characters you saw and their relationships.

## Activity Time: Family Fill-In

Recall the characters from *Princess Frog*. For each of the characters below, list as many traits as you can. Be sure to include both physical and personality traits. For example, Queen Philomena has light brown hair (physical trait) and is very protective of her three sons (personality trait). Then, assemble these characters into a family tree, as in the Family Grows on Trees activity found earlier in the packet.

- King Francesco Calamari II
- Queen Philomena Maddalena Zanzara Calamari
- Prince Francesco IV (Frank)
- Francesca
- Prince Pompeii
- Prissy
- Prince Tre
- Rana



**Question Quest!** What do these characters have in common? How are they different? Which character do you think you are the most similar to? Why? Which was your favorite character in the show? Why?

## Puppets in the Kingdom of Froggia



All of the animal characters in *Princess Frog* are brought to life through puppetry.

A puppet is a moveable model of a person or animal that is controlled by a human. Puppetry was originally used by adults for religious purposes, and records of puppets date back to 3000 BC. You can find two different types of puppets in *Princess Frog*:

### 1. **Hand Puppets:** *Rana*

Hand puppets are controlled by a person's hand that fits inside the puppet's interior. While puppeteers are normally hidden from view while working with hand puppets, Rana's operator dresses in black and can be seen onstage. This technique is borrowed from the bunraku style of puppetry, a traditional Japanese form.

The hand inside of Rana controls her mouth and her puppeteer uses rods to control Rana's legs. This is a type of hand puppet called hand and rod.

### 2. **Shadow Puppets:** *Snapping Turtle, Great Egret, "Be the Hero of Your Story" Fairy Tales*

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.

How do shadow puppets work? 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 some of the puppets found in the show. Then, playwright Lena Peninno-Smith joins him as they discuss **creating a voice** for your puppet!

## Activity Time: In the Shadows

1. Choose what type of puppets you want. How about your favorite animal? Or your friends and family? Or characters from Princess Frog?
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.



**Click Further:** For shadow puppet inspiration **check out a video** of a silly shadow puppet show. Don't have supplies for shadow puppets? Practice making **hand shadows** instead.

## Thinking Off-Book

When watching a play or movie, sometimes action happens out of view that affects the story. When this happens you need to use context clues and imagination to fill in the blanks. This kind of inventiveness can also be used to explore what happens after the story ends. This creativity is an important skill to develop and can be a lot of fun too!

## Activity Time: Happily Ever After?

What happens after happily ever after? Pretend that one year has passed after the final scene of the play. Choose your favorite character and imagine that they are now living in their own fairy tale world. What does this look like? Do they find happiness? True love? Where do they live? What are the problems in their lives? How would they solve them?



## Activity Time: Wanted!

The Froggian Royal Guard needs your help! Imagine that you are in Froggia before the play starts and just saw Rana become magically transformed into a frog. Who would do such a thing! Is the spell cast by a witch? A wizard? That pesky egret!? Draw your answer in the style of a Wanted Poster!

**Question Quest!** What is imagination? What is your favorite way to pretend play? Would you rather play by yourself or in a group?

**Click Further:** Read about the importance of **imagination and creativity in children's development**.

## Feasting with Frank and Francesca

Food is an important part of any culture. Although Italians are known throughout the world for pizza, pasta and tomato sauce, the national diet of Italy has traditionally differed greatly by region. From the early Middle Ages to the late 1800s, Italy consisted of separate republics, each with different culinary customs. These varying cooking practices, which were passed down from generation to generation, contributed to the diversity of Italian cuisine.

Italy is surrounded by water on three sides and benefits from a variety of seafood and coastal vegetation. Generally, Italians are known for their use of herbs in cooking, especially oregano, basil, thyme, parsley, rosemary and sage. Cheese also plays an important role in Italian cuisine. There are more than 400 types of cheese made in Italy, with Parmesan, mozzarella, and asiago among the best known worldwide.

## Activity Time: Kids in the Kitchen

In this show various Italian cuisines are mentioned, especially in Francesca's meatball song! Below are some of those Italian dishes and links to their recipes. Pick your favorite or something you've never tried before and help your grownup create something delicious!

Minestrone

Stuffed Tomato

Braciole

Pignoli

Meatballs

Tiramisu

**Question Quest!** What is your favorite food? What do you do right after you eat? How do you feel after you eat too much junk food?

**Click Further:** Through **this video series**, you can discover the cuisine found in the province of Foggia and learn how to make local favorites, like the orecchiette pasta mentioned in the show.

## Panache with Prissy and Pompei

Fashion has always been an important part of the cultural life and society of Italy. Italian luxury goods are renowned for the high quality of their textiles and the perfect elegance and refinement that goes into making them up. Because of this, Italy is one of the leading countries in fashion design.

### Activity Time: Fashion Show

In this show various Italian cuisines are mentioned, especially in Francesca's meatball song! Below are some of those Italian dishes and links to their recipes. Pick your favorite or something you've never tried before and help your grownup create something delicious!

**Question Quest!** What is your favorite thing to wear and why? How are the clothes you wear during the day different from the pajamas you wear to bed? How do your clothes change depending on whether it is hot or cold out?

**Click Further:** Learn more about [Italian fashion designers and brands](#), check out some [traditional clothing](#) from around the world, and find out what is [popular to wear](#) in Italy today.

## True Love with Tre and Rana

During *Princess Frog*, Tre attempted to turn Rana from a frog into a human with a kiss. Did it work? What did it take to break Rana's spell?



### Activity Time: Pin the Kiss on the Frog

Encourage children to socialize and engage in creative activity by making and playing this interactive game.

1. Trace the outline of a frog on poster board.
2. Decorate your frog in any way you'd like- just make sure it has a mouth to be the target. You can even add a crown!
3. Cut out one set of lips for each player from red construction paper.
4. Write the names of the players on the back and attach tape so that they stick to the frog.
5. Blindfold each person and have them try to stick the lips on the frog's mouth. Whoever gets the closest is the winner!

**Question Quest!** Who do you love? How do you feel when you're around someone that you love? Do you like it when a family member you love kisses you goodnight?

**Click Further:** Keep the fun hopping with more [frog crafts and activities](#)!

## 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](mailto:theater@licm.org).

We appreciate the support of the following:  **Council on the Arts** **NORDSTROM**

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