Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

The Rainbow Fish

Sun • September 30, 2018 • 3 pm
Spaulding Auditorium • Dartmouth College
Program

Today’s performance will be presented without an intermission.

Credits

Author/Illustrator ........................................................................................................................................................................Marcus Pfister
Director/Production Designer........................................................................................................................................................Jim Morrow
Composer ........................................................................................................................................................................................Steven Naylor
Narrators ...........................................................................................................................................Laura Benanti and Linda Wonneberger
Associate Designers ........................................................................................................................................................Struan Robertson, Deborah MacLean
Scenic Painter ............................................................................................................................................................................Sarah Haydon Roy
Stage Manager ...................................................................................................................................................................................Mel Watkins
Performers ................................................................................................................................Ursula Calder, Alex Cubbon, Franziska Glen

Adapted with permission.
The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister, 1992, North South Books, Inc.

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia Staff
Artistic Director ..................................................................................................................................................................................Jim Morrow
General Manager ..............................................................................................................................................................................Danny Everson
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Administrative Associate ................................................................................................................................................................Pam Moore
Production Manager ........................................................................................................................................................................Deborah MacLean
Production Associate & Workshop Coordinator .........................................................................................................................Struan Robertson
Technical Director ..........................................................................................................................................................................Michael Jamieson
Artistic Advisor for Music and Sound Design ............................................................................................................................Steven Naylor
Seamstress ..................................................................................................................................................................................Sarah Harvey Hart
Production Associates ...................................................................................................................................................................Rosie Browning, Tony Gallant

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of Nova Scotia. Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors’ Equity Association under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement.

Program Notes

The first of three tales introduces the most beautiful fish in the sea, whose scales shimmer in all the colors of the rainbow. He is admired—and resented—by the entire underwater world, until a clever octopus advises him to give each fish one of his scales. Further adventures follow as Rainbow Fish finds the courage to explore the great unknown deep sea, discovering a new world with wonderful sights and friendly creatures of all shapes, sizes and colors who are eager to make his acquaintance. The underworld wonderland is the setting for an introduction to the concept of opposites. As a fitting finale, the story ends with the most satisfying opposite of all—give and take—as Rainbow Fish shares one of his shining scales with a friend.
About the Artists

**Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia** ranks among North America’s most respected theatres for the young, and plays an important ambassadorial role for Nova Scotia and for Canada. The company regularly crosses the continent, and has represented Canada in the United States, Japan, Mexico, Australia, England, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Holland, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, Vietnam, South Korea and Taiwan, Bahrain, and the People’s Republic of China. Mermaid Theatre has earned Export Excellence awards from both the Governments of Canada and of Nova Scotia. Based in the Town of Windsor, Mermaid has performed for more than 5.5 million spectators on four continents. The company was founded in 1972. mermaidtheatre.ca

**Marcus Pfister (author/illustrator)** was born in 1960 in Bern, Switzerland, where he attended art school and trained as a graphic designer before turning to the creation of innovative children’s literature. Published in 1992, *The Rainbow Fish* took the bestseller lists by storm. Now celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary, more than thirty million copies have been sold worldwide in different formats, appearing in over fifty different languages.

**Jim Morrow (director/production designer)** is Managing Artistic Director of Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia. He was first introduced to puppetry in 1978 when he joined Mermaid Theatre as a young performer. His work with Mermaid has taken him across North America, the United Kingdom and Asia. He has directed, designed and carved the puppets for stage, film, television, parks and industry and has created twenty-four shows for Mermaid, including: *Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook; Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny*; and the award-winning productions of *Swimmy, Frederick, and Inch by Inch* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favourites*. Morrow’s contributions to the community, both as artist and mentor, have earned him the Nova Scotia government’s highest award for artistic achievement, the Portia White Award; a Doctor of Humanities from his Alma Mater, Acadia University; the Order of Nova Scotia and the Mickey Minor Award, presented annually by the US-based International Performing Arts for Youth to distinguished artists who have made exemplary contributions to the lives of the children around the world. Morrow was born in Grand Falls, Newfoundland, and lives in Lower Avonport, Nova Scotia.

**Steven Naylor (composer)** has created the music for more than a dozen Mermaid shows, including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favourites; Stella, Queen of the Snow; Swimmy, Frederick, and Inch by Inch; Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny* and many others. His many other professional activities include original film and television scores; contemporary music composition and performance; university teaching and curriculum development; and a long-term international involvement with electroacoustic concert music. Naylor is Mermaid Theatre’s Artistic Advisor for Music and Sound Design.

**Laura Benanti and Linda Wonneberger (narrators)** are a mother-daughter theatrical team. In addition to substantive professional accolades, Benanti is the mother of a young child and a passionate advocate for the promotion of literacy and music education. She was born in New York City, daughter of Wonneberger, a vocal coach and former actress, with whom she collaborates frequently. Benanti is of Serbian, German, Irish and Native American heritage. An accomplished actor and singer, she’s enjoyed countless roles on stage, in television and film, and as a musical recording artist. She’s the winner of a myriad of awards, including the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle, and co-stars with Amy Schumer in Steve Martin’s current Broadway show, *Meteor Shower*. Benanti and Wonneberger have recently appeared together in a well-regarded mother-daughter cabaret act, which they perform periodically.

**Mel Watkins (stage manager)** is excited to return to Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia, after previously working on the 2017/2018 North American tour of *Guess How Much I Love You*. Now a resident of Vancouver Island but originally from Toronto, Watkins has stage-managed her way across Canada. She has worked for such theater companies as Chemainus Festival Theatre, Green Thumb Theatre, The Globe Theatre, Blue Bridge Reparatory Theatre, Kaleidoscope Theatre, Upper Canada Playhouse, Lighthouse Festival Theatre, Canadian Children’s Opera Company, Smile Theatre, Theatre Aquarius and The Rose Theatre in Brampton, Ontario.

**Franziska Glen (performer)** hails from Chesterville, Ontario. After graduating from Mount Allison University in 2016, Franziska has slowly been moving West working in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Her
About the Artists continued

past theater credits include Mermaid Theatre, Vault Productions, Théâtre Alacennne and numerous productions with Moyter-Fancy Theatre. In the spring of 2017, Glen completed Mermaid Theatre’s puppetry intensive program ANIMOTION and began touring shortly thereafter. This is her second tour of The Rainbow Fish.

**Ursula Calder (performer)** is a recent graduate of the Fountain School of Performing Arts. Recent FSPA credits include Drums and Organs, The Man of Mode, Orlando, Coram Boy and Stage Door. More recently, she performed in Slut: the play (LunaSea) and a workshop presentation of The Bluenose in EFT’s Stages Festival. Calder is absolutely delighted to be working on her first Mermaid production with such a talented group.

**Alexandra Cubbon (performer)** is a graduate of the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University. Upon graduating, she performed at the Atlantic Fringe Festival where she won Best Performer and has been involved in community theater. She completed training at the Mermaid Institute of Puppetry Arts in 2016 and joined the company the following year, touring North America with their show Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook. Cubbon is excited to be back with Mermaid Theatre performing in The Rainbow Fish.

Connecting Artists to the Community

While at Dartmouth, Mermaid Theatre Company performs as part of the School Matinee Series and will participate in post-performance discussions. For more information about Hop Outreach and Arts Education programs, call 603.646.2010 or visit hop.dartmouth.edu/online/outreach.

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Dartmouth Recycles provided in the lobby. Thank you.