



A *Rockefeller* PRODUCTION

THE VERY HUNGRY
CATERPILLAR™

4 ERIC CARLE STORIES **SHOW** 75 MAGICAL PUPPETS



JACQUELINE RUSSELL, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Adapted by **Jonathan Rockefeller**

From the book by **Eric Carle**

Illustrated by **Eric Carle**

Published by **Philomel Books**

Commissioned by **Rockefeller Productions**

Music by **Nate Edmondson**

Directed by **Jerrell L Henderson**

Scenic Design by **Will Bishop**

Costume Design by **Caitlin McLeod**

Lighting Design by **Jason Lynch****

Sound Design by **Matt Reich**

Program Book Art © 1969 by **Eric Carle**



STAGE MANAGEMENT STAFF

Production Stage Managed by **Anastar Alvarez***

Assistant Stage Managed by **Dare Wedgeworth***

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director of Production - **Will Bishop**

Assistant Director- **Maria Clara Ospina**

Scenic Supervisor - **Chas Mathieu**

Costume Supervisor - **Johan H Gallardo**

Assistant Lighting Design- **Karen Wallace**

Lighting Supervisor - **Hannah Wien**

Assistant Lighting Supervisor - **Maggie Meyer**

Light Programmer - **Josiah Croegart**

Sound Supervisor - **Matt Reich**

Sound Cover - **Spencer Meeks**



CAST

Leslie Ann Sheppard*

Micah Figueroa*

Shay Turnage

Understudy- **Time Brickey**

Swing U/S- **Maria Clara Ospina**



*Denotes member of Actor's Equity-Professional Union for Actors and Stage Managers

**Denotes member of United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE

CREATIVE TEAM



ERIC CARLE (Book author and Illustrator) is acclaimed and beloved as the creator of brilliantly illustrated and innovatively designed picture books for very young children. His best-known work, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has nibbled its way into the hearts of millions of children all over the world, has been translated into 62 languages and sold over 41 million copies. Since the Caterpillar was published in 1969, Eric Carle has illustrated more than seventy books, many best sellers, most of which he also wrote, and more than 132 million copies of his books have sold around the world.



JONATHAN ROCKEFELLER (Adaptor) is the co-founder of Rockefeller Productions, a company that combines film, theatre, animation, puppetry and television. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, created by Jonathan, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Family Show. Beyond the stage, Jonathan and Eric Carle teamed up to produce and direct an animated version of *10 Little Rubber Ducks* based on Eric Carle's book of the same name and narrated by Bernadette Peters. *10 Little Rubber Ducks* is available on itunes.



Jerrell L. Henderson (Director) is the League of Chicago Theatres recipient of the 2022 Samuel G. Roberson, Jr. Resident Fellowship. He will present an original shadow play titled, *AmericanMYTH: Crossroads with Free Street Theatre* in October 2023. Recent directing credits include *Reverie* by James Ijames (2022 Pulitzer Prize recipient for Fat Ham) with Azuka Theatre and *Mlima's Tale* with Griffin Theatre (Jeff Award nomination for Direction and Best Play). Others credits include *The River* with BoHo Theatre and *Untitled* with Inis Nua (Barrymore Award nomination for Outstanding Direction of a Play). Puppet short films include

I am the Bear with The Chicago International Puppet Theatre Festival, *Hamlin: La Revue Sombre* with Heather Henson's Handmade Puppet Dreams, and *Diamond's Dream* with Chicago Children's Theatre. As an assistant director, Jerrell has worked with The Goodman Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre and Lookingglass Theatre. He received his MFA in Theatre Directing from Northwestern University (2015), is an artistic associate with Black Lives, Black Words, and will be a Henson Foundation sponsored participant at the Eugene O'Neill National Puppetry Conference (2023). He is on the board of Directors Gathering, a national organization based in Philadelphia, PA which offers theatre directors consistent community, resources, and elevation. He is represented by the Gurman Agency (susan@gurmanagency.com).



Nate Edmondson (Composer) is an international, multi-award-winning composer-lyricist, sound designer, and musical director for stage and screen. A longstanding member of the Rockefeller Productions creative team, his scores have been heard across the world, including multiple Off-Broadway and West End runs of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*, *Paddington Gets In A Jam*, and Disney's *Winnie The Pooh: The New Musical Stage Adaptation* (Rockefeller Productions). Originally from Australia, he has worked on many critically-acclaimed productions with Australia's premier theatre companies, including *The Harp In The South*, *Blackie Blackie Brown*, and *Cloud Nine* (Sydney Theatre Company); *Mark Colvin's Kidney*, and *Seventeen* (Belvoir Theatre); *The Tempest* (Bell Shakespeare); *Possum Magic and Edward The Emu* (Monkey Baa Theatre Company). Nate was awarded the 2016 and 2015 Sydney Theatre Award for Best Score / Sound Design; the 2020, 2018 and 2016 Broadway World Award for Best Score / Sound Design of a Play; the 2014 Brian Dyer Award for Best Score / Sound Design [UK] (All My Sons). In 2019, Nate was nominated for a Helpmann Award for Best Sound Design for his work on *The Harp In The South*. Nate is an alumnus of Australia's National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).



Jacqueline Russell (Co-Founder and Artistic Director, Chicago Children's Theatre) served as the Executive Director of Lookingglass Theatre Company, during which time she led the company's build and move into Lookingglass' current performance space in the Water Tower Water Works. Before joining Lookingglass, she spent five years as creator of Children's Programs at Old Town School of Folk Music. In addition to leading CCT's new play development, main stage, and education programs, Russell is the creator of the Red Kite Project, a CCT program dedicated to bringing theatre into the lives of children with special needs. In 2010, she was appointed by the U.S. State Department to serve as Cultural Envoy to Canada, was honored with the 2013 "Hero of the Year Award" from the Chicago chapter of Autism Speaks, and was recently honored as one of 20 women who have shaped arts and culture in Chicago on the Kerry James Marshall mural at the Chicago Culture Center. She was named "Tastemaker" by Time Out Chicago Kids, and has three times been highlighted in New City's "Players" list of "People Who Really Perform for Chicago." Jacqueline is originally from Houston, Texas, and is a graduate of New York University. Her daughter, Shiri Nicole, attends the University of Chicago.



Will Bishop (He/him, Scenic Designer/Director of Production) has overseen the production of CCT's shows since 2016. He is so proud to bring this amazing team of artists back together to share these classic stories! He is also the director and co-creator of CCT's holiday tradition, *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party*, and has designed scenery, props, costumes and puppets for dozens of CCT shows - online during the pandemic, in Chicago, and on tour across the country and the world. When not making theatre, he's probably playing tabletop RPGs, baking, cooking and brewing, or hanging out with his chihuahua, Fawkes, and cat, Goblin.





Anastar Alvarez (they/them, Stage Manager) is a self and community taught stage and production manager born and raised in Chicago. They are thrilled to be returning back to CCT where they have previously worked on *Wake Up! Brother Bear*, *This Ability!*, *Carmela Full of Wishes*, and *The Beatrix Potter Holiday Tea Party*. Other stage management credits include *Red Bowl at the Jeffs* (The Sound), *Meet Juan(ito) Doe*, *The Real Life Adventures of Jimmy de las Rosas* (Free Street Theatre), *Refrigerator*, *I'm Gonna Pray For You So Hard*, *Sugar in Our Wounds*, *Vape Naysh*, *House of Audacity* (First Floor Theater), *The Fly Honey Show* at Thalia Hall, and *The Wizards* (Concrete Content). They are also the Director of Production for First Floor Theater. They are committed to creating an equitable, safe, and inviting collaboration space.



Dare Wedgeworth (they/them, Assistant Stage Manager) is a multifaceted Theatre and Dance Artist-born and raised in Chicago. As a Theatre Technician they primarily focus on electrics and stage management. Dare is currently on the stage management team at Chicago Children's Theater(CCT) for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*. Some of their notable past experiences in the field include: Designing and running lights for the Chicago Circus and Performing arts Festival, being Master Electrician with Pegasus Theatre Chicago, and teaching for the August Wilson New Voices Outreach Program as a Lead Design Teaching Artist. Dare has previously worked with CCT as a Sound Board Operator and is excited to return for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show!*



Caitlin McLeod (Costume Designer) is a costume, scenic, and puppet designer. Most recent credits include: *Trouble in Mind* (Timeline); *The Aleph Complex* (Alleyway Buffalo, NY); *Above the Water* (Dawn); *Get out Alive* (Haven); *Celestial Ballad* (Chicago Puppet Lab); *The Seagull* (Steppenwolf); *Diamond's Dream*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* (Chicago Children's Theatre); *Sea Change* (Cabinet of Curiosity); *When Harry met Rehab* (Pemberley Productions); *Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins* (Strawdog); *Exquisite Corpse* (Rough House); *Stick Fly* (Writers Theatre); *Mlima's Tale* (Griffin Theatre). She also is a freelance craftsperson with work recently at The Kennedy Center, Lookingglass, Theatre Wit, Northlight, and Cabinet of Curiosity. Caitlin is a co-curator of NBS Chicago's Puppet Slam, and a company member of Rough House, and Cabinet of Curiosity. Instagram @CaitlinMcLeodDesign



Johan H Gallardo (Costume Supervisor) is excited to join CCT and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* as Costume Supervisor for their 22/23 season. Chicago design credits include *The Whistleblower* at Theatre Wit, *Last Hermanos* at A Red Orchid Theatre, and *Tommy on Top* at PrideArts. Associate design credits include *Trouble in Time* at Timeline Theatre and *Dream King* at Teatro Vista. Assistant design credits include *Chlorine and Sky*, *King James*, *Seagull*, *Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*, *The Brother Size* at Steppenwolf Theatre and *A Raisin in the Sun* at American Players Theatre. Visit JohanHGallardo.com.





Jason Lynch (Lighting Designer) is a Chicago-based lighting designer for theatre, dance, opera, and other live performance art and returns to Chicago Children's Theatre, where previous design credits include *Carmela Full of Wishes*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* (2019) and *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963*. Additional Chicago credits include work with Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Court Theatre, Definition Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Northlight Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, TimeLine Theatre Company, Victory Gardens Theater, Windy City Playhouse, among others. Regional credits include Alley Theatre, Alliance Theatre, American Players Theatre, Arkansas Repertory Theatre, Baltimore Center Stage, Barrington Stage Company, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, City Theatre Company, Dallas Theater Center, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Geva Theatre Center, Huntington Theatre Company, Long Wharf Theatre, The Old Globe, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, and Trinity Repertory Company. He is honored to have his recent work on the Goodman Theatre's real-time, online 'Live' series and an immersive 360° production of *The Wild Party* at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts featured in *American Theatre Magazine*. Jason was also the recipient of the 2022 Equity Jeff Award for his work on *Choir Boy* at Steppenwolf Theatre Company and the 2019 Michael Maggio Emerging Designer Award, which recognizes emerging theatrical designers within the Chicago area. He is a proud member of The Association for Lighting Production and Design and is represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA-829 of the IATSE and The Gersh Agency.

www.jasonlynch.com, @jasonlynch.design on Instagram.



Karen Wallace (She, They, Assistant Lighting Designer) is a mixed-race, queer lighting artist based in Chicago, IL. She is passionate about making accessible art and is inspired by her community and collaborators. Her Chicago credits include *A Town Called Progress* (2023) with Promethean Theatre, *Elastic Mind* (2022) with Campfire Repertory Theatre and *Fefu and Her Friends* (2022), *Top Girls* (2022), *Seagull* (2021), and *Ring Round the Moon* (2019) at The Theatre School at DePaul University. Karen graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in Lighting Design and they are a drafter with the theatre planning firm Schuler Shook.



Matt Reich is thrilled to be the Chicago Sound Designer of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. He is currently the Sound Supervisor for Chicago Children's Theatre and is so excited to be designing his first show with the company. He has been a Chicago sound designer and engineer for over 11 years and has designed over 60 productions. He is also a mixer, having recently worked with NPR on *Wait Wait Don't Tell Me*, Northwestern University on *As You Like It*, and will be returning to Northwestern University to mix the 92nd Annual Waa-Mu show this spring. He is a graduate of The Theatre School at DePaul University with a degree in Sound Design for Theatre.

CAST



Leslie Ann Shep (she/her) is excited to return to CCT's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*! Previous CCT credits: *MJ's Palmer Square Picnic Adventure*, *Frederick*, *Jabari Dreams of Freedom* and *The Hundred Dresses*. Filmmaker, musician, teaching artist, writer, and producer, she's committed to creating art full of joy and hard truths. Last seen in *London Road* at Shattered Globe Theatre and *The Tragedy of King Christophe* at The House Theatre Chicago. Other select Chicago credits: Theater Wit (BWW Chicago/Chicago Reader Best of 2021 nominated), *Shattered*

Globe Theatre (Jeff Award/BTAA nominations), Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Northlight Theatre, Victory Gardens, The Hypocrites, and Timeline Theatre Company. Regional/international: TheatreSquared, Kennedy Center, Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Pasadena Playhouse, Olney Theatre Center. TV/Film: Chicago Fire, The Birth of Gospel, Mob Doctor, Subordinate. Founder of Padded Corner Studios. Represented by Gray Talent Group. #BigGratitudeAttitude leslieannsheppard.com



Micah Figueroa (he/him) is a Chicago based multi-disciplinary theatre artist and teacher specializing in all types of physical storytelling including circus arts, stage combat, puppetry, and many more. He is simply thrilled to be rejoining Chicago Children's Theatre again for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* after our incredible run in 2019! As an actor, he most recently performed in *Circus Quixotic* at the Actor's Gymnasium, where he is a frequent collaborator. Other select Chicago acting credits include *DREAM* at Chicago Shakespeare, *20,000 Leagues Under the Seas*, *Moby Dick*, and

Lookingglass Alice at Lookingglass Theatre, as well as *Don Quixote* at Writer's Theatre. He holds a BFA in Directing and Playwriting from Southern Methodist University.



Sharaina L. Turnage - Sharaina hails from the south side of Chicago. With her B.A. in Theater Performance from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in hand, Sharaina has performed in various places from New York to Suriname, South America (studied and performed Afro-Surinamese Du Theatre to Surinamese, Illinois and Maryland audiences) to Edinburgh, Scotland (Performed at Fringe Fest). Most recently performed with Manual Cinema (*Leonardo!*, *Mementos Mori*, *No Blue Memories*, *The End of TV*), Free Street Theater (*A Mild Goose Chase* created for Night Out in The Parks),

Physical Theater Festival (*Curiosity Caught The Cat* - a short clown show) and Bread and Roses Co (*Mrs. Palmers Honey*, which is currently playing on St. Louis radio station KDHX.)

Sharaina would like to thank her small circle of family, friends, and shea butter. IG:

@Sharainalatrice



CAST



Time Brickey (Understudy) is a multidisciplinary performing artist from Chicago IL. He's a tap dancer, actor, musician, singer, puppeteer, he does accents and voices, he stilt-walks... and he'll do it on the spot. For 6 years he danced with internationally acclaimed tap dance companies; M.A.D.D. Rhythms and The Chicago Human Rhythm Project. He does everything. You can follow Time (and buy his portable tap boards!) at timebrickey.com and on instagram @timeonthewood



Maria Clara Ospina (she/her, U/S Swing, Assistant Director) is originally from Medellin, Colombia and a recent college graduate of North Central College. She is extremely excited to be doing what she loves most: helping kids find their dreams! After her debut at CCT with *Carmela Full of Wishes*, she is extremely honored to continue to be a part of the storytelling that happens in this space. Some of her other Chicago credits include *Romeo + Juliet* (Chicago Shakespeare), *Hamlet* (Invictus Theater), *Wellesley Girl* (Compass Theatre), *True Story of the Three Little Pigs* (ABS Productions) and *REMOTE* (BoHo Theatre).



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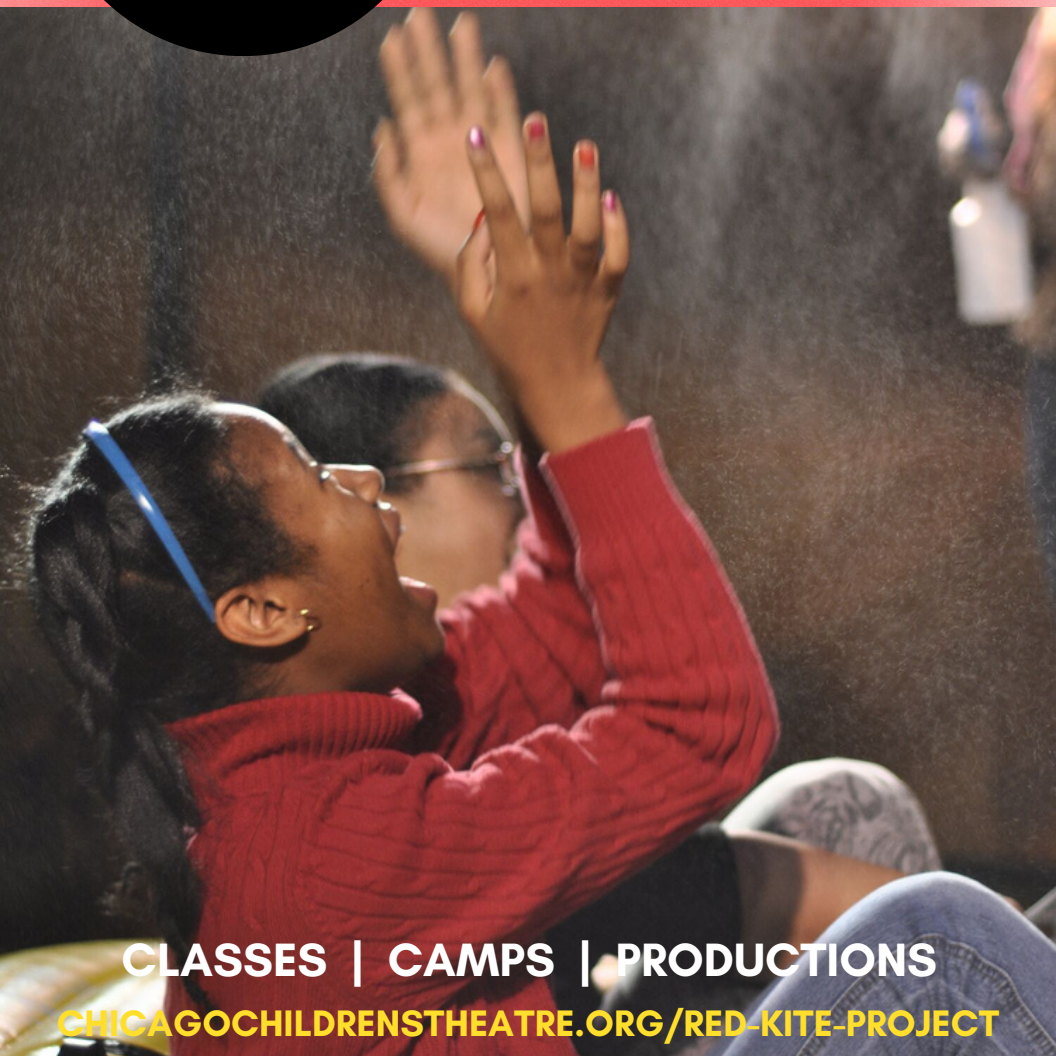
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