Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia

**Goodnight Moon** and
**The Runaway Bunny**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016**

11AM | Jackson Hall

**Recommended for grades K–4**

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**Welcome**

We believe that live performance actively supports the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As the arts also require complex thinking skills, learning by doing and an innovative interpretation of theme, mood and drama, these common elements are strategically aligned to the progressive learning required of today’s students.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education department’s School Matinees embody the Mondavi Center’s mission to “present a rich program of diverse artists and thinkers in public performance and as the basis for education and engagement programs on our campus and in our region”.

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**About Mermaid Theatre**

**Goodnight Moon** is a celebration of familiar night-time rituals, while **The Runaway Bunny** is a pretend tale of leaving home that evokes reassuring responses from his loving mother. Both tales feature enduring rabbit characters, and the soothing rhythms of bunny banter and dream-like imagery never fail to infuse young readers with a sense of security. Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia presents a staged adaption that will bring a new sense of appreciation to stories that have delighted several generations.

In **The Runaway Bunny**, a young bunny tells his mother he wants to run away. “If you run away,” says his mother, “I will run after you.” And so begins an imaginary game of chase. Whatever the little bunny declares he will change into—a fish, a rock, a bird, a boat, etc.—his mother replies that she will change herself so that she can always keep her little bunny safe and protected.

In **Goodnight Moon**, part of the visual magic comes from the use of black light. Black light makes fluorescent colors glow in the dark, and makes anything black invisible to the eye. In **Goodnight Moon**, the puppets and scenery are painted with fluorescent paint, which makes them really stand out under the ultraviolet light. The puppeteers are onstage as they work with the puppets. They wear black clothing and black masks and perform in front of a black wall. This makes them almost invisible to the audience and allows them to execute all kinds of visual illusions with the puppets.

The performance of **Goodnight Moon** and **The Runaway Bunny** employs a variety of styles of puppets (including rod and tabletop puppets) to tell the two stories. Amazingly, all of the puppets and scenic elements are manipulated by just three puppeteers. The show also employs pre-recorded narration of Margaret Wise Brown’s text of the two stories, and original music composed by Steven Naylor especially for this production that features the imaginative approach to storytelling through theatre that has earned Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia international recognition.

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**LEARN MORE:**


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQLzuh9C4YE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQLzuh9C4YE)
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. Did the lighting, shadows and props make the stories interesting to watch? How?
2. Why do you think the little bunny wanted to run away in The Runaway Bunny story?
3. Can you name any of the things the bunny says goodnight to in Goodnight Moon? Name as many things as you can.

Attending the Theater

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating)
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artist’s work by applauding
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience
- Please do not photograph or record the artists

What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone’s concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2016-17 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.