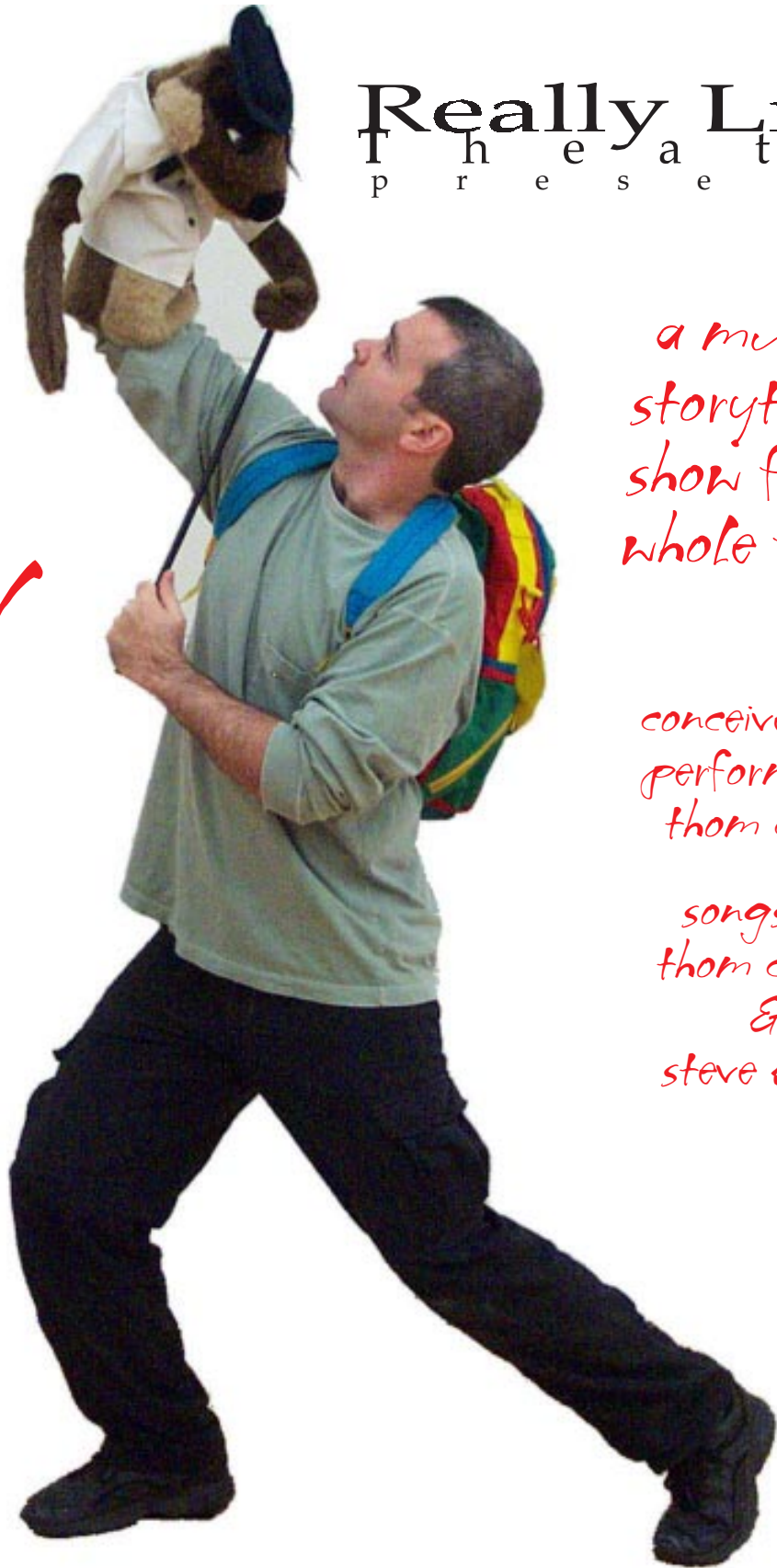


Really Little

theatre
presentations

I
heard
a
story



*a musical
storytelling
show for the
whole family*

*conceived and
performed by
thom currie*

*songs by
thom currie
&
steve bloom*

I
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a
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a musical
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whole family

Really Little
Theatre brings energy
and enthusiasm to our
stage. Excellent, excellent,
excellent!
Teacher, Bloomfield

Excellent
Original Music and
Super Energy!
Teacher, Toronto

Really Little
Theatre
p r e s e n t s

A brand new show from **Really Little Theatre**. A single storyteller whisks the audience on a journey through the stories he has picked up on his travels. Using multiple puppets, mime, music and lots of audience imagination and participation, we are taken on a wonderful multicultural journey, featuring folktales from Italy, Russia and even Canada.

Really Little
Theatre
has something
fresh and special
to offer. The high
quality and
creativity of their
work is
undeniable.

Lycée
International
Paris,
France

Recommended For Children 3 and Up



I heard a story



Conceived and Performed By Thom Currie

Directed By Warden Bémont

Songs By Steve Bloom & Thom Currie

Musical Arrangements By Steve Bloom & Craig Wingrove

Puppets

“Uncle” and “Ti-Jean’s Wife”
courtesy of
WaterWood Theatre Projects

“Weasel”, “Baker” and “TomCat”
by Barbara Cassidy and
Ted Heeley

Really Little Theatre is a professional touring theatre company that was formed in 1991, devoted to producing high quality musical theatre for young children. Working with only professional playwrights, composers, lyricists, choreographers, actors, designers and technicians, Really Little Theatre is committed to keeping its standards top-notch. It is this commitment that ensures that our audiences are on the receiving end of a magical experience.



About The Show

I Heard A Story is best described as a storytelling show with puppets and music. A single performer tells three stories from around the world, using multiple puppets, songs and mime to get the tales across. Peppered with audience participation, songs and comedy ***I Heard A Story*** is recommended for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3, and has been performed at theatres and festivals across Canada.

Before The Performance

I Heard A Story is designed to take place in a clear, open area, either on the floor with the audience or on a clear stage. The audience should be seated with the youngest closest to the performance area. If the performance is taking place on the gymnasium floor, masking tape will be used to mark off the performance area and the front row of the audience. Once all the audience has arrived, a teacher/supervisor should settle them, reminding them of “good audience behaviour.” Once the audience is quiet, the performance will begin.

The Performance

The storyteller will enter from behind the audience, and make his way to the front. He will establish himself at the front, coach the audience in some of the upcoming participation and lead them in a song. At the end of the song, he will begin telling stories.

The Stories

The Truthful Peasant

A folktale from Italy. A young man who is well known for always telling the truth comes to the attention of the King, who hires him to be his shepherd. A jealous member of the Kings' Court makes a bet with the King that the young peasant will eventually tell a lie. The jealous man goes to great lengths to make the young man lie to the King, but when it comes right down to it, the young man tells the truth. This simple story explores themes of trust and honesty, greed and retribution.

Do You Want To Buy A Cow?

A Canadian folktale that explores themes of trust and equity, honesty and need. Ti-Jean, a poor and simple farmer, must sell his cow in order to make ends meet. On his way to town, he runs into the local mayor, to whom he sells the cow. He then runs into the baker, who, after some confusion, also gives Ti-Jean money for the cow. Upon realising his mistake, Ti-Jean and his wife determine that if Ti-Jean is able to convince the townspeople that he is not in his right mind, he might be able to keep all the money he has received, and incur no punishment for selling his cow to more than one person. With the audiences' help, Ti-Jean convinces everyone, including his wife, that he is not to blame if others talk and think faster than he does.

Tom-Cat Purraway

A Russian story, versions of which turn up in many different cultures. A poor wood cutter discovers a magical cat living in a tree. The cat grants him wishes in exchange for sparing his home. The wood cutter's sister makes outlandish and extravagant demands on the cat, until he finally punishes her by taking away everything she has wished for. This version of *The Fisherman & His Wife* explores themes of greed and equity.

After The Show

At the end of the performance, the storyteller will be happy to lead a brief question and answer period.

About Really Little Theatre



Rock 'N' Fables

Really Little Theatre is a professional theatre for young audiences which has been thrilling young audiences and their families since 1991. It is their unique blend of theatre, music, storytelling, dance, puppetry, mime and comedy that has made them a very popular choice for schools and theatres not only in Canada, but abroad as well.

Under the Artistic Directorship of Thom Currie, Really Little Theatre has emerged as one of the most popular touring theatres in Ontario, their performances thrilling student and family audiences from Cornwall to Kenora and from Ottawa to Windsor. Represented in Ontario schools by the prestigious Prologue To The Performing Arts, Really Little Theatre is one of the busiest touring theatres in the province, routinely doing over two hundred and fifty shows in a school year.



I Heard A Story

Their hit shows over the years have included "Best", *Tall Tales*, *The Wish*, *Travellin' The World*, *Charlie's Friends*, *MORE!*, *World Travellin'*, *The Holiday Dream*, *Tales of Ti-Jean*, *Travellin' Stories*, *I Heard A Story* and the pop-opera *Rock 'N' Fables*. In addition to touring across Canada, Really Little Theatre has done three international tours of

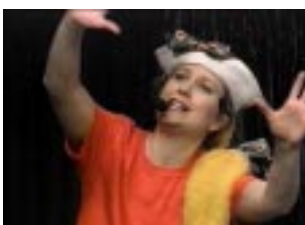
Travellin' The World, performing in theatres and schools in France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany. Their musical recording, *Show (And Tell) Tunes* was such a hit that it led to the forming of the Show & Tell Band, touring Ontario from 1995-1998.



Tales of Ti-Jean



Tall Tales



Rock 'N' Fables

In 1995, Really Little Theatre moved into television with TV versions of *Charlie's Friends* and *The Wish*, the latter of which was picked up and broadcast nationally by Vision TV. *Charlie's Friends* is currently in development as a live action series for children.

I heard a story the storyteller with the puppets

Thom Currie



Thom Currie has enjoyed a varied career as an actor, director, playwright and producer. Born in New York, he has appeared on stage on both sides of the Atlantic, performing in cities such as Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Brussels. Since settling in Toronto, Thom has worked steadily in theatre, film and television, both in English and in French. Since 1991, Thom has toiled as Artistic Director for Really Little Theatre, serving as playwright and lyricist for several works for young audiences, including *Tall Tales*, *The Wish*, *MORE!*, *The Holiday Dream*, and *Charlie's Friends*. He also wrote the libretto for the children's pop opera, *Rock 'N' Fables*, and television adaptations of *The Wish* and *Charlie's Friends*. Thom collaborated on the acclaimed trio of storytelling musicals, *Travellin' The World*, *World Travellin'* and

Travellin' Stories, which have enjoyed several successful European tours. In the spring of 1995, Thom co-produced an album of children's music, *Show (And Tell) Tunes: A Celebration of the Music of The Really Little Theatre Co.*, and is currently working on a solo album, as well as a recorded version of *Rock 'N' Fables*.

Thom also enjoys performing for adult audiences, having worked as an actor in theatres across Canada, including Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, Georgian Theatre Festival, Stage West (Calgary and Mississauga), Theatre In The Park and The Showboat Festival Theatre, among many others.