



THEATER
COMPANY

2020/2021
SEASON

ST. LOUIS' PREMIER THEATER
FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



**THE VERY HUNGRY
CATERPILLOR™**

CREATED BY JONATHAN ROCKEFELLER

SHOW

BASED ON ERIC CARLE'S BOOKS

A bilingual production

**LA ORUGA MUY
HAMBRIENTA ESPECTÁCULO**

APRIL 25 - MAY 16, 2021

PRESENTING SPONSOR

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WELCOME TO

THE VERY HUNGRY
CATERPILLAR
SHOW

LA ORUGA MUY
HOMBRIENTA
ESPECTÁCULO

“ As we emerge from the long winter of this longest year, nothing could be more delightful than a return to live performance in this magical production. We can't wait to hear the joyous laughter of our young audiences as we gather outdoors with families and schools for the first time in over a year to celebrate this moment.

- **JULIA FLOOD**

Artistic Director, Metro Theater Company



“ Our community has gone since mid-March 2020 without meaningful opportunities to enjoy live theater. We are grateful that through COVID-safe protocols and an outdoor performance space, Metro Theater Company is able to be the first professional theater to return to the stage for the full run of a new production in 2021. I can think of no better story than this one - the metamorphosis of a caterpillar who transforms into a beautiful butterfly after retreating into a cocoon - both to reflect on the journey we've been through as a community and to anticipate the wonder and joy that await on the other side of our collective period of stillness. We can't wait to welcome families for this landmark event.

- **JOE GFALLER**

Managing Director, Metro Theater Company



“ After 2,000 plus shows worldwide, we are excited to work with Metro Theater Company to bring this production to St. Louis. The response to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* has been incredible and has exceeded our expectations. We are thrilled that so many children are experiencing the magic of theatre for the very first time with a character they all grew up with.

- **JONATHAN ROCKEFELLER**

Creator, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*





THE CAST

(in alphabetical order)

RED BIRD, SEAL & OTHERS	Jamie McKittrick
LONELY FIREFLY & OTHERS	Hailey Medrano
CATERPILLAR & OTHERS	Gaby Rodriguez

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTOR	Julia Flood
STAGE MANAGER	Jimmy Bernatowicz
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER / OFFSTAGE PERFORMER	Eleanor Humphrey
STAGE CREW	Molly Burris
PUPPETRY COACH	Jamie McKittrick
SPANISH LANGUAGE COACH / DRAMATURG	Gaby Rodriguez
PRODUCTION MANAGER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	Erik Kuhn
SOUND CONSULTANT	Rusty Wandall
MASTER ELECTRICIAN	Jayson M. Lawshee
SCENIC PAINTER	Cristie Johnston
CARPENTERS	Alex Benos, Jacob Cange, and Christoffer E. Ware

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION CONCEIVED AND CREATED BY	Jonathan Rockefeller
BASED ON BOOKS BY	Eric Carle
MUSIC AND SOUND	Nate Edmondson
SCENIC DESIGN	David Goldstein
PUPPETS	Rockefeller Productions
BUILDERS AND FABRICATORS	Arlee Chadwick, Jessica Lorence, and Acheson Walsh

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



JAMIE MCKITTRICK Performer (*Red Bird, Seal, and others* / *Puppetry Coach*) joins Metro Theater Company again after directing the virtual production of Idris Goodwin's *Jacked!* earlier in MTC's 2020-21 season and previously starring in MTC's production of Eric Coble's one-woman play *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*. She also recently directed and choreographed *Wonderland: Alice's Rock & Roll Adventure*, choreographed and performed in *Frida Libre*, and choreographed *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*. McKittrick straddles the modes of theatre, dance, and performance art as performer, creator, choreographer, director, and teacher. Recently, she directed *Gruesome Playground Injuries* for Creative Inhabitor, *The Birds* for UMSL, and *Lysistrata* for Webster Conservatory of the Arts. Notable original work includes *Sparkle-TA-DAAA!!!* (Critic's Choice Award winner of the St. Louis Fringe Festival), *SURVIVE!* ("Best of the Year" — Philadelphia Weekly), *Lady M* (curated by LiveArts Fest), and national tours with Enchantment Theatre Company. Other theatre credits include Mac Wellman's *Anything's Dream, Fefu and Her Friends*, and *In the Heights*. Jamie is a Kevin Kline Award nominee. She's been on faculty at Muhlenberg College, UMSL, Lindenwood University, and Webster University's Conservatory of Theatre teaching directing, acting, movement, and storytelling.



HAILEY MEDRANO Performer (*Lonely Firefly and others*)

returns to Metro Theater Company where she was last seen as Peggy in *The Hundred Dresses* and Frida in *Frida Libre*. Other recent credits include *Tribes* (St. Louis Actors' Studio), *Macbeth: Come Like Shadows* (Rebel and Misfits Productions), *Men on Boats* (Webster Conservatory), and *Lysistrata* (Webster Conservatory). Later this year Hailey will serve as the education intern at Seattle Children's Theatre. Her work in education extends to The Magik Theatre in San Antonio, Texas, where she was a teaching artist. She was also a teaching artist at YMCA Arts Camp in New York City. A native of San Antonio, Texas, Hailey holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. She is also a graduate of Difficult Womxn + Scene Study course and Movement Theater Studio's Summer Physical Theater Institute.



GABY RODRIGUEZ Performer (*Caterpillar and others* / *Spanish Language Coach / Dramaturg*) makes her Metro Theater Company debut in

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show. Gaby has several directing credits to her name, including *Suffer the Children* (COCA), *Fefu and Her Friends* (Theatre Nuevo), *Refuge* (Campfire Theatre Festival), *Miss You Like Hell* (Webster Conservatory), and *Dear Kitty... Querida Ana...* (In The Margin Theatre Company). Most recently she associate directed *Seussical™* through Theatre Under The Stars' Public Works Houston initiative. She is also an ensemble member with In The Margin Theatre Company and a teaching artist at COCA and Asolo Repertory Theatre. Gaby is a native of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba and Houston, Texas, and holds a B.A. in directing from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

JIMMY BERNATOWICZ (Stage Manager) is a local stage manager and director, returning to Metro Theater Company after stage managing *Jacked!* and *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*. He is a graduate of St. Louis University, with a B.A. in theatre and English. Previously, he stage managed MTC's touring show *Frida Libre*. He has also stage managed for Shakespeare Festival St. Louis, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, COCA, The Midnight Company, Equally Represented Arts (ERA), and the Indiana University School of Music. He directed, wrote, and produced Post-Romantics' premiere production of *Doomsday Faust*; and served as production stage manager for COCA's *Suffer the Children* and *Billy Elliot*.

ELEANOR HUMPHREY (Assistant Stage Manager / Offstage Performer) makes her Metro Theater Company debut in *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*. Humphrey has been seen on stages across St. Louis in *Dreamgirls* (Stray Dog Theatre), *Crowns* (The Black Rep), and *Earworm* (Tesseract Theatre Company). She has performed multiple times with the St. Louis Public Library's Storytime Theater in *Off the Shelf* web series, *The Honest to Goodness Truth*, *Fable Foxhorse*, and *The Princess and the Magic Fish*. Eleanor is a native of Muskogee, Oklahoma and holds a B.A. in English from St. Louis University. She is an Equity Membership Candidate.

ERIK KUHN (Production Manager / Technical Director) is a St. Louis-based actor, technician, and stage combatant. While working in the scene shop at Washington University in St. Louis, he also began serving as a technical director for various student projects and developed an interest in working in technical theater, while continuing to study acting. After graduating with his degree in drama, he also began studying stage combat with the Society of American Fight Directors and Dueling Arts International. As a freelance theater professional, he has served as a technical director, designer, carpenter, electrician, fight director, stage combat instructor, and actor on innumerable productions and workshops with educational institutions and professional companies across St. Louis. He first worked with Metro Theater Company as assistant technical director to Nick Kryah on 2012's *Jackie and Me*. After that production, he continued to contract with the company in various capacities before joining the Metro Theater Company staff full-time in 2017. Last season, Erik served as production manager and technical director for *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Ghost*.

RUSTY WANDALL (Sound Consultant) is excited to return to MTC for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* after sound designing for *It's a Wonderful Life* in 2019. He is currently head of sound design at Webster University and the sound supervisor at The Repertory Theater of St. Louis. In 2016, Rusty was honored with the St. Louis Theater Circle Award for his work on *Antony and Cleopatra* with Shakespeare Festival St. Louis. He has also worked with Variety Children's Theatre, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Hot City Theatre, and Mustard Seed Theatre in St. Louis, as well as theatres across the country. Rusty holds a Master of Fine Arts in sound design from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

PRODUCTION BIOGRAPHIES

JAYSON M. LAWSHEE (Master Electrician) last worked with Metro Theater Company as lighting designer for *Ghost* and *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*. His recent designs include *By the Way*, *Meet Vera Stark* (Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University) and *Love at the River's Edge* (Shakespeare Festival Saint Louis). Jayson holds a B.F.A. from the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University.

MEET THE CREATORS



ERIC CARLE 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 literally millions of children all over the world and 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 70 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 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.



METRO THEATER COMPANY LEADERSHIP

JULIA FLOOD (Artistic Director / Director, *The Very Hungry*

Caterpillar Show) has directed *It's a Wonderful Life*, *The Girl Who Swallowed a Cactus*, *The Hundred Dresses*, *Frida Libre*, *Bud, Not Buddy*, *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, and *In This Corner...Cassius Clay*, *Out of the Box*, *Talkin' Trash*, *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem*, *Unsorted*, and *Say Something, Do Something!* for Metro Theater Company since she moved to St. Louis to become artistic director in February 2014. Previously, Julia spent 16 years as artistic director of Eckerd Theater Company in Clearwater, Florida where she commissioned such plays as *Vote?*, by Eric Coble, provoked by Florida's role in the 2000 presidential election, and *Battledrum* by Doug Cooney with Lee Ahlin, a musical about the effects of war on young people through the lens of Civil War drummer boys, subsequently produced at Metro Theater Company. A graduate of Northwestern University, Julia spent seven years as a resident member of the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble in Pennsylvania, a unique artist-led ensemble founded under the guidance of legendary acting teacher Alvina Krause, before following a freelance career as actor/director/playwright/teacher. Julia served on the national board of directors of Theatre for Young Audiences/USA from 2011 to 2019, and brings more than 40 years of experience to her role as artistic director of Metro Theater Company.



JOE GFALLER (Managing Director) joined the Metro Theater

Company team in 2019. During his tenure to date, Metro Theater Company has seen dramatic growth in both its audience base and its donor base. In partnership with Artistic Director Julia Flood, he has co-led the company through its recent evolutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, from its virtual programming to its safe return to live performances. Prior to joining the MTC team, Joe received national recognition for his work in building young, diverse, and national audiences for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis during his tenure as director of marketing and public relations – and for expanding OTSL's civic footprint as the producer of the company's Opera Tastings series, through artist community tours, and the creation and growth of its Engagement + Inclusion Task Force. His career has also included roles with the American Repertory Theater, the Alliance Theater, and 7 Stages, and consulting projects for the National Blues Museum, the Utah Symphony, and the documentary film *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City*. He has directed over two dozen professional or university productions, including regional premieres by David Mamet, Caryl Churchill, and others. He also serves as adjunct faculty at Webster University in the Arts Management and Leadership MFA program.





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Mary Ann Morley	Nancy Quigley	Daniel Schoenfeldt	Nancy Tatum
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Terry Mosley	Kelli Reeves	Phoebe Search	LaTonja Thomas
Bessie Mosley	Tiffany Reichenbacher	Ann Seeney	Ariel Thomas
Michael Mosley	Raymond Reinhardt	Rachel Seward	Larry Thompson
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Beth Musumeci	Ana Repa	Julie Shapleigh	Sarah Tichenor
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James Watts
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City Museum
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Equally Represented Arts
Julia Flood and
Tom McCarthy
Ed and Susan Grooms

TRIBUTES AND MEMORIALS

In honor of Erik Kuhn
Helen Kuhn

In honor of Susan Goldberg
Carolyn and Joseph Losos

In honor of Jennifer Lin
Alice Ferris

In honor of the Metro Theater Company Staff
Ken and Jane Jones

In memory of Paulette Aileen Peters
Susan Z. and James P. Gamble

In honor of Susan Goldberg
Carolyn and Joseph Losos

In honor of Eric Sondhaus
The Carroll Family
The Sondhaus Family

In honor of John Wolbers
Katherine Puglisi

VOLUNTEERS

Robert Eilers
MaryAlice and Stephen Gallagher
Sophie Lin-Osborn
Analuca Martinez
Zoey Russo





MISSON STATEMENT

Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, we create professional theater, foster inclusive community, and nurture meaningful learning through the arts.

STAFF

Julia Flood Artistic Director

Joe Gfaller Managing Director

Karen Bain
Education Director

John Wolbers
Producing Associate

Sarah Thompson
Director of
Communications & Media

Jennifer Lin
Content Marketing
Manager

Gen Zoufal
Resident Teaching
Artist

Erik Kuhn
Technical Director/
Production Manager

Lauren Brooks
Development Manager

Corey Mingo
Accountant

Tawaine Noah
House Manager

Britni Eggers
Graphic Designer

Liz Sondhaus
Audience Development
& Community Engagement
Manager

Eleanor Marsh
Audience Services
Associate

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Erica Wilson

*ex officio, non-voting

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Mary Tonkin

Susan Gamble

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Nancy Garvey

James R. Moog

FOUNDERS

Metro Theater Company is a professional theater for young people and families and a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization. It is a proud member of the Theatre Communications Group (the national service organization for non-profit professional theaters), Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (the U.S. chapter of the international association of theaters for young people) and Missouri Citizens for the Arts, as well as a proud Cultural Partner of the School District of Clayton. Metro Theater Company receives financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency; Missouri Arts Council, a state agency; Missouri Humanities Council, a state agency; the Regional Arts Commission; the Arts and Education Council; and numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.

QUESTIONS FOR THE RIDE HOME

These questions are great to use on the car or bus ride home, or any time after you have watched the performance!

1. What was your favorite puppet?
2. Why did the Caterpillar eat so many different foods? What foods do you like to eat and why?



3. How did the firefly feel when he was alone?



4. Why do you think the puppeteers spoke English and Spanish?
5. Which creature from the play would you want to be and why?

