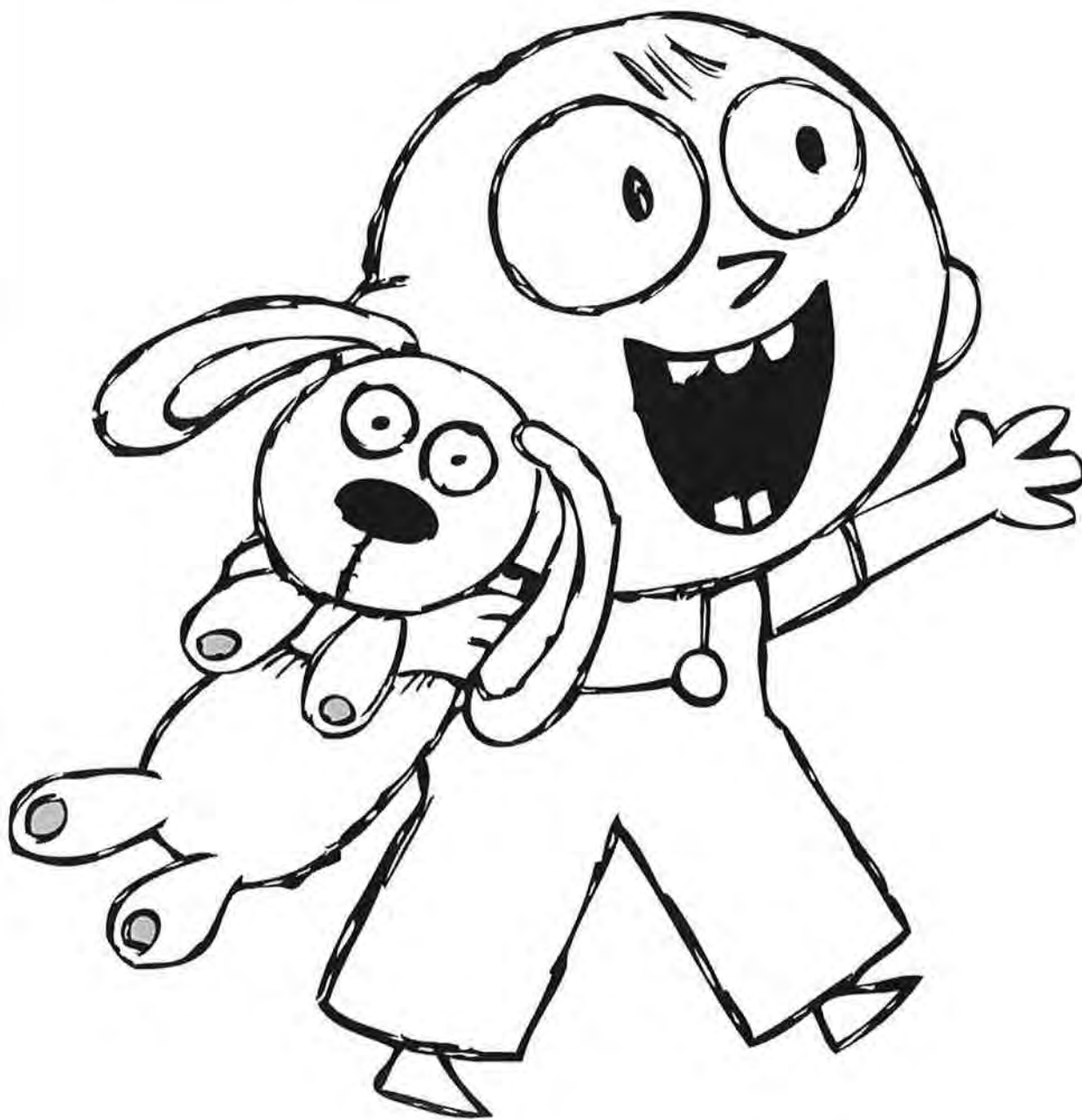


Northwestern | COMMUNICATION

Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz
Center for the Performing Arts

MAR 2 - 18

Hal & Martha Hyer Wallis Theater



KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL

Northwestern University's
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts

RAMON RIVERA-SERVERA DIANE CLAUSSEN
Depts. of Performance Studies & Theatre Chair Managing Director

LYNN KELSO
Imagine U Artistic Mentor

proudly presents

KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL

Based on the book "Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale" by MO WILLEMS

Published by Hyperion Books for Children

Script and Lyrics by MO WILLEMS

Music by MICHAEL SILVERSHER

Scenic & Puppets Designer
ANDREW MARCHETTI

Costume Designers
HAILEY BRUNSON & SOPHIA SINSHEIMER

Lighting Designer
JESSICA CARSON

Sound Designer
JACK HOEG

Music Director
SAOIRSE LEE

Production Manager
KELLY CROOK

Stage Manager
EMMA FLANDERS

Director
KATHRYN WALSH

March 2 - 18, 2018
Hal & Martha Hyer Wallis Theater
1949 Campus Drive
Evanston, IL

Setting: Chicago, Illinois

The running time for this production is 45 minutes with no intermission.

The videotaping or other video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited,
including the taking of photographs.

This play was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
and was first produced at the Kennedy Center during the 2009-2010 season.

KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL is produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
www.MTIshows.com

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts is a member of
Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for the American theatre.

Program Cover Design: Mo Willems
Program Editor: Joel Solari, Marketing & Communications Manager

Northwestern University
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts
10 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, IL 60208
Box Office Phone: 847-491-7282
wirtz.northwestern.edu

CAST In Alphabetical Order
Adam Brody.....Dad
Julian Dailey.....Ensemble/Puppeteer
Lena Dudley.....Ensemble/Puppeteer
Mia Nevarez.....Trixie
Lucette Panush.....Mom
Alex Seigerman.....Ensemble/Puppeteer
Matthew Threadgill.....Ensemble/Puppeteer
Lindsey Weiss.....Ensemble/Puppeteer
Brooks Whitlock.....Ensemble/Puppeteer

PRODUCTION TEAM

Education Directors.....Adam Brody, Amy Nadal
Asst. Scenic & Puppet Designers.....Nicolas Castillo,
.....Jamie Sung
Asst. Music Director.....Ruchir Khazanchi
Asst. Stage Managers.....Sophia Barron,
.....Harley Kirchhoff
Set/Props Crew.....Sophia Danielle-Grenier,
.....Rachel Khutorsky
Wardrobe Crew.....Samantha Glassner,
.....Theo Janke-Furman
Light Board Op.....Jonathan Connolly
Sound Board Op.....John Endres
Photography.....Justin Barbin
House Manager.....China Whitmire

Front of House Staff

Elizabeth Blair, Hailey Brunson, Avery Goods, Emily
Komarow, Chloe Nadon-Enriquez, Alanna Ramquist,
Chase Reed, Jackson Simpson, Serena Slagado,
Emmet Smith, Kent Steinberg, Calvin Ticknor-
Swanson, Kathy Yan

Aspects of the preparation and construction of this
production have been executed by student crews
under the supervision of professional staff members
in the following areas:

COSTUMES: Hailey Brunson, Samuel Groisser, Eliza Kang,
Kelsey Phalen

SCENERY: Madeline Burton, Grace Cashman, Vincent
D'Avanzo, Leo Merrick, Liana Runcie, Katherine Yan

PAINT: Kori Alston, Lucia Boyd, Kalpita Chakote, Sean
Finnegan, Mia Lennon, Alexandra Oliva, Rachel Reizburg,
Helena Scholz-Carlson, Nicholas Tassopoulos

LIGHTS: Marisol Beaufrand, Daniel Kapinos, Elizabeth
Koehler, Sarah Springhorn

PROPS: Mihta Garan, Sydney Johnson, Noah Kudman

SPECIAL THANKS

Northwestern University Arts Circle, Rosie Roche,
Northwestern University Office of Global Marketing
& Communications, Stephanie Kulke, Kerry Trotter,
Barbara Butts

UP NEXT FOR IMAGINE U

Wee-Mu 2018

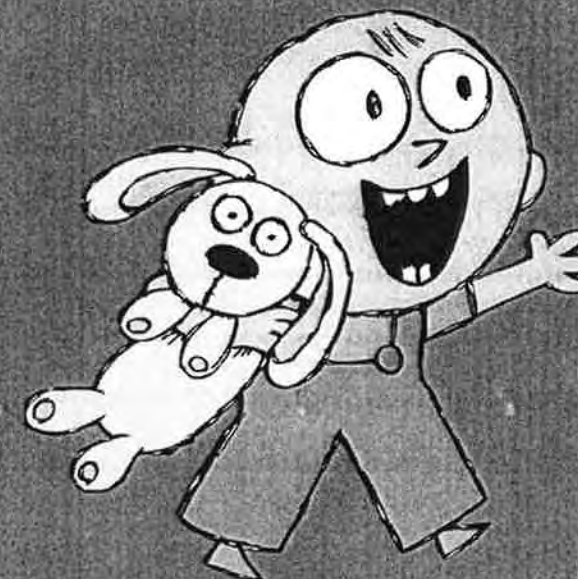
Saturday, May 12 at 11AM

Cahn Auditorium | 600 Emerson Street

Come behind the scenes of "the greatest college show
in America" for special interactive access with the
cast, crew, and creative team of this year's Waa-Mu
Show: MANHATTAN MIRACLE. This playful and fun-
filled hour at Cahn Auditorium is geared for young
audiences and their families and will feature hands-
on demonstrations about musical instruments,
choreography, and singing. Tickets are \$5 each!

Recommended for ages 5-13yrs old.
WAAMU.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

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Center for the Performing Arts



KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL

STUDY GUIDE


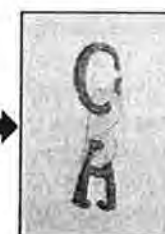
Northwestern
arts circle





MEET THE CAST

Each member of the cast answered a few questions. See their responses below!


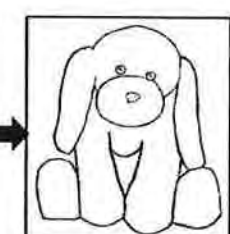
Trixie loves her Knuffle Bunny! When you were a kid, what was your favorite toy?

Lucette "My ABC rattle toy!"

Lena "Boom whackers!"

Alex "My brown puppy stuffed animal!"

Dad and Trixie go on an adventure to the laundromat! What is an adventure you have been on with your family?






Lindsey "Jumping over waves at the beach!"


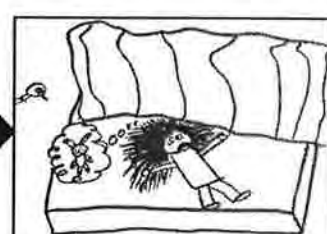



Mia "Visiting Disney World for the first time!"



What is your favorite moment in the show?


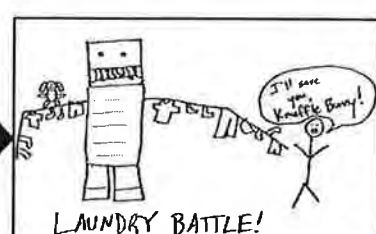
Brooks

Matthew

Julian

Adam

WELCOME!

Did you enjoy Imagine U's production of *Knuffle Bunny*?

This study guide is full of fun facts and cool crafts so you can learn more about our show!

Here is what you will find inside:

- Meet the Cast 3
- Plot Review 4
- Creating Puppets 5
- Sort the Socks 6
- Make an Adventure Mix 7
- Draw Your Adventure 8
- Gibberish Games 9
- Family Board Game 10
- Continue Exploring 11
- Draw Your Favorite Toy 12

Your name is: _____

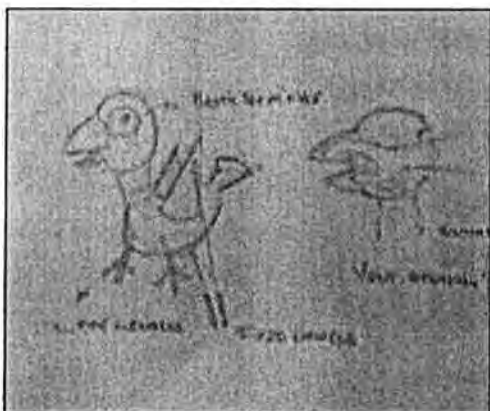
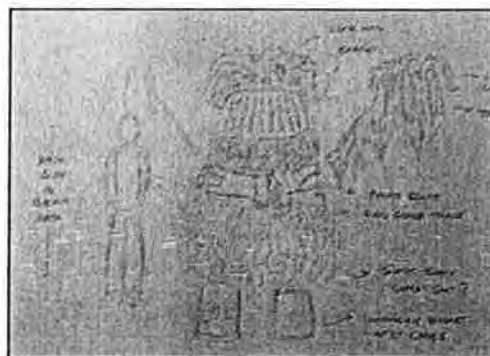
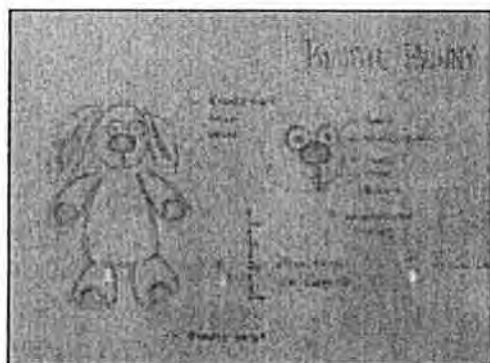


This study guide was created by Adam Brody and Amy Nadal as part of the Imagine U Education and Engagement Program.

CREATING PUPPETS

Knuffle Bunny featured many different puppets. Take a peek at how some of the puppets went from the page to the stage!

1. All of the puppets started as sketches. At this stage, the puppet designer, Andrew, drew exactly what he wanted the puppets to look like!



2. Next, Andrew began building the puppets. Here, you can see Andrew working on them in his studio.



3. Finally, the puppets were added into the show! Take a look at them in action!

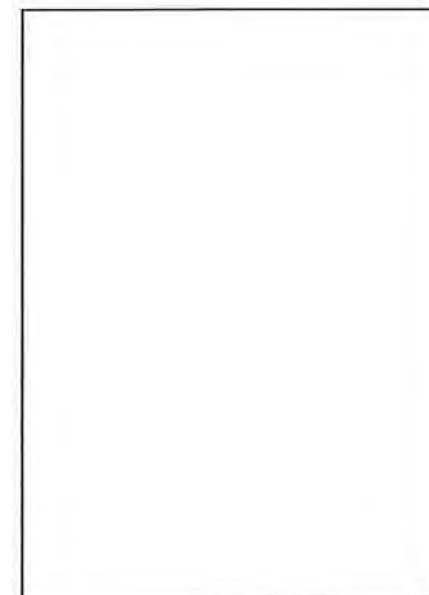


PLOT REVIEW

Use the word bank to complete Knuffle Bunny's story!
(Some words may be used more than once)

1. Dad wants to do the _____ with Trixie to prove that he is a Shoo-per Dad!
2. "Life is _____ with Trixie," Mom says. Dad still wants to try!
3. On their way to the laundromat, Trixie and Dad meet a pigeon and see a fire _____.
4. Dad and Trixie get to the laundromat. With a Washy-Washy and a _____, Dad puts all of their clothes into the machine.
5. However, little does he know, he has put _____ inside too!
6. When Trixie realizes that Knuffle Bunny is missing, she cries, "Aggle, Flaggle, _____!" Dad can't understand what is wrong.
7. When Dad and Trixie finally get home, _____ notices that Knuffle Bunny is missing.
8. Back at the laundromat, Dad jumps into the washing machine and fights a huge laundry _____, saving Knuffle Bunny!
9. On the family's walk home, Trixie says her first words: _____!
10. Just before the story ends, Knuffle Bunny gets left behind AGAIN and is swooped up by a _____. On to the next adventure!

Draw a moment you remember from the show!



Word Bank

Monster	Truck
Laundry	Pigeon
Mom	Knuffle Bunny
Tricky	
Klabble	Sudsy-Sudsy

MAKE AN ADVENTURE MIX

Before going on an adventure, like Dad and Trixie's trip to the laundromat, it is always a good idea to pack a snack...just in case!

With an adult's help, follow the recipe below to make your own Adventure Mix!

1 Pick one **crunchy** snack, like:



2 Pick one **chewy** snack, like:



3 Pick one **salty** snack, like:



4 Pick one **sweet** snack, like:



5 Measure out 2-3 handfuls of each ingredient and pour them into a big bowl. Give them a stir to mix everything up.

6 Divide the mix between individual plastic snack bags or small storage containers so that you can easily take it on your next adventure!

Trixie's Adventure Mix

In my adventure mix, I am mixing...

- Goldfish
- Marshmallows
- Nuts
- M&Ms

Mom's Adventure Mix

In my adventure mix, I am mixing...

- Cheerios
- Raisins
- Pretzels
- Chocolate Chips

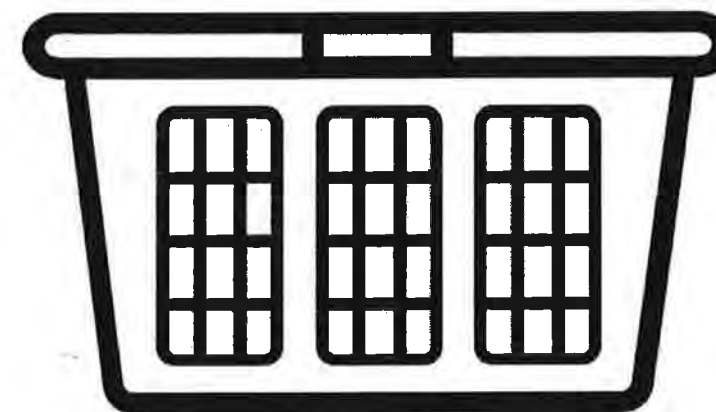
Dad's Adventure Mix

In my adventure mix, I am mixing...

- Cheez-its
- Fruit snacks
- Popcorn
- Teddy Grahams

SORT THE SOCKS

Dad needs some help sorting the laundry. Can you find the matching pairs of socks? When you find a match, color in the set!



GIBBERISH GAMES

Gibberish Charades

Dad has a difficult time understanding Trixie. Now it's your turn to test your gibberish skills! This game is most fun with at least four people, so grab family and friends!



- 1. Before the game begins, players brainstorm and discuss some simple actions or phrases, such as "I stubbed my toe!" or "I love you!"
- 2. Each player chooses one of the phrases—but keep it secret!
- 3. When the game starts, each player stands in front of the other participants and acts out their phrase; however, they can only use gibberish words! For example, a player choosing "I stubbed my toe" could grab their foot and jump around in pain while shouting "Ba doo be dah! Ba doo be dah!"
- 4. Other participants try to guess the player's phrase or action.
- 5. Make sure everyone has the chance to perform in gibberish!

Silly Languages

Did you know that there are lots of silly languages? Language games like Pig Latin, Ubbi Dubbi, and Gibberish make changes to English words by adding or reordering letters! Look how these languages change a simple word:



	Pig Latin	Ubbi Dubbi	Gibberish
"Cat" becomes...	Atcay	Cubat	Cidigat
"Hello" becomes...	Ellohay	Hubellubo	Hidigellidigo
"Banana" becomes...	Ananabay	Bubanubanuba	Bidiganidiganidiga

Can you spot the patterns for each language? Try filling in the answers for other words:

	Pig Latin	Ubbi Dubbi	Gibberish
"Dog" becomes...	_____	_____	_____
"Goodbye" becomes...	_____	_____	_____
"Pineapple" becomes...	_____	_____	_____

Answers (left to right): Ogdag, Dubog, Didigog, Oodbyeagay, Guboodbubye, Gidigoodbididigye, Ineapplepay, Pubineubappuble, Pidigineidigappidigle.

DRAW YOUR ADVENTURE

When was the last time you went on an adventure with your parent or guardian? Below, draw three moments from the beginning, middle, and end of your journey!

Here is what happened at the beginning:

Here is what happened in the middle:

Here is what happened at the end:





Ask an adult about an adventure they remember from their own childhood. How was their journey similar to yours? How was it different?

CONTINUE EXPLORING

If you enjoyed *Knuffle Bunny*, then you may like these books too! These are great books to read by yourself, with your family, or with a friend.

Sequels to *Knuffle Bunny*



Knuffle Bunny Too

Knuffle Bunny Free



Did you know?
All of these books (and many more) are available at the Evanston Public Library!

The Pigeon Series
By Mo Willems






Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!

...and many others!

The Elephant and Piggie Series
By Mo Willems







We Are in a Book!

Should I Share My Ice Cream?

...and many others!

Other Fun Books

Interrupting Chicken
By David Ezra Stein

All the World
By Liz Garton Scanlon

The Hello, Goodbye Window
By Norton Juster


FAMILY BOARD GAME


Dad tells Trixie, “I don’t understand you, although I want to.” Play this board game with your family or friends to learn more about each other...and get a little silly too!

How to Play

Need: 2+ players, dice, and counters (Could even be paperclips. Get creative!)

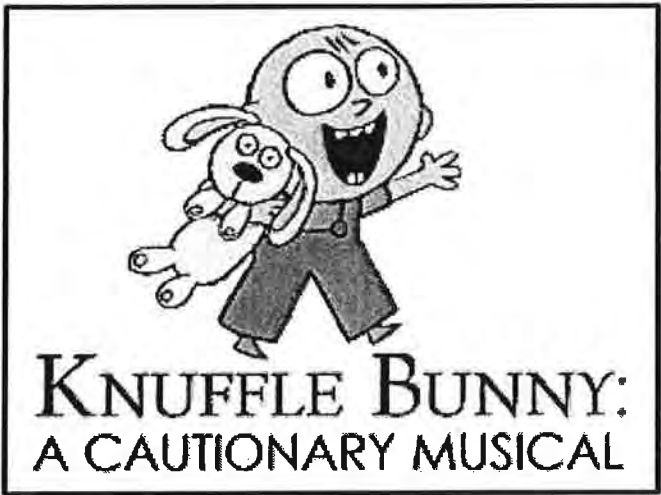
Directions: Each player puts a counter on the start. Take turns rolling the dice and moving the number of spaces you rolled. Read aloud what is on your space and then tell the other players about it OR act it out. If you land on Trixie, run forward three spaces! The game ends when each player makes it to the finish!

START	Favorite hiding place	Favorite dance move	Favorite animal	Something I want to learn	My best Trixie impression	Favorite ice cream flavor
						Something that scares me
						Favorite word
						
						Favorite holiday
						Sing a song from the show!
						Something that makes me happy
						My best laundry monster impression
						Something that makes me sad

END	Favorite toy	A place I want to visit	Something I am proud of	
			Favorite movie	
Say “Knuffle Bunny” backwards	Favorite song	Favorite color	Something I don’t understand	Favorite day of the week
Something I don’t enjoy doing				
Someone I love			Favorite thing I own	Say a sentence in gibberish!
Favorite food		Favorite sport		Something that makes me excited
My best pigeon impression	Favorite thing about myself	Something that makes me laugh		Favorite memory from the show
				Favorite season

Thanks for coming to see the show today!

Imagine U had so much fun with you in the audience!



If you're interested in contacting a character or team member that you loved from the show, please write to:

Lynn Kelso
70 Arts Circle Drive
Evanston, IL 60208

If you include a return address, we'll make sure to send you a letter back!



UP NEXT!

Saturday, May 12 at 11AM
Cahn Auditorium | 600 Emerson Street

Back by popular demand, Imagine U and The Waa-Mu Show present Wee-Mu 2018! With lights, costumes, song and dance, award-winning Northwestern faculty member Ryan

T. Nelson and members of The Waa-Mu Show will lead young audiences through the process of putting together a brand new musical! Come behind the scenes of "the greatest college show in America" for special interactive access with the cast, crew, and creative team of this year's Waa-Mu Show: MANHATTAN MIRACLE. This playful and fun-filled hour at Cahn Auditorium is geared for young audiences and their families and will feature hands-on demonstrations about musical instruments, choreography, and singing.



Do you have a favorite toy like Trixie's Knuffle Bunny?
Draw a picture of it below!



Ask a parent/guardian if they had a special toy like Knuffle Bunny when they were a kid. What did it look like? Did it have a name?

A large rectangular box for drawing a picture of a favorite toy.

Why is this toy your favorite? _____



Once you finish, take a picture of your drawing and send it to imagineu@northwestern.edu for a chance to have your work appear on our social media pages!



KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL

CAST & CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

ADAM BRODY (Dad) is a senior Theatre major/History minor in the Music Theatre Certificate Program and the Theatre for Young Audiences module. Northwestern credits include *PARADE* (Leo Frank), *PETER AND THE STARCATCHER* (Boy/Peter), *THREE SISTERS* (Solyony), and *AS YOU LIKE IT* (Silvius). Other recent credits include *JOSEPH AND THE...DREAMCOAT* (Judah) and *THE LITTLE MERMAID* (Flotsam). Adam is also an Education and Engagement Director for Imagine U and Education Director for Purple Crayon Players.

JULIAN DAILEY (Ensemble/Puppeteer) makes his Wirtz Center and Northwestern University theatre debuts in *KNUFFLE BUNNY: A CAUTIONARY MUSICAL*. Despite being a Computer Science major, he enjoys performance art, and is contemplating a minor or second major in Theatre. As a freshman, he hopes to be in many more shows in the future, and wholeheartedly thanks all those who have supported his endeavors.

LENA DUDLEY (Ensemble/Puppeteer) is a junior Theatre/Political Science major, and is excited to be taking part in her first Imagine U show! Previous Northwestern credits include *IN THE RED AND BROWN WATER* (Wirtz), *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* (The Dolphin Show), and *FOR COLORED GIRLS WHO HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE, WHEN THE RAINBOW IS ENUF* (StuCo). She is also an active member of Fusion Dance Company and Co-Design Supervisor of Lipstick Theatre.

LUCETTE PANUSH (Mom) is thrilled to be a part of the wonderful *KNUFFLE BUNNY* world! She is a Sophomore Theatre major in the Music Theatre Certificate. Previous credits include the Wirtz production of *FUENTE OVEJUNA*, Imagine U's *STELLALUNA*, and Arts Alliance's *HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL*. Lucette is also a proud member of Griffin's Tale Children's Repertory Theatre, 'The Bix' Improv, and the Jewish Theatre Ensemble. Lastly, her performance is dedicated to her beloved late grandpa, Alfred Marks.

MIA NEVAREZ (Trixie) is a sophomore with a double major in Theatre and Legal Studies in the Music Theatre Certificate program. Northwestern credits include *AMTP's ROCKNE*, and *THE WHO'S TOMMY*. She is Alumni Relations Chair for the 87th Annual Waa-Mu Show, a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, and treasurer of her a cappella group, the Northwestern Undertones.

ALEX SEIGERMAN (Ensemble/Puppeteer) is thrilled to perform with the wonderful cast of *KNUFFLE BUNNY* in her Wirtz Center debut. Alex is a freshman Theatre major, and has been performing for her whole life. She recently appeared in Vertigo's 4th Annual Reading Series, *ROSA BLANCA*. Alex would like to thank her friends, family, and the cast and crew of *KNUFFLE BUNNY* for their love and support.

MATTHEW THREADGILL (Ensemble/Puppeteer) proudly makes his Wirtz Center debut in *KNUFFLE BUNNY*. Matthew began his journey in theatre in fifth grade and since then has been seen in various productions including *AND THEN THERE WERE NONE*, *MARY POPPINS*, and *SISTER ACT*. Currently a freshman in Northwestern's theatre program, Matthew considers it a blessing that this production is his first at Northwestern and looks forward to many more. Much love to his family, friends, and the entire cast of *KNUFFLE BUNNY*.

LINDSEY WEISS (Ensemble/Puppeteer) is a junior in Theatre and Gender & Sexuality Studies. Scary real-world credits include the Bread & Puppet Theater Ensemble, *[TRANS]FORMATION at Nothing Without a Company*, and *CLOCKS at The Future Is Female Festival*. Northwestern credits include *UNDER THE BIG TOP*, *FIRE ISLAND*, *CARDENIO*, and *STRANGERS OF INTIMACY*. Lindsey is also Activism Director of Lipstick Theatre, and a Teaching Artist with Seesaw Theatre where they will be performing in *WANDERLAND* this spring! #AskMeAboutMyAutism #AccessibleArt4Ever

BROOKS WHITLOCK (Ensemble/Puppeteer) is a sophomore Theatre major and Film and Media Studies minor. Past credits include *THE WHO'S TOMMY: IN CONCERT* and *THREE SISTERS*. He is the Community Programming Co-Director for the 87th Annual Waa-Mu Show, and is the music director and a proud member of ShireiNU A Cappella on campus. Love and thanks to family and friends! Brooks never lets the pigeon drive the bus, even if it's just once around the block.

ANDREW MARCHETTI (Puppet/Scenic Design) is an actor, writer, designer and fabricator specializing in scenic, props and puppetry. Recently, he

designed and built stylized puppets for Otherworlds' *SAILOR MOON*; 2Pence production of *MIDSUMMERS*; *THE PLAGIARISTS* *THESE SAINTS WILL BURN* and Filament Theatre's *JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH*. As a resident artist with Filament, he also created repertory sets for *CYRANO!* and *LIFEBOAT*. Other credits include *DIRTY BLOND* (scenic), *BAD GUYS IN SUITS* (scenic and puppetry), *BERNARDA ALBA* (scenic and puppetry), and *PROMISCUOUS STORIES* (puppetry). Check out Chad the Bird (conceived by Josh Zagoren, built and designed by Andrew) every Saturday at 3pm at the Green Mill.

HAILEY BRUNSON (Costume Designer) is thrilled to be a part of the Knufflebunny team! Hailey is a freshman Theatre major here at Northwestern, studying both acting and costume design. She made her collegiate costume design debut on StuCo's (JTE) *FLY BY NIGHT*. Hailey is humbled to be working on Wirtz's Imagine U Series. *KNUFFLE BUNNY* is one of her favorite children's books, so there is no better children's theatre production to be her first. Hailey has been designing costumes since her sophomore year in high school, but is excited to be learn and grow as a designer here at NU. She hopes you enjoy the show!

SOPHIA SINSHEIMER (Costume Designer) is a senior majoring in Theatre and Gender Studies. She has designed many student productions in her time at Northwestern favorites include *ASSASSINS*, *TWELFTH NIGHT*, and *PARADE*. When she is not designing, Sophia can be found mostly directing, but also acting and writing plays. Having worked with Purple Crayon Players on their spring touring production of *ROBIN'S HOOD* last year, Sophia has a soft spot in her heart for theatre for young audiences. She hopes you enjoy the show!

JESSICA CARSON (Lighting Designer): While Jessica doesn't design as often in Chicago anymore, she's excited to return to the theater to work with Katy on this delightful play.

JACK HOEG (Sound Designer) is a Freshman at Northwestern and is excited to be a part of the *KNUFFLE BUNNY* team! He recently worked as the Assistant Lighting Designer on Imagine U's *STELLALUNA* and as the Projection Designer for *Lovers and Madmen's JASPER IN DEADLAND*. Jack was head sound for IHSTF's 2017 All-State production of *SWEENEY TODD*. He has also worked as a production assistant for the visual effects teams on several film productions.

SAOIRSE LEE (Music Director) is a second-year studying Music Theory and Legal Studies. Previous experience as a music assistant includes: *THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE* and *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*. In addition, Saoirse has performed as a reed doubler and keyboardist in shows such as: *COMPANY*, *RAGTIME*, and *13: THE MUSICAL*. Upcoming productions are *The Waa-Mu Show* and an all female production of *1776*, sponsored by One Book One Northwestern.

EMMA FLANDERS (Stage Manager) is excited to be making her Imagine U debut! Emma is a freshman Theatre major, Freshman Board Representative for Purple Crayon Players, and Teaching Artist for Imagine U. Stage management credits include *IN THE CONTINUUM* (Lipstick Theatre), *A NIGHT OF DAVID IVES* (The Chapin School), and *T.I.C.* (Assistant Stage Manager, National High School Institute). Thanks to Barbara Butts and the *KNUFFLE* family for their love and support!


SOPHIA BARRON (Assistant Stage Manager) is thrilled to be involved with this wonderful show! Sophia is a sophomore theatre and psychology major. Stage management credits include *DOG SEES GOD*, *The 2017 Creative Arts Festival*, and *The 76th Annual Dolphin Show Presents RAGTIME*.

HARLEY KIRCHHOFF (Assistant Stage Manager) is so excited to be a part of this lovely process! She is a sophomore Theatre and English major. Outside of *KNUFFLE BUNNY* she is a proud member of Vertigo Productions and directed for Lipstick Theatre earlier this winter. Much love to all friends who listened to her talk emphatically about laundry monsters this quarter!

LYNN THOMPSON KELSO (Artistic Mentor) founded Imagine U in 2011, is a faculty member in the Theatre department and teaches Storytelling and Theatre for Young Audiences. Education, MFA in Directing: Northwestern University, MA: University of Michigan, and a BA: Purdue. She has directed over 50 productions. Founder: Parents and Children Together.

DIANE CLAUSSEN (Managing Director) joined the Wirtz Center staff in 2010 after serving as Managing Director for three years each at Philadelphia Theatre Company and Paper Mill Playhouse in New Jersey. Previously Claussen was the Executive Director of Court Theatre; Managing Director of George Street Playhouse in New Jersey; and Assistant Professor, Managing Director and Director of the Theatre Management Program at Ithaca College. Additionally, Claussen chaired the Board of Trustees of the League of Chicago Theatres. She is a proud graduate of Leadership Evanston Class 21 and she was Co-Chair of the Rotary Club of Evanston's Peace Festival 2016. Claussen and Court Theatre received the ABBY Award for Arts Management Excellence from the Arts & Business Council of Chicago.

Northwestern | COMMUNICATION
Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz
Center for the Performing Arts


WEE-MU 2018
May 12 at 11AM | \$5



The Waa-Mu Show
MANHATTAN MIRACLE
THE MAKING OF THE FIRST MUSICAL

Against all odds, a ragtag group of artists in late 19th century New York City learn to work together and create not only the very first American musical, but a spectacular hit! Don't miss this 87th annual Waa-Mu Show extravaganza! Back by popular demand Imagine U will also present Wee-Mu on Saturday, May 12 at 11AM and all tickets are just \$5. For pricing and schedule for MANHATTAN MIRACLE visit the website to learn more!

MAY 4 - 13
Cahn Auditorium
600 Emerson Street

Tickets: 847-491-7282
WAAMU.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

THE AUTHORS

MO WILLEMS' (Original Author, Book, Lyrics) work in children's books, animation, television, theater, and bubble gum card painting have garnered him 3 Caldecott Honors, 2 Geisel Medals, 6 Emmy Awards, 5 Geisel Honors, a Helen Hayes nomination, and multiple bubble gum cards. He is best known for his characters Knuffle Bunny, The Pigeon, and Elephant and Piggie and his work as a writer and animator for PBS's SESAME STREET. He is worst known for his work on Cartoon Network's SHEEP IN THE BIG CITY and Nickelodeon's THE OFF-BEATS. Mo also makes sculptures and writes plays. More information about Mo's past, present, and future can be gleaned at mowillems.com.

MICHAEL SILVERSHER (Composer) is a Grammy Award winning songwriter (ELMO IN GROUCHLAND), with three primetime Emmy nominations, including two for WINNIE-THE-POOH and one for THE MUPPETS who collaborated with Joy Sikorski to create SING BABY SING, an exclusive prenatal and infant music singing CD for moms, dads, grandparents, nurses and early childhood educators. Currently the composer for the background music of the hit children's TV show, DINOSAUR TRAIN, songwriter for PAJANIMALS and composer/co-lyricist for KNUFFLE BUNNY, which premiered at the Kennedy Center. In collaboration with Patty Silversher, he also wrote the theme songs for Disney's television series, TALE SPIN and GUMMI BEARS. Together they have over one hundred songs in the Disney catalog.

THE DIRECTOR

KATHRYN WALSH directs, coaches and teaches in Chicago. Directing credits include: BALLOONACY (Flint Youth Theatre, Northwestern University), WOMEN BEWARE WOMEN, RICHARD II, AS YOU LIKE IT (TWO PENCE THEATRE CO), JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH (Filament Theatre); BREAKS & BIKES (Pavement Group); A VERY MERRY (UN)AUTHORIZED CHILDREN'S SCIENTOLOGY PAGEANT (Next Theatre); KILL THE OLD TORTURE THEIR YOUNG (Steepe Theatre). Text/verse coaching credits include: MARY STUART, CHARLES III, and the ShortShakes/Parks Tours of A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM, ROMEO AND JULIET and TWELFTH NIGHT for Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. Kathryn received her MFA in Directing from Northwestern University, where she teaches and serves as the Program Mentor for the MFA Directing Program.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the world of Knuffle Bunny. It's a lot like our world, except with more puppets. In KNUFFLE BUNNY, people have places to go and things to do. Laundry has to get done. Parenting is trickier than it looks. The people we love are still a mystery, particularly the pre-verbal ones. I mean, really, what DO they want?

But let's be honest, are the highly articulate members of our family actually any easier to understand? We all love people that we will never totally comprehend. Sure, Trixie will grow up and she'll be able to stop saying "aggle flaggle" and start saying "Mom and Dad, I'd really like to join the soccer team," but she's never going to be less of a mystery to her dad. And he'll never be less of a mystery to her.

We don't know what goes on inside another person. We can ask and we can guess, but we don't know. But for the people we love, understanding everything they want or think or need isn't a barrier. We believe in them — we know that they will move mountains for us, or fight sentient laundry monsters to rescue our stuffed bunny from the washing machine. And that we will do the same for them. That's what matters. Love lets us have the courage to believe in one another. And that faith is not conditional on comprehension. It's what we do for one another that matters. Sometimes the best way we prove that faith is when we forgive each other when we get it wrong (usually because we don't understand), when we stick with each other, and keep going on that journey together.

I hope you have as much fun on the journey of KNUFFLE BUNNY as we did making it happen. Enjoy the show!

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Overture
Tricky with Trixie
Walkin' Dad
Walkin' Dad 2
Washy Washy
Spin Cycle
Aggie Gladdle Klabble
Long Walk
Really, Really Love You
Run Back!
Aggie Flaggle Klabble (Reprise)
Don't Worry
Knuffle Bunny

UPCOMING EVENTS

Stage Russia HD

ANNA KARENINA (Encore).....**MAR 24**
Directed and choreographed by Angelica Cholina
Based on the novel by Leo Tolstoy
A Vakhtangov Theatre production

National Theatre Live

CAT ON A HOT TIN ROOF.....**APR 4**
By Tennessee Williams
Directed by Benedict Andrews

Mainstage

**THE FAIRYTALE LIVES
OF RUSSIAN GIRLS**.....**APR 27 - MAY 6**
By Meg Miroshnik
Directed by Caitlin Lowans

MFA Lab

THE ORANGE GARDEN.....**MAY 4 - 6**
By Joanna Garner
Directed by Hassan Al Rawas

The 87th Annual Waa-Mu Show

MANHATTAN MIRACLE.....**MAY 4 - 13**
Directed by Stephen Shellhardt

Imagine U & The Waa-Mu Show

WEE-MU 2018.....**MAY 12**
Hosted by Ryan T. Nelson

National Theatre Live

JULIUS CAESAR.....**MAY 16**
By William Shakespeare
Starring Ben Whishaw, Michelle Fairley, David Calder and David Morrissey
Directed by Nicholas Hytner

Mainstage

EVER IN THE GLADES.....**MAY 18 - 27**
By Laura Schellhardt
Directed by Rives Collins

MFA Lab

SPRING AWAKENING.....**MAY 25 - 27**
Adapted and Directed by Alex Mallory
From "Frühlings Erwachen" by Frank Wedekind

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Take a selfie with the KNUFFLE BUNNY program and tag #WirtzCenter on social media!



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EVER ^{in the} GLADES

By Laura Schellhardt
Directed by Rives Collins

MAY 18 - 27

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