

How the Gimquat Found Her Song

PROGRAM INFORMATION

(September 2011 – Please destroy all previous versions)

The following text must be included in the concert program.

Platypus Theatre's **HOW THE GIMQUAT FOUND HER SONG**

Written by Peter Duschenes
Stage direction and puppet design: Peter Duschenes and Meredyth Babcock
Originally produced by Michael Duschenes

Performers:
Gimquat: Danielle Desormeaux
Wizard: Peter Duschenes

Stage Manager:
Wendy Rockburn



(N.B. Logo must be included in program and is available on the Platypus website at www.platypustheatre.com)

Platypus Theatre would love to hear from you! Please contact them through their website:
www.platypustheatre.com

Repertoire list

Excerpts from the following:

Bizet:	Carmen Suite (“Prelude” & “Les Toreadors”)
Vivaldi:	The Four Seasons (Spring - 1 st Movement)
Duschenes, Mario:	Sad Dance
Duschenes, Mario:	Awakening
Bach:	Suite No. 2 (Badinerie)
Mozart:	Marriage of Figaro (Overture)
Beethoven:	Symphony No. 5 (1 st movement)
Tchaikovsky:	Symphony No. 4 (4 th movement)
Debussy:	Prelude a l'apres-midi d'un faune
Ravel:	Mother Goose Suite (“Pavane de la Belle”)
Ravel:	Mother Goose Suite (“Le Jardin Féérique”)
Lloyd Webber/Arr. Custer:	Phantom of the Opera
Ellington/Arr. Custer:	Sophisticated Ladies
Duschenes, Mario:	Jiminy Cricket

Biographies

N.B: Please include photographs of the actors and Stage Manager. High-resolution photographs of the artists are available on the Platypus website at: <http://www.platypustheatre.com>

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989 Canada's Platypus Theatre has been a trailblazer in creating programs for children that bring classical music to life in an intelligent, entertaining and interactive way. Critics, educators, musicians, parents and children have lauded the company's performances for their creativity, originality and high standards of execution. Platypus' seven original programs have been seen by over half a million spectators in Canada, the United States, on seven tours to Southeast Asia and most recently, in Australia. After nearly 500 concerts with more than 65 orchestras worldwide Platypus Theatre has gained an unparalleled reputation for excellence in music education. In 2006, in collaboration with TV Ontario, Trace Pictures and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Platypus Theatre created a television adaptation of their ever-popular, "How the Gimquat Found Her Song". The film was broadcast six times on TVO and won an Award of Excellence at the 2007 Accolade Television Awards and Best Children's Program at the prestigious 2008 Banff World Television Festival. The film is now on DVD and available at www.platypustheatre.com and at the concerts. Platypus Theatre was also the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary made by CTV (CKCO Kitchener) in 1991 and of a PBS television full-performance broadcast in 2000. In Addition to "Gimquat" the company's programs include: "Emily Saves the Orchestra", "Rhythm in Your Rubbish", "Bach to the Future", "Song of the Forest", "Charlotte and the Music-Maker" and "A Flicker of Light on a Christmas Night".

Peter Duschenes, Artistic Director, Actor and Writer

Co-founder and Artistic Director of Platypus Theatre, Peter Duschenes has been widely praised for his innovation in presenting symphonic music to young audiences. His ability to bring the concert stage to life by combining theatre and music has led to commissions with orchestras from coast to coast. An award winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include all seven of Platypus' symphony plays, the television adaptation of "How the Gimquat Found Her Song" and the one-act play, "Lost River", which was the 1991 winner of the Theatre BC's Canadian National Playwriting competition. As an actor and director Peter has worked with companies across Canada and the United States most recently directing the world premier of the stage adaptation of Arto Paasilinna's "The Holing Miller" for Quantum Theatre in Pittsburgh, PA. Among his favourite stage roles are Richard in Shakespeare's "Richard II" also for Quantum Theatre and Louis Ironson in "Angels In America" at the Centaur Theatre in Montreal. Peter received his MFA in theatre from the California Institute of the Arts in 1988 and now lives in Ottawa with his wife, Sarah and their two children; Magda and Theo.

Danielle Desormeaux - Actor

Ms. Desormeaux has been a part of the Platypus Theatre touring company since 1998. Film and television credits include: "How the Gimquat Found Her Song" (Award of

Excellence at the 2007 Accolade Television Awards, Best Children's Program at the 2008 Banff World Television Festival), the Oscar-winning “Affliction” (dir. Paul Schrader), “Stardom” (dir. Denis Arcand), “The War of 1812, Big Sugar” (dir. Brian McKenna).

Stage credits include: “The Comedy of Errors” (dir. Peter Hinton NAC/Centaur), “Romeo and Juliet” (dir. Jean Asselin), “National Capital/e Nationale” (dir. Robert Lepage – NAC), “The Anger In Ernest and Ernestine” (dir. Alain Goulem), “The Tempest” (dir. D.D. Kugler), “The Brazilian” (dir. Micheline Chevrier). Ms.

Desormeaux’s work in improvisation and clown has led to the creation of new theatre and independent film works including “Rhythm In Your Rubbish” for Platypus Theatre, the critically acclaimed “Umloüt” ,and “MöcShplat” (clown-gibberish versions of Shakespeare’s Hamlet and Macbeth) and “Les aventures de Matante et Madame”. When left to her own devices, Ms. Desormeaux can be found jamming with her pals and cooking up a storm at her home in Montreal.

Wendy Rockburn – Stage Manager

Wendy Rockburn is an Ottawa-based stage manager with over 20 years in the business. She has worked in theatres mostly in eastern Canada, including The National Arts Centre and Great Canadian Theatre Company in Ottawa, Centaur Theatre in Montreal, Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Neptune Theatre in Halifax, and Canadian Stage and Tarragon in Toronto. She is also a world traveler and photographer, just returned from Ethiopia, having previously explored China, India, Kenya, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia, Turkey, Egypt and Morocco. The tremendous opportunity to work with the world-renowned Platypus Theatre is a wonderful meld of these two loves.