

A WORLD PREMIERE KENNEDY CENTER COMMISSION

ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S



WE ARE IN A PLAY!

Based on the *Elephant & Piggie* books by Mo Willems

Script and lyrics by Mo Willems ★ Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma ★ Directed by Jerry Whiddon

Music direction by George Fulginiti-Shakar ★ Choreographed by Jessica Hartman

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THE STORY OF TWO BEST FRIENDS

It's a typical day in the life of best friends Gerald and Piggie. What possibly could go wrong?

A Lucky Ducky Performance

Welcome to a big event for our favorite pig and elephant! It's a big deal because the show *Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play!* is brand new and being performed for the first time anywhere. You should also know that Elephant and Piggie call the performance a "play." That's a story told on stage with actors, lights, and some stuff like toys. But this is a play with a little something extra—songs and music. And here's a little secret—sometimes a play with music is called a "musical." But no matter what you call it, let's learn more about what you'll see and hear.

What Happens in the Show

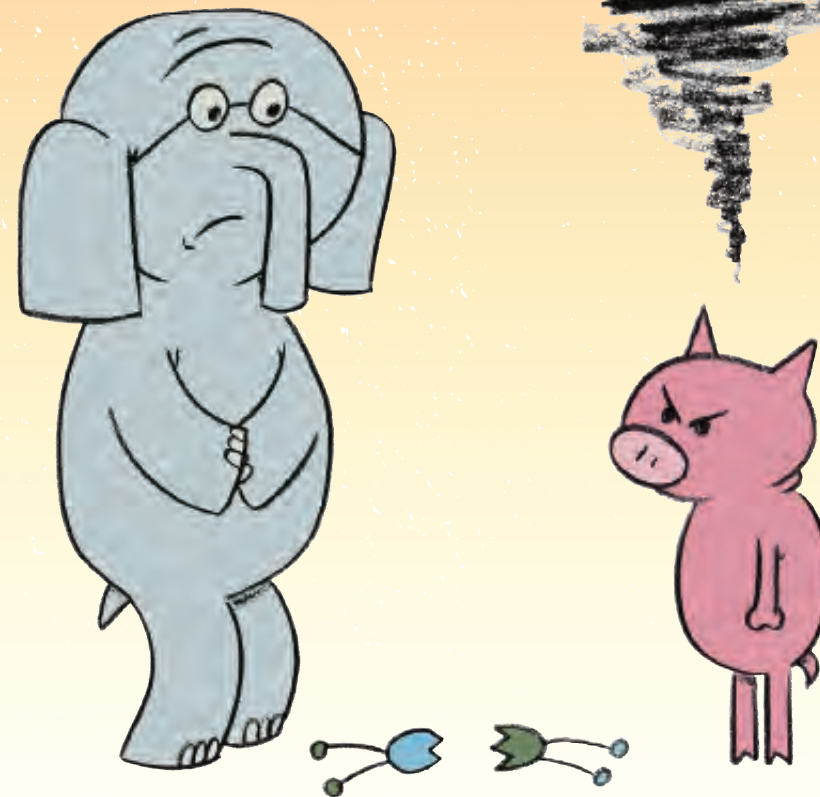
An elephant named Gerald and a pig named Piggie are best, best, "bestus" (a word Gerald and Piggie made up that means "very best") friends. But Gerald worries that something could go wrong that would end their friendship. Piggie is not worried at all. She's even happier and more excited than usual. That's because she and Gerald are invited to a party hosted by the Squirrelles, three singing squirrels who love to have a good time.

And so begins a day when *anything* is possible. Gerald and Piggie will solve problems together, sing and dance to music played by a band on stage, make each other laugh, share their favorite things, get mad and sad with each other, and even do a little goofing around with you, the audience. Wait until you see what they have in mind!

Gerald is careful. Piggie is playful. And that's just one of many differences you'll see in their personalities (how they behave). After the performance, think of other words to describe Gerald and Piggie's personalities. Who are you more like?



All illustrations © by Mo Willems



And Some Big Feelings

During the performance, Gerald and Piggie have strong emotions, or feelings—like joy, love, anger, worry, fear, sadness, and embarrassment (feeling uncomfortable with something you've done). Watch for ways these pals communicate their feelings through what they say, sing, or do.

A Big Idea

- You might not think that a serious elephant and a playful pig could be best friends—but Gerald and Piggie are. And friendship is one big idea in everything that these "besties" do together on stage. During the show, think about how two very different animals can be such good friends.
- For ideas, watch how they:

- ★ share
- ★ cooperate
- ★ joke around
- ★ help each other
- ★ forgive each other

After the performance, discuss with your family or friends what you think makes a good friend, and why.

A Word Predicament? Impossible!

Well, here's a predicament. There might be a few words in the performance that you don't know. Like predicament! That means a difficult situation. But don't worry, here's some help:

- ★ **Unintended consequences**—things that happen that surprise you
- ★ **Pachyderm** (PAK-i-durm)—a thick-skinned animal like an elephant or hippopotamus
- ★ **Swine**—a short-haired animal with a curly tail and hooves, like a pig
- ★ **Impossible**—a made-up word Gerald uses when he means not possible or impossible
- ★ **Contingency**—something that might happen
- ★ **Sty** (STEYE)—a fenced area, usually for pigs
- ★ **Manipulate**—to change what people do or the way something happens



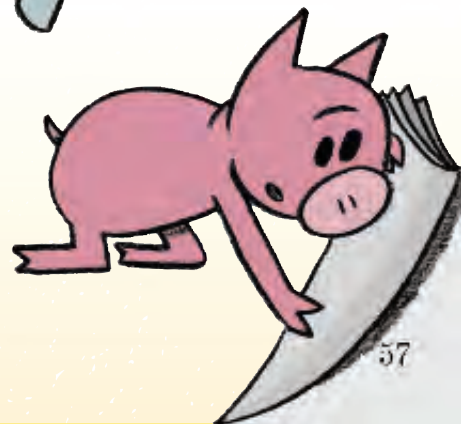
TELLING THE STORY ON STAGE

It Started with Books

Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play! began as a book—well, six books from the *Elephant & Piggie* series, to be exact. You might have read them, but if not, that's okay because you'll get the whole story and more at the performance. Mo Willems, the man who wrote the books and drew the pictures (which you can see in this *Cuesheet*), believed those stories could be told with actors performing and singing on stage. So, he wrote the dialogue (words spoken by the characters) and added new parts and characters, like the Squirrelles. He also wrote the lyrics (words) to the songs. The written play is called the *script*.



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The story of the play comes from these *Elephant & Piggie* books:

- I Am Invited to a Party!*
- Listen to My Trumpet!*
- I Am Going!*
- Should I Share My Ice Cream?*
- I Love My New Toy!*
- We Are in a Book!*

BUT...if you have read other *Elephant & Piggie* books, you just might see some ideas from a few other books, too! See whether you can tell which ones.

Meet Mo Willems

Mo Willems has written and drawn pictures for 20 *Elephant & Piggie* books so far, and lots of other books, too, like *Knuffle Bunny* and the *Pigeon* series. Mo says "When I was a kid, I wanted to draw and be funny." Today, Mo lives in Massachusetts with his family, and they like to draw together every night at dinnertime.

THE DRAWING BOARD

Try drawing your own Gerald or Piggie doing something new like meeting a new friend or trying an activity. Think of a short story and tell it to friends and family.



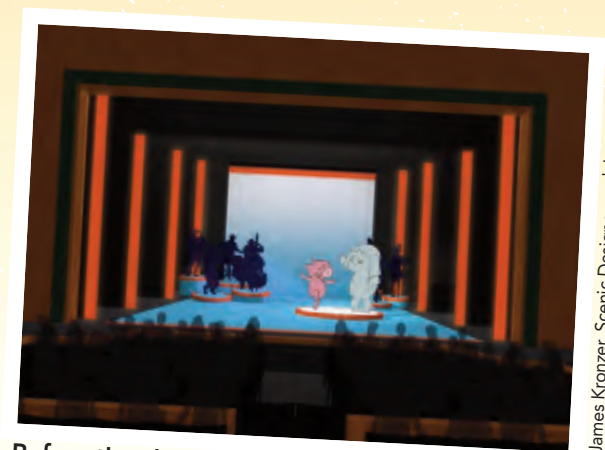
Bringing Gerald and Piggie's Story to Life

Although you won't see them on stage, a lot of people work very hard to create the world of Gerald and Piggie, including the:

- ★ **composer**, who writes the music
- ★ **director**, who guides the whole team
- ★ **choreographer**, who plans all the dance movements
- ★ **music director**, who directs the musical part of the performance
- ★ **set designer**, who decides how the stage will look
- ★ **lighting designer**, who plans how to use lights to help tell the story
- ★ **costume designer**, who plans what the performers wear
- ★ **stage manager**, who runs the show from behind the stage

Playing an Elephant and a Pig

It might be fun to have a real elephant and pig on stage. But you know what? It's way more fun to have people—actors—pretend to be Gerald, Piggie, and singing squirrels. Unlike animals, actors can talk, dance, and sing. To become their animal characters, the actors will change their voices and movements, and they will dress up, like in a gray suit for Gerald or a pink outfit for Piggie. All you have to do is remember to bring your imagination!



James Kronzer, Scenic Designer and Jeremy W. Foil, Associate Scenic Designer

Before they build anything, set designers draw their ideas on paper or on a computer. Here's a sneak peek at one of the *Elephant & Piggie* set designer's drawings.

DRESS UP

If you were the show's costume designer and had to use ordinary clothes for Gerald and Piggie, what items would you choose? Make a list or draw your ideas and share them with your friends and family.



THE MUSIC IN THE PERFORMANCE

What's in a Song?

The songs in *Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play!* tell you a lot about the characters and what's happening in the story. During the performance, watch and listen for how the performers communicate through their actions and lyrics when they sing these songs:

- "Lucky to See You!"
- "Swimy! Fancy!"
- "Don't Go"
- "Ice Cream Hero"
- "Ode to Toy"
- "Toy Breaker"
- "Elephant in the Room"
- "We're in a Play"
- "We'll Be Friends"
- "We've Been Lucky"

After the performance, discuss (and sing!) the music with family and friends—which songs made you happy? Sad? Why? Which song was your favorite?

RHYME TIME

During the songs, listen for rhyming words, like "Piggie" and "biggie," or "fear" and "dear," or soft rhymes of words that don't exactly match, like "prince" and "audience" or "imagine" and "having." To help you get warmed up, see whether you can fill in words for these parts of the song "Ode to Toy":

"It's my new **JOY**
This wondrous _____."

"So I will **PLAY**
Both night and _____."

Hmmm...

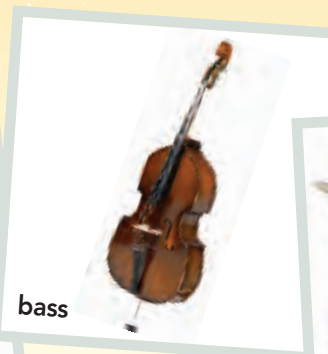


Know That Tune?

Listen carefully when Piggie sings about her new toy—does the music seem familiar? It sounds like "Ode to Joy," a popular piece of music written almost 200 years ago by Ludwig van Beethoven (LOOD-vig VAHN BAY-toh-vin). You might have heard it in concerts, commercials, television shows, or movies. If you like Piggie's song, ask a grownup to help you listen to Beethoven's version after the performance.



piano



bass



drums



clarinet



alto saxophone

Here Comes the Band

Four musicians called Dr. Cat and the Bear-a-tones will play at least five instruments right on stage and be part of the fun. Let's meet some of the instruments:

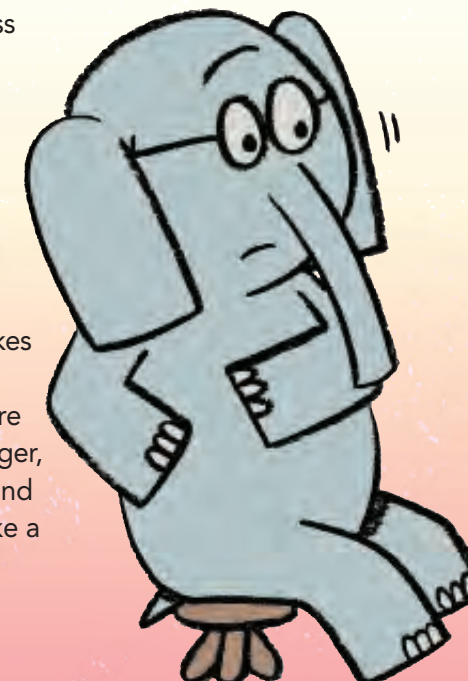
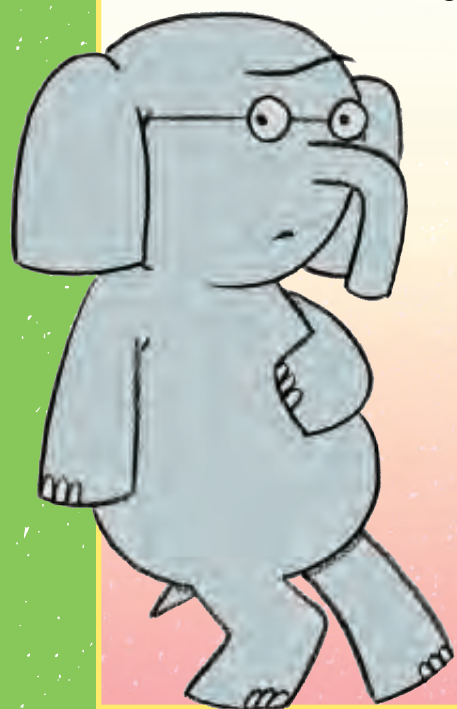
The **piano** is a keyboard instrument. Pianists make sound by pressing the keys, which cause small hammers inside the instrument to strike the steel strings and make them vibrate.

The **bass** is made of wood with metal strings. It is large (usually about six feet tall!) and has a very low sound. Musicians often stand or sit on a tall stool and play the bass using a bow (a wooden stick strung with a tight ribbon of horsehair) or by plucking the strings with their fingers.

The **drums** are percussion instruments that make sounds when hit, shaken, rubbed, scraped, or any action that makes all or parts of the instrument vibrate. The set includes a snare drum (a rat-a-tat sound); a bigger, bass drum (a deeper sound); and cymbals (brass plates that make a crashing sound).

The **clarinet** and **saxophone** are woodwind instruments played by blowing air across a reed (a thin strip of woody grass). The sound changes as the player presses down on different keys to create different notes. You'll see the musician play three types of saxophones—the alto (pictured above), tenor, and baritone—which differ slightly in their shapes and sounds.

And keep an eye out for the **trumpet**, a brass instrument that Piggie will try to play.



BE YOUR "BESTUS" DURING THE PERFORMANCE

Watch for...

- ★ a swimming pool
- ★ how the Squirrelles sometimes play other characters in the story, like a penguin
- ★ props, or objects used on stage, like an ice cream cone and a toy
- ★ how the lights and music change to show slow motion
- ★ the Flippy Floppy Floory dance (hint: you'll need it later in the show)

Listen for the...

- ★ sound of Piggie and Gerald's trumpeting
- ★ different sounds of the musical instruments
- ★ special magic word Gerald and Piggie use for "please"

Want to learn more about the
Elephant & Piggie performance?

Join us online at
<http://goo.gl/cCQJnj>



A special message for you, the audience ...

You are invited to have the "bestus" time at the show.
To do that, please be sure to be the "bestus" audience ever.

Here's how:

Stay seated,
Stay quiet unless Gerald and Piggie need your help,
Don't eat,
Listen and watch so you don't get into a predicament,
Clap at the end,
And have fun!



Yay!



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