## BRINGING PRE-SCHOOLERS TO THE THEATRE FOR THE FIRST TIME!

The creators wanted to develop a show that would appeal to a very young audience that has never been exposed to the performing arts. Our performers handle the children's particular needs and their spontaneous reactions with equal ease!

We suggest you have a chat with the children you are accompanying before you head out to the theatre, to tell them something along the following lines:



"GOING TO THE THEATRE IS A BIT LIKE GOING TO THE LIBRARY: YOU HAVE TO TALK VERY QUIETLY. ONCE WE'RE INSIDE AND EVERYBODY IS SITTING DOWN, THE LIGHTS IN THE CEILING WILL BE SLOWLY TURNED OFF AND, AT THE SAME TIME, THE LIGHTS ON THE STAGE WILL COME ON. YOU ARE NOW SPECTATORS. WHEN THE SHOW STARTS, YOU WILL NEED TO STAY IN YOUR SEATS AND WATCH QUIETLY. IT'S A SPECIAL MOMENT. I WILL BE THERE TO WATCH THE SHOW TOO, JUST LIKE YOU. WHEN THE SHOW IS OVER, WE WILL CLAP OUR HANDS TO SHOW THAT WE LIKED IT AND THEN WE WILL GO TO MEET THE ACTORS."







The performers on stage are always delighted to see the youngsters' interest and enthusiasm. During the show, the children are free to express themselves; we simply ask that they do not disturb the other spectators or go on the stage. If a child has a pressing need that requires leaving the theatre, you may certainly accompany them; you can come back in anytime! Our performers are not fazed when a child stands up, needs to say something to an adult, or even starts to cry during the show.

We ask that you pay close attention to the show so that if the children turn towards you, they will see that you are fully engaged and direct their attention back to the stage. By all means acknowledge their reactions and comments, but we prefer that you do not carry on a discussion or point out something specific on the stage. You will see from their spontaneous responses what aspects of the performance particularly thrilled, intrigued or captivated them.

We hope that the show will be an enjoyable and touching experience for you too. It doesn't tell one story but many, which overlap and intertwine in the songs, nursery rhymes, and poems, and through the aural and visual elements.

An artistic performance strikes a chord with everyone, whether child or adult. Every spectator perceives it differently, depending on their age, their sensitivity and their life experience; they feel and interpret what they see in their own personal way. After the show is over, you can quiz the children on what impressed them the most; if some don't have a ready answer, remind them of what made them react, to see how they respond. Some children won't want to talk about the show, since "once it's over, it's over!" They may, however, feel like doing a drawing about it and discuss it with you later on. Whether they talk about the show or not, the images will remain imprinted on their mind. It could also be that you'll hear one of the youngsters sing a nursery rhyme or play-act like the performers a few days or even a few weeks after the show!

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING THIS SPECIAL TIME WITH YOU!