CORBIAN and LIGHTWIRE THEATER PRESENT

The Ugly Duckling

PARAMOUNT THEATRE
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2017 • AUSTIN, TEXAS
The Ugly Duckling

In an age when technology seems to provide many distractions, Lightwire Theater brings the classic tale of The Ugly Duckling to the modern stage in an unforgettable theatrical experience.

CREATED BY:
Ian Carney & Corbin Popp

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER:
Ian Carney

COMPANY MANAGER:
Eleanor Carney

TOUR MANAGER, ENSEMBLE:
Tyler Scifres

ENSEMBLE:
Elizabeth Wiltscher, Ian Blanco, Devin Hatch

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
Barry Mendelson

Lightwire Theater has been featured as the winner of Tru TV’s Fake Off (Season One), semi-finalists on America’s Got Talent (Season 7) and as finalist on TF1’s The Best Le Meilleur Artiste in Paris.

Internationally recognized for their signature brand of electroluminescent artistry and poignant storytelling, Lightwire Theater is based in New Orleans and continues to create and deliver innovative theatrical experiences to audiences worldwide including: Hong Kong, Taipei, Estonia, Canada, Russia, Europe, Belarus, China and Abu Dhabi.

Mendelson Entertainment Group proudly manages and represents Lightwire Theater.

Ian and Eleanor Carney were both born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana and met at the age of 13, through ballet class. Their successful dancing careers took them to New York, and it was on Broadway when Ian met co-creator, Corbin Popp, while dancing in Twyla Tharp’s Movin’ Out. An immediate connection was made as they discovered their shared love of art, theater and technology. After coming across a product called, “EL wire,” the lights turned on and the possibilities seemed endless. Together, with their wives Eleanor and Whitney, they began to experiment with shapes and designs to develop puppetry-based neon creatures that quickly came to life. They were joined by Corbin and Whitney Popp to found Lightwire Theater which you saw today here in Austin, Texas!
Final Thoughts

What was the moral or lesson of the story?

In The Ugly Duckling, the duckling gets very sad when people make fun of him for being different. How could you re-write the story to make things better for the duckling?

What are ways you can make somebody feel better if they are feeling sad or left out?

Draw a picture of yourself being a good friend to the duckling.
Duck, Duck, Swan

Can you figure out whether these animal facts are about a duck or a swan?

Circle your answers

Which one is larger? Duck or Swan
Which ones’ males are called drakes? Duck or Swan
Which ones’ males are called cobs? Duck or Swan
Which ones are known for their long necks? Duck or Swan
Which ones mate for life? Duck or Swan
Which ones don’t have teeth? Duck or Swan

Egg-cellent Counting

Did you know that swan eggs are much larger than duck eggs?

How many swan eggs do you count in the nest? _________
How many duck eggs? _________
How many eggs are there total? _________
Although a prolific writer of plays, travelogues, novels, and poems, Hans Christian Andersen is best remembered for his fairy tales. Andersen’s fairy tales have been translated into more than 125 languages. His stories have inspired ballets, animated and live-action films and plays like the one you saw today!

Take a look at some of Hans Christian Andersen’s most well-known stories. Circle the ones you’ve read.

*The Ugly Duckling* is an old fairy tale that has been retold in many ways. In today’s show you saw a very unique interpretation performed by dancers and glow in the dark puppets. The story won’t always be said aloud, so you have to figure out what is going on by the movement on stage. Below is the version of *The Ugly Duckling* you saw when you watched the play.

**Fill in the Blanks**  
Using the words above, fill in the blanks to complete the story.

There once were five eggs in the _________ of Mother Duck.

Out came four baby ____________.

When the fifth egg hatched, he looked ____________ than the other ducks.

Because he looked different, he was rejected and made fun of. He was so sad, he went out into the wilderness alone and ____________.

While in the wilderness, the ugly duckling saw a ____________ creeping in the direction of Mother Duck’s nest.

The ugly duckling followed and watched as one lagging duckling was ____________ and taken back to the cat’s lair.

The ugly duckling is a ____________ because he saved the captured duckling.

Mother Duck and her ducklings celebrated the ugly duckling for his heroism. They all realized that he may have been an ugly duckling, but he had grown into a beautiful and powerful ____________.
How It Works

Through art, science, and technology, the characters of The Ugly Duckling come to life! All the puppets are outlined with electroluminescent wire, or EL wire, which glows in the dark.

1. Copper in the middle of the EL wire conducts electricity, letting it travel from one place to another.

2. A material called phosphor surrounds the copper wire. The phosphor glows when electricity runs through the wire.

3. A colored plastic tube surrounds the phosphor and copper, completing the EL wire.

4. When the EL wire is attached to a power source, such as a battery, it glows! A battery pack that powers the EL wires is hidden on each creature in the show.
Creating the Show

First the team drew what they wanted the animal to look like.

Then they made the puppet with a helmet and EL wire.

Then they put it on and started to rehearse.

And this is what it looks like when it is finished.

What kind of animal would you want to make a puppet of?

Draw a picture of your animal here →
2016-2017 Paramount Theatre
Discovery Series

Love That Dog
By Theatergroep Kwatta
April 9, 2017 • Paramount Theatre

Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won’t stop giving her class poetry assignments - and Jack can’t avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say.

With a fresh and deceptively simple style, acclaimed author Sharon Creech tells a story with enormous heart. Written as a series of free-verse poems from Jack’s point of view, Love That Dog by Dutch Theatre company Theatergroep Kwatta, shows how one boy finds his own voice with the help of a teacher, a writer, a pencil, some yellow paper, and of course, a dog.

Tickets: AustinTheatre.org or (512) 474-1221

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