



Walton Arts Center

# Performance Guide



Photo Credit: Peter Mathew

*The island of Proud Circle springs a leak and its citizens must find a way to stop their home from disappearing. It takes the creativity of a child to save the island, its people and their culture. Part play and part picture book, *You and Me and the Space Between* offers a magical story of an adventurous child through captivating storytelling. The paper set is cut, ripped, patched and manipulated live to create the world of play before the audience's eyes. Terrapin Theatre from Tasmania returns to Walton Arts Center with a tale of environmental change by noted playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer.*

#### Ideas for Curriculum Connections:

Arkansas Learning Standards: RL.3.2, RL.4.2, RL.5.2; RL.3.6, RL.4.6, RL.5.6; SL.3.1, SL.4.1, SL.5.1; SL.3.4, SL.4.4, SL.5.4; SL.3.5, SL.4.5, SL.5.5; L.3.3, L.4.3, L.5.3. Fine Arts Standards Theatre: CR.1.3.1, CR.1.4.1, CR.1.5.1; CR.2.3.2, CR.2.4.2, CR.2.5.2; R.7.3.1, R.7.4.1; R.9.3.1, R.9.4.1; R.9.3.3, R.9.4.3; CN.11.3.2, CN.11.4.2; CR.1.5.1; CR.3.5.1; R.7.5.1; R.8.5.1; CN.11.5.3. Theatre Appreciation: CR.1.TA.3; CR.2.TA.2; P.4.TA.1; P.4.TA.4; P.4.TA.5; P.4.TA.6; R.7.TA.3; R.7.TA.4; R.8.TA.1; R.8.TA.2; R.9.TA.1; R.9.TA.2; CN.11.TA.4; CN.11.TA.5; CN.11.TA.7.





Photo Credit: Elise Derwin

## The Story

In the ocean stood an island. At its sides were the sea, and the tides found its top and its tail. This land was so small, and this ocean so large, that the people who lived there just saw a vast blue, beyond that which they knew, and never even thought of what might be out there. But one did. On the island, in a house, on a hill, grew a girl. And she knew what she was told: that this island held all that there was. But still she found herself wondering, about all that there wasn't – things that weren't facts, but were maybes, and could-bes, and ifs. Could there be another place, say, where the stars right above her could be seen from the left, but the ones to her right could be looked at straight up? So when her island one day sprang a leak, she and her people, they went to find out.

Part picture book, part play and all wonder, this funny and heroic story from one of Australia's finest playwrights for children, Finegan Kruckemeyer, is brought to life through narration, music and live drawings that emerge in large scale on a paper set.

## The Company

Established for over 34 years, Terrapin is the center of excellence for contemporary puppetry in Australia, creating puppetry-based performances for all ages. Telling sophisticated stories of humor and pathos, the company embraces new technologies while remaining true to

the wonder and illusion resident in the age-old craft of puppetry. In its productions, the company aims to inspire children and their families by encouraging them to express the power of their collective imagination through inventive play with the objects and devices that surround them.

Terrapin has created over 70 productions that have premiered in Tasmania. The company has toured across Australia as well as internationally.

## Islands and Climate Change

An island is any piece of land that is surrounded by water. Climate change is producing drastic changes to Earth processes and changing Earth's environmental status quo. Especially pertinent to human development is the threat of climate change on island nations. As sea levels continue to rise, island peoples and cultures are being threatened. As the former President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Christopher Loeak, noted "In the last year alone, my country has suffered through unprecedented droughts in the north, and the biggest ever king tides in the south; and we have watched the most devastating typhoons in history leave a trail of death and destruction across the region."<sup>1</sup>

1. Loeak, Christopher Jorebon. "A Clarion Call From the Climate Change Frontline." The Huffington Post. TheHuffingtonPost.com, n.d. Web. 28 Jan. 2016. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-jorebon-loeak/a-clarion-call-from-the-c\\_b\\_5833180.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-jorebon-loeak/a-clarion-call-from-the-c_b_5833180.html)



# Learning Activities

## Social Activity

Be as philosophical or literal as the class needs with this discussion. Start at any point and if they take you in a different direction, go with it, for as long as you feel comfortable.

Use the following questions as a guide. As a whole class or in small groups discuss the following:

- Eve's home was in trouble. What happened to Eve's home?
- What would you do if your home "sprung a leak?"
- Where would you go?
- Would you go?
- Would you go together or by yourself?
- Would you seek help from other people?
- What if they weren't the same as you?
- What if they didn't speak the same language?
- Would you try to learn their language and teach them some of your language?
- Would this be hard? Would you give up? Would you persevere?
- Have you ever lived "somewhere else"?
- How did you feel when you were living somewhere else?
- If you haven't lived anywhere else would you like to?
- Where would you like to live?

## Drawing Activity

During the performance, there is an illustrator who quickly draws as the story is being told. Read the following excerpt from the *You and Me and the Space Between*. As you read, ask students to "draw what you see in your imagination." They don't have to draw everything and ask them to not erase, just keep drawing.

*Ahead of us, rising high above the distant waves, was a huge cliff-face. And on top of it, were square houses. In some places though, they looked tall, like someone had thought to put twenty houses on top of each other, with shiny windows climbing all the way up. They twinkled sunlight out to us at sea and we had to squint to look at them. As we got closer, we noticed little things moving quickly on the surface. They looked like tiny houses too, with windows and doors on each side – but wheels beneath. They were only bed-sized though, so maybe they were for people who have to go somewhere but also want to have a snooze when they arrive. It was a good invention.*

*In the air, the strangest giant birds lived, with four wings above their heads that turned in the fastest circles. They passed low, shaking the air so all our hats flew off.*

Once the drawings are finished, add color to them. Display them as a group along with the stories. As a class discussion, ask students to explain what they thought about this activity; is it hard to draw quickly?

Photo Credit: Peter Mathew



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### Reflect and Assess

Ask the following questions. Record the group's answers on the board and discuss.

- What did you notice about *You and Me and the Space Between*?
- Describe the characters. Who were they? What were they doing? Why?
- What did you like most about the live performance? The live narration? Illustration? Set? Music?
- Would you have performed the story differently? How?
- How did the live illustrator help tell the story?
- How did the performance make you feel?
- How did the story make you feel?
- What moment in do you remember most?

### Learn More Online

Terrapin Puppet Theatre

[www.terrapin.org.au/](http://www.terrapin.org.au/)

*A Clarion Call From the Climate Change Frontline*

[www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-jorebon-loeak/a-clarion-call-from-the-c\\_b\\_5833180.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-jorebon-loeak/a-clarion-call-from-the-c_b_5833180.html)

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Learning & Engagement

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