



krannert center

YOUTH SERIES

CELEBRATING
35 YEARS

IMAGO THEATRE

LA BELLE, LOST IN THE WORLD OF THE AUTOMATON



COLLEGE OF
FINE + APPLIED
ARTS



ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Imago Theatre founders Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad are physical comedians, theatrical animators, modern-day magicians, and adventurous alchemists. For over 35 years, their Portland-based theatre company has been creating a vast repertoire of boundary-blurring productions that defy categorization. Imago Theatre populates stages with characters and beings such as comedic amphibians, acrobatic larvae, circus boulders, and metamorphosing humans in works that tantalize the senses, the intellect, and the passions. Imago Theatre's repertoire is as vast as the forms they shape. With commissions for stage, film, and television, Imago blurs the lines of the expected to break new ground, exploding performance boundaries yet maintaining humor and humanity.

ABOUT LA BELLE

La Belle, Lost in the World of the Automaton, is set aboard a 1920s steamship where the refined Lady Rose encounters the ship's coal stoker, Sam, after taking refuge in the engine room during a storm. Rose discovers a curious collection of trunks and treasures and soon realizes that Sam has constructed the 1740 French fairy tale *La Belle et la Bête* (*Beauty and the Beast*) in the world of the automata (fanciful figurines brought to life by the ingenuity of clockwork mechanics). As they retell the story together, love blossoms in the midst of a whimsical, non-stop, gear-driven, kinetic world featuring over 100 astonishingly detailed automata, puppets, and non-digital dazzling effects.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Sam Stoker
Lady Rose

Characters in *La Belle et la Bête*

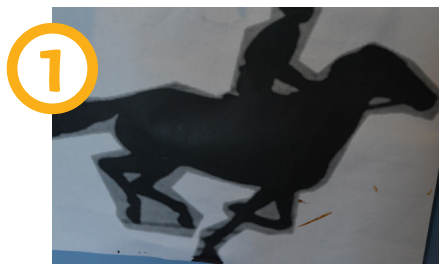
Belle
The Beast
Baptiste, Belle's father
Belle's sisters and brothers
The Blue Fairy
The King
Envy, a wicked fairy
Gilda, a good fairy

This season we invite school communities to explore the performing arts through a selection of topics that reveal the IMPACT of the Arts for Youth.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ARTS
MEANING AND CULTURAL CONTEXT
PRODUCTION
ART-MAKING AND CREATIVITY
CAREERS
TRAINING

P IS FOR PRODUCTION (AND PUPPETS!)

In this play, you will see many different styles of puppets, masks, and automata used to tell the story. Each puppet is created through a process starting with ideas about who a character is, working with sketches and models, and constructing the final puppets used on stage.



1 A reference image for Baptiste on horseback.



2 Constructing the movement mechanisms.



3 Imago Artistic Co-Director Jerry Mouawad works on sculpting the horse.



4 Adding Baptiste and making adjustments.



5 The figures are painted.



6 Jim Vadala (as Sam Stoker), holding the completed piece.

FAIRY TALES

Bewitched silverware, beastly princes, sorcerers-in-disguise, and talking furniture—you might find any of these elements in a fairy tale. Fairy tales are part of the folklore traditions in many cultures, often set "Once upon a time" and sometimes with a moral lesson. It's believed that some fairy tale stories date all the way back to the Bronze Age, more than 6000 years ago! Because they exist in so many cultures and have been shared by so many people, often, different versions of the same story arise.

Imago Theatre's *La Belle* is based on an 18th-century fairy tale from France.

Have you seen another version of this story? Perhaps a cartoon or live-action version?

How was this version different or the same?

What lessons might be learned from the story?

Where would you set your own version of *La Belle*? In a castle? On a desert island? How else can you re-imagine this classic tale?

ACTIVITY: MAKE YOUR OWN PUPPET

With a small group of your classmates, choose a character from a story you love and design two different puppets for this character. Begin by doing research, and asking lots of questions: Where does your character come from? How would this person move? Is this person athletic, clumsy, nervous, graceful, or frail? How would he style his hair? What kind of clothing would she have?

Now that you know a bit more about this character, make some drawings or find images that show these ideas.

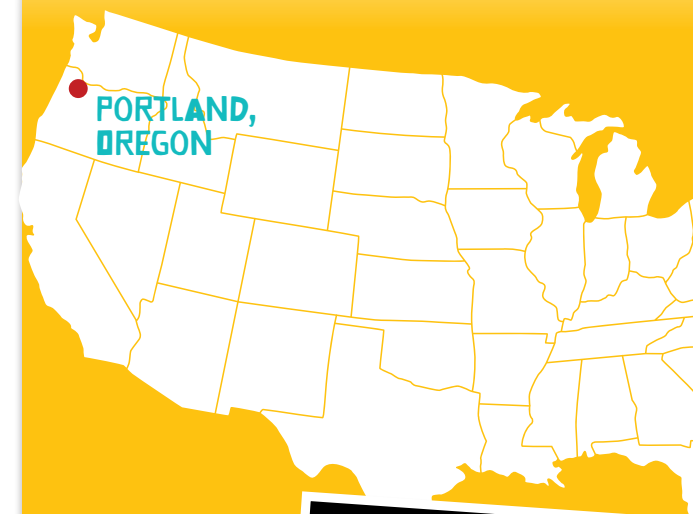
Choose two different styles of puppet (ideas below) and construct your puppets.

Finger puppet, shadow puppet, stick puppet,
hand puppet (use socks or paper bags)

What aspects of each style of puppet do you like?

ON THE MAP

IMAGO THEATRE IS FROM . . .



IMAGO
THEATRE
IN PORTLAND



PORTLAND SITS
AT THE BASE
OF MT. HOOD



CITY LIGHTS
AT DUSK



La Belle, Lost in the World of the Automaton

Written by Carol Triffle, Jerry Mouawad,
and Devin Stinson

Inspired by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot
de Villeneuve's *La Belle et l'bête*
(*Beauty and the Beast*), written in 1740
Imago appears by arrangement with
Opus 3 Artists.

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 10am

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 10am
and 12:30pm**

Colwell Playhouse

Approximately 75 minutes

Recommended for grades 3-8

Public Performance

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 7pm

Patron Sponsors

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GREENING THE ARTS

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to the performances of *La Belle* on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

www.champaign.org | www.urbanafreelibrary.org

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE, FEBRUARY 6-7, 2018

Drop in for a self-guided interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides in each room will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students, tied to the themes of *La Belle* performances. The Spurlock Museum also has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at ksheahan@illinois or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

