NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED
THE ROCK EXPERIENCE

FEB 1 – 17, 2019

SCRIPT AND LYRICS BY MO WILLEMS
BASED ON THE BOOK NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED BY MO WILLEMS
MUSIC BY DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA DIRECTED BY CASEY STANGL

Character art © Mo Willems
Be sure to check out our website for the *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* study guide, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources. [scr.org](http://scr.org)

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The Cast

Wilbur J. Mole Rat, Jr. .................... DANIEL BELLUSCI
Grande ................................. MELODY BUTIUI
Venti ................................. MARQELL EDWARD CLAYTON
Tall ................................. NICOLE COWANS
Weather Mole/Potential Customer/ Secret Service Mole ....................... GINA D’ACCIARO
Stark Naked/Grand-Pah ................... JOEL GELMAN

For Your Information

NO BABES IN ARMS ALLOWED. Everyone must have a ticket; children under the age of four will not be admitted to Theatre for Young Audiences performances.

To cause the least disruption, SCR patrons who have not entered the theatre when the performance begins will be asked to watch the show on lobby monitors until an appropriate break in the performance. Latecomers, as well as those who leave the theatre anytime during the performance, may be assisted to alternate seats by the House Manager at an appropriate interval and may take their assigned seats at intermission. SCR accepts no liability for inconvenience.

Special seating arrangements may be made in advance for disabled patrons by calling South Coast Repertory’s Ticket Services Department at (714) 708-5555.

As a courtesy to all patrons and the actors, please turn off all electronic devices or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins. Photographing, videotaping or other video or audio recording during the performance is strictly prohibited.

These folks help bring all of our shows to life

PAULA TOMEI
Managing Director

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON
Founding Artistic Directors

JOHN GLORE
Associate Artistic Director

BIL SCHROEDER
Marketing & Communications Director

LORI MONNIER
General Manager

SUSAN C. REEDER
Development Director

JOSHUA MARCHESE
Production Manager

These folks are helping run this show backstage

DRAMATURG: Andy Knight
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Katie Chidester
ASSISTANT TO THE LIGHTING DESIGNER: Jake Brinkman
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Amber Goebel
COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT: Rome Fore
STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS:
Lauren Buangian, Ruby (RJ) Patchell
LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Sean Deuel

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR: Jim Busker
SOUND ASSISTANT: Abraham Lopez
AUTOMATION OPERATOR: Marissa Putnick
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR/ DRESSER: Rebecca Clayten
ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF:
Kaitlyn Kaufman, Erik Lawrence, Tessa Oberle, Sarah Timm
HOUSE MANAGER: Ashleigh Hector

And these folks helped get it ready for you

THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY
Jon Lagerquist, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
John Gaddis IV, ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
Matt MacCready, MASTER CARPENTER
Daniel Petrich, Eric Crider, SCENIC CARPENTER
Alex Johnson, AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN
Judy Allen, LEAD SCENIC ARTIST
Jennifer Soinxfellow, Terra Wintz, SCENIC ARTISTS
THESE PEOPLE CREATED PROPS
David Sawtell, PROP MASTER/ PROPERTY SHOP MANAGER
Molly Thout, ASSISTANT PROP MASTER/ SOFT GOODS ARTISAN
Byron Bacon, PROPS BUYER
THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES
Amy L. Hutto, COSTUME SHOP MANAGER
Laurie Donati, FULL CHARGE COSTUMER
Catherine J. Esera, CUTTER/DRAPER
Jyll Christolini, WARDROBE SUPERVISOR
THESE PEOPLE FIXED THE HAIR
Allison Lowey, WIG & MAKE UP SUPERVISOR
Gillian Woodson, HAIR & MAKEUP TECHNICIAN
THIS GROUP DEALT WITH LIGHTS & SOUND
Mike Ritchey, SOUND & VIDEO SUPERVISOR
Kara Ramlow, LIGHTING SUPERVISOR
Sean Deuel, KEARNAK PARVAZ, STAGE ELECTRICIANS
Jamie Luperchio, Jim Busker, SOUND ENGINEERS
Did you know that naked mole-rats live in underground tunnels in the deserts of East Africa?

By working together, a colony of naked mole-rats can construct a series of tunnels as big as six football fields.

Songs

“Naked Rules!” ................................. Ensemble
“Time to Get Dressed” ......................... Wilbur, Ensemble
“Scandal!” ................................. Grande, Tall, Venti, Wilbur
“Hats and More!” ............................ Wilbur, H&M Singers
“Grand Power Jam” .......................... Secret Service Mole, Grande, Venti, Tall, Wilbur
“Proclamation” ............................ Venti, Grande, Tall, Wilbur, Ensemble
“Should I Get Dressed?” ..................... Wilbur
“Why Not?” .................................. Grand-Pah, Wilbur, Ensemble
“Fashion Show Finale” ..................... Grand-Pah, Wilbur, Ensemble
The Naked Truth

…But wait! There’s a twist—three of them aren’t true. Can you spot the three fake facts and cross them out?

1. They can live without oxygen for nearly 20 minutes.
2. Their favorite food is spaghetti with meatballs.
3. Every naked mole-rat colony has a queen. She is the only one to bear children.
4. They don’t drink water. Instead, they get most of their hydration from eating roots and tubers.
5. They can live for more than 30 years.
6. All naked mole-rats drive hybrid cars to work.
7. Naked mole-rats use large teeth, located in front of their lips, for digging. They can move these teeth independently—sort of like chopsticks.
8. In order to take in extra nutrients, they occasionally eat their own poop.
9. They are excellent chess players.
10. They lack pain sensitivity in their skin.

Naked mole-rats are amazing little creatures. Check out these unbelievable facts about the species below…

Photo courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

Answer key: 2, 6 and 9 are false. First, naked mole-rats are vegetarians (so they wouldn't even like meatballs). Second, they don’t know how to drive. And third, they’re probably not very good at chess.
**DANIEL BELLUSCI** (Wilbur J. Mole Rat, Jr.)
I started acting in the 8th grade and my early mentors and drama teachers were hugely influential to me. They helped me find and cultivate a love for theatre, as well as develop an early sense of professionalism. And because I really love music, performing in musicals quickly became one of my favorite things. Since finishing school, I’ve performed in many musicals including Ella Enchanted and Nate the Great here at South Coast Repertory. I got to play Prince Charmont and Nate, a cool kid-detective. I had so much fun getting to share those stories. When I’m not performing, I love to read and play the piano.

**MELODY BUTIU** (Grande)
Hello, friends! You may remember me as Sally, Toy Lady and Scavenger in the most recent production of A Christmas Carol. I was also in the musical Ivy + Bean and played Junie B. Jones in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells! I studied theatre in college and graduate school at the University of California San Diego. I performed on Broadway in Doctor Zhivago and off-Broadway in a crazy-fun disco musical, Here Lies Love, by David Byrne (most grownups know him from the band, Talking Heads) at The Public Theater. When I did Shipwrecked! An Entertainment here at SCR, I played a mother, a sea captain, a native girl and an octopus expert—all in one play! I also played a genius flying-robot creator in The Intelligent Design of Jenny Chow. I live in Manhattan Beach and love to do beach clean-ups and collect sea glass. I’ve done shows across the country and even around the world. On TV, you might have seen me in “The Kominsky Method,” “NCIS: LA,” “Rizzoli & Isles,” “Gotham,” “Modern Family” and “Melissa & Joey.” Thank you, Alan, for your love and support. Follow me on Instagram: @mellowdeebee

**MARQELL EDWARD CLAYTON** (Venti)
Thanks for coming! I’m Marqell and I love pizza—I literally could eat it every day. I’m originally from the Central Valley (Modesto) and began singing at church when I was 4; shortly after, I began acting and singing at school and locally. After high school, I studied in the BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) program at Cal State Fullerton, just up the street. While in college, I really enjoyed working at Disneyland and making all sorts of ‘magic.’ Since college I’ve had fun performing throughout the LA area and most recently in Toronto, Canada, as a replacement in the pre-Broadway tour of Ain’t Too Proud. I’m pumped to be making my SCR debut and hope you’ll say “hello” after the show! Words I live by: “What you do today affects tomorrow.” You can find me on IG: @marqelledwardclayton—or at marqelledwardclayton.com

**NICOLE COWANS** (Tall)
I received my MFA in drama from the University of California, Irvine, where I studied various forms of theatrical expression, such as acting, singing, clowning, masking, dance and much more. As an international Afro-Latina performing artist, I speak both English and Spanish fluently, which makes it possible for me to connect with all kinds of amazing people. In my free time, I love to watch cartoons, make lots of organizational lists, spend time with my family and cuddle with my three little dogs. I’m over the moon to be performing with South Coast Repertory for the very first time!

**GINA D’ACCIARO** (Weather Mole/ Potential Customer/Secret Service Mole)
I’ve played a dog and a cat and now, I get to play a RAT—naked mole-rat, that is! This is my second show at SCR and I’m thrilled to be back! My last name is pronounced DUH-CHAIR-O and I’m originally from Philadelphia. I sing in a gospel choir, we’re very loud and it’s a lot of fun. You may have seen us this holiday season on TV in an Old Navy commercial—we were singing and dancing in sweaters. Also, this past April I became a newlywed! My husband and I have duets on iTunes under Jaq-n-Gina if you want to hear us. We love to sing songs and make music videos together while we travel. We also perform a bunch at Rockwell Table & Stage in Los Feliz. I hope you enjoy the show! Much love to my new hubby and our doggies! IG: @jaqngina

**JOEL GELMAN** (Stark Naked/Grand-Pah)
My brother and I always loved making each other laugh! Then we figured out we could make other people laugh, too—usually by doing funny voices and falling on our bums. I’ve done a number of fun voices and crazy dances here at SCR in The Light Princess, Ella Enchanted, Pride and Prejudice and Sense and Sensibility. I’ve also done some silly roles on TV, including a terrible medical student on “Henry Danger” and a confused homebuyer on “Modern Family.” I can’t wait to laugh along with you today!!
MO WILLEMS (Author) I am a number one New York Times best-selling author and illustrator and have been awarded a Caldecott Honor three times (for Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!, Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale and Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity). My book Don’t Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! was an inaugural inductee into the Indies Choice Picture Book Hall of Fame. My Elephant & Piggie early reader series books have been awarded two Theodor Seuss Geisel Medals (for There Is a Bird on Your Head! and Are You Ready to Play Outside?) and five Geisel Honors (for We Are in a Book!, I Broke My Trunk!, Let’s Go for a Drive!, A Big Guy Took My Ball!, and Waiting Is Not Easy!). I began my career as a writer and animator on “Sesame Street” where I garnered my first Emmy for my minimal, rock ’n’ roll strobes. I love watching all the talented kids. But, even though I loved to sing and dance, I didn’t want to be a performer when I grew up. I liked seeing how everything got put together, and I imagined whole shows in my head, so I became a director. That means I choose who will be in the play, work with designers to help create the sets and costumes and help the actors create their characters. I like being the person out front, taking it all in and knowing that I helped to make it happen!

CASEY STANGL (Director/Choreographer) I studied dance in the first grade and got to be on TV! That was in Iowa, on “Bill Riley’s Talent Search.” Each week, kids performed on the show and, if they won, got $25 and the chance to compete at the Iowa State Fair. I made it to the state fair several years in a row and loved watching all the talented kids. But, even though I loved to sing and dance, I didn’t want to be a performer when I grew up. I liked seeing how everything got put together, and I imagined whole shows in my head, so I became a director. That means I choose who will be in the play, work with designers to help create the sets and costumes and help the actors create their characters. I like being the person out front, taking it all in and knowing that I helped to make it happen!

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA (Music & Musical Director) I am a composer and music director who loves working at SCR, where you might have seen my musicals Ella Enchanted and Jane of the Jungle. I have been writing shows for kids and grown-ups for more than 20 years, including Elephant and Piggie: We Are in a Play! at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; Einstein is a Dummy at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, Ga.; and Ferdinand the Bull at Imagination Stage, Md. I started playing piano, singing and writing songs when I was nine and went on to study music at Stanford University and New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. My friends and I had a rock band in high school called Technical Difficulty, and, although we never made it big, I still love to rock out and sing loudly in the car with my husband and three daughters. Check out my website: crunchynotes.com.

ANGELA BALOGH CALIN (Costume Designer) I’m very excited to be back at SCR and to collaborate with Casey again. I have designed costumes and sets at SCR for 16 Theatre for Young Audiences shows and more than 35 other productions including The Monster Builder, The Roommate, Abundance, The Whipping Man, Peter and the Starcatcher, Rest, The Whale and Trip to Bountiful among others. I also designed sets and costumes for more than 80 productions for The Alliance Theatre, Hollywood Bowl, Denver Center Theatre Company, A Noise Within, Milwaukee Repertory Theater, The Old Globe, Chautauqua Theater Company, Pasadena Playhouse, as well as many local theatres and in my native Romania. I have worked extensively in film and television in the U.S. and Romania, having design credits with I.R.S. Media, Cannon Films, PBS, Full Moon Entertainment and Romanian Films. I graduated with an MFA in set and costume design from the Academy of Arts in Bucharest.

JEFF POLUNAS (Sound Designer) I’m so excited to be sound-designing this production at SCR. I have designed many young audiences shows including Ella Enchanted, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing, Flora & Ulysses, The Light Princess, Ivy + Bean: The Musical and Anastasia Krupnik. During the summer, I love designing for SCR’s Summer Players—part of the Theatre Conservatory—which I’ve done for the last seven years. I attended San Diego State University and UC-Irvine, where I earned degrees in theatre and sound design. I love what I do and
have designed for productions from San Francisco to San Diego. I enjoy taking the sounds we hear and creating something magical from them.

RONN GOSWICK (Stage Manager)
I am the stage manager for this production of Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience and this is my first show here at South Coast Repertory. I started my theatre career late in life. I was majoring in business in college and took a theatre appreciation class. All of a sudden, I thought—I like this and want to do this for the rest of my life. I have been lucky enough to travel across the country doing shows. I also give back to the community by volunteering my time working on many different benefits for many different non-profit organizations. I hope you enjoy today’s show as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you.

ACTORS’ EQUITY ASSOCIATION, founded in 1913, is the U.S. labor union that represents more than 50,000 professional actors and stage managers. Equity endeavors to advance the careers of its members by negotiating wages, working conditions and providing a wide range of benefits (health and pension included). Member: AFL-CIO, FIA. #EquityWorks.

A Passion for Fashion
Wilbur J. Mole Rat, Jr., loves to throw together a sharp ensemble. Now here’s your chance. Illustrate some imaginative outfits on the naked mole-rats below.
In *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, any activity is an opportunity for the colony to rock out. **Here’s your chance to do the same.** Below are some lyrics to a rock song about getting dressed in the morning—and it’s your job to finish the song. When you’re done, make up a tune and sing your song **LOUD** and **PROUD**!

*(Just maybe wait until after the performance is finished…)*

**CHORUS:**
The gettin’ ready rules,
You can’t learn them in schools.
The gettin’ ready rules,
You don’t need no tools.

**VERSE 1:**
First you pick out your favorite socks.
Look inside, shake out any rocks.
Slip ’em on, wiggle your toes,
Now you’re ready to strike a pose!

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**Now it’s your turn.**
But let’s ease into it. Fill in the blanks.

[CHORUS] Sing the chorus (below left) before each verse.

**VERSE 2:**
Next you put on your _____________ shirt.
Wash it with ____________, if there’s any dirt.
Once it’s on, __________________________←
_____________________________________.

Now write a third verse completely on your own.
What’s your favorite item of clothing?

[CHORUS]

Don’t be afraid to be imaginative—or just plain silly.

What does your shirt look like?

Now write your very own line.
(Try to make the last word rhyme with the last word in the previous line!)

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**In N**
In *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, six actors take the stage to tell the story of a little naked mole-rat who discovers who he is—and then decides to show it to the world. It’s a story about overcoming inhibitions, or shyness, and revealing (metaphorically!) who you are, warts and all.

Freeing yourself of inhibitions is also important when it comes to performing. In *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, the actors have to sing, dance, wear wild costumes and play over-the-top characters. They might make it look easy, but it takes a lot of work. And the first step is letting go of any self-consciousness, so they can really shine on stage.

What about you? Are you ready to learn how to shed your inhibitions through performance? Or maybe you’re already fearless and now looking for new ways to express yourself. Either way, SCR’s Theatre Conservatory is the perfect place to learn the fundamentals of performance—no matter your experience. To learn more, visit our website at [scr.org/classes](http://scr.org/classes) or call (714) 708-5577.
Thank You

Annual Support
SCR gratefully acknowledges the following donors for generously providing special underwriting support during the 2018/19 season of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs.

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