



South Coast Repertory

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

2018/19 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE

# 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)

**PAULA TOMEI**  
Managing Director

**DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON**  
Founding Artistic Directors

PRESENTS

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## THE ROCK EXPERIENCE

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NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED  
BY **MO WILLEMS**

SCRIPT & LYRICS BY **MO WILLEMS**  
MUSIC & MUSICAL DIRECTION BY **DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA**  
DIRECTED & CHOREOGRAPHED BY **CASEY STANGL**

SET DESIGNER  
**KEITH MITCHELL**

COSTUME DESIGNER  
**ANGELA BALOGH CALIN**

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
**KARYN D. LAWRENCE**

SOUND DESIGNER  
**JEFF POLUNAS**

PRODUCTION MANAGER  
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NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED, THE ROCK EXPERIENCE. First commissioned and produced by Seattle Children's Theatre. Script and lyrics by Mo Willems. Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma. Based on the book NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED, copyright © 2009 by Mo Willems, published by Hyperion Books for Children, an imprint of Disney Publishing. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Use this space to collect autographs or take notes!

The Theatre for Young Audiences program is made possible in part by a major grant from  
**THE SEGERSTROM FOUNDATION**



# The Cast

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

*The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.*

## 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.

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## These folks help bring all of our shows to life

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 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 Fiore

**STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS:**

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**LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR:** Sean Deuel

**SOUND BOARD OPERATOR:** Jim Busker

**SOUND ASSISTANT:** Abraham Lopez

**AUTOMATION OPERATOR:** Marissa Putnick

**WARDROBE SUPERVISOR/ DRESSER:** Rebecca Clayton

**ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF:**

Kaitlyn Kaufman, Erik Lawrence, Tessa Oberle, Sarah Timm

**HOUSE MANAGER:** Ashleigh Hector

## And these folks helped get it ready for you

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Judy Allen, **LEAD SCENIC ARTIST**

Jennifer Stringfellow, Terra Writz, **SCENIC ARTISTS**

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**PROPERTY SHOP MANAGER**

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Catherine J. Esera, **CUTTER/DRAPER**

Jyll Christolini, **WARDROBE SUPERVISOR**

### THESE PEOPLE FIXED THE HAIR

Allison Lowery, **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, Keannak Parvaz, **STAGE ELECTRICIANS**

Jamie Lupercio, Jim Busker, **SOUND ENGINEERS**

# 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

Did you know that naked mole-rats live in underground tunnels in the deserts of **East Africa**?

# Naked Mole-Rat MAZE

Help naked mole-rat Wilbur find his way to his clothing store, Hats & More.

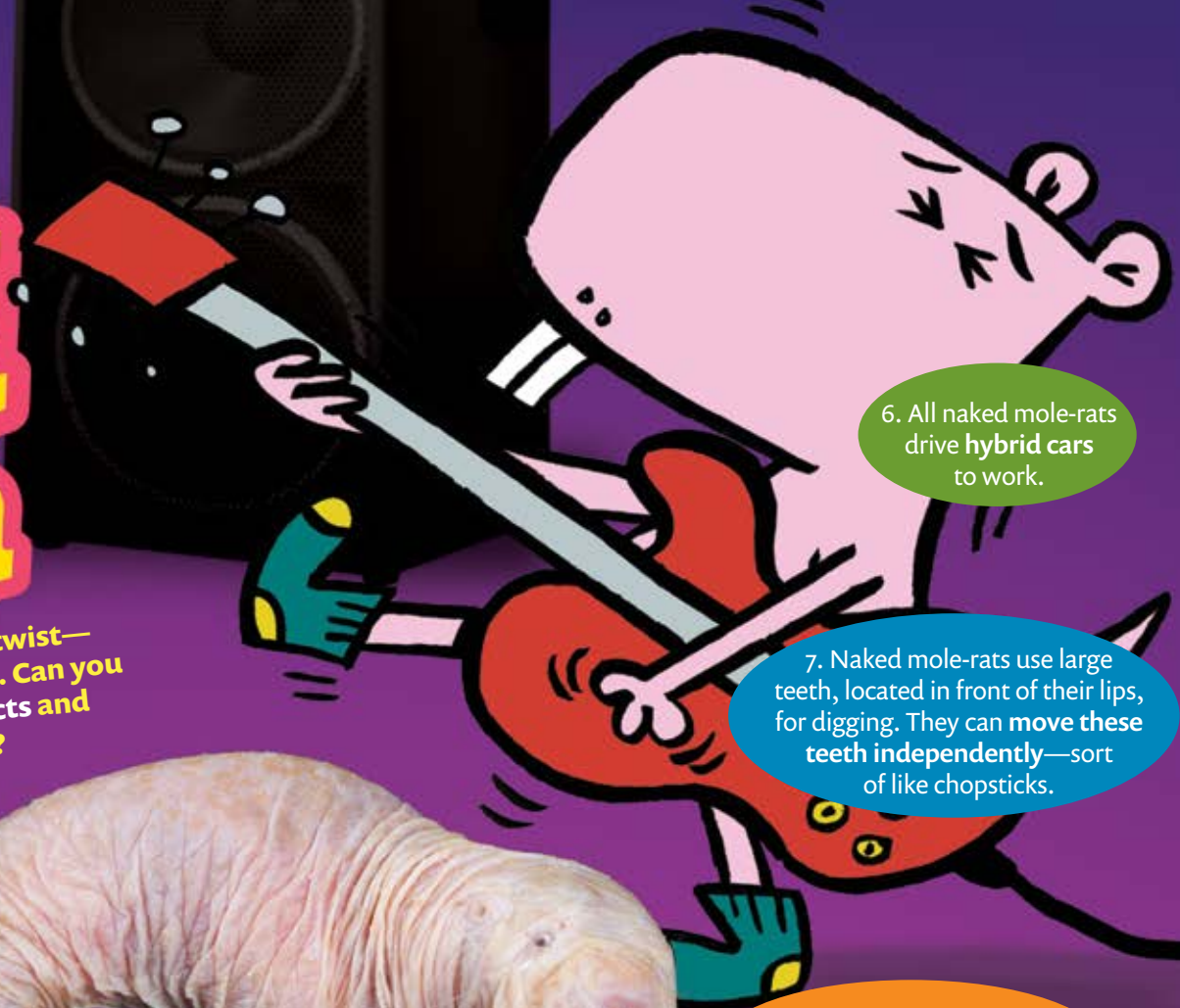


By working together, a colony of naked mole-rats can construct a series of tunnels as big as **six football fields**.



# The Naked Truth

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



...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.

9. They are excellent chess players.

10. They lack pain sensitivity in their skin.

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.

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.



# Who's Who in the Cast



## **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*)

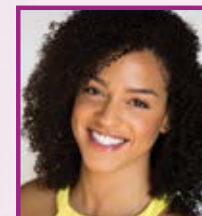
Hello, friends! You may remember me as Sally, Toy Lady and Scavenger in the most recent production of *A Christmas Carol*. I was also in the musical *Ivy + Bean* and played Junie B. Jones in *Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells!* I studied theatre in college and graduate school at the University of California 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: @mellowdeebie



## **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: @marquelledwardclayton—or at marquelledwardclayton.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-OH 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: @jaqgina



## **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!!

# Artist Bios

**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 six Emmy Awards.

**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](http://crunchynotes.com).

**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!

**KEITH MITCHELL (Set Designer)** I have designed many shows based on books you may have read, like *Ella Enchanted*, *Junie B. Jones* and *A Little Monkey Business* (no monkeys were involved) and *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (lots of penguins involved). Sometimes, I design and make sets for commercials like for Taco Bell, KFC and Star Wars TV Dinners (spoiler alert: tie fighters are chicken nuggets). I grew up north of here,

in Thousand Oaks, and when I was a kid, I made a lot of tree houses and forts and invented my own toys. Did you know that I make a miniature version of the set for every show? When I was in college, I took a design class taught by another designer who works at SCR, John Iacovelli! I am a University of Southern California Trojan alumnus, which means my school colors are cardinal and gold, the same as *Harry Potter's* Gryffindor!

**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.

**KARYN D. LAWRENCE (Lighting Designer)** I am a theatrical lighting designer, which means I love to paint with light. I fell in love with lighting design while studying acting at UC-Irvine. From magical twinkle lights to flashy rock 'n' roll strobes, I have fun making pretty pictures on stage. I have designed numerous plays at SCR including the Theatre for Young Audiences productions of *Nate the Great*, *Junie B. Jones*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, *The Light Princess*, *A Year with Frog and Toad* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, as well as *Seussical*, *Into the Woods*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Mary Poppins*, *Peter Pan* and *Annie* for SCR's Theatre Conservatory. One of my favorite designs each year is lighting the haunted mazes for Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights! When I'm not playing with lights, I'm riding my horses in the mountains near my home in Los Angeles.

**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



# Artist Bios (continued)

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

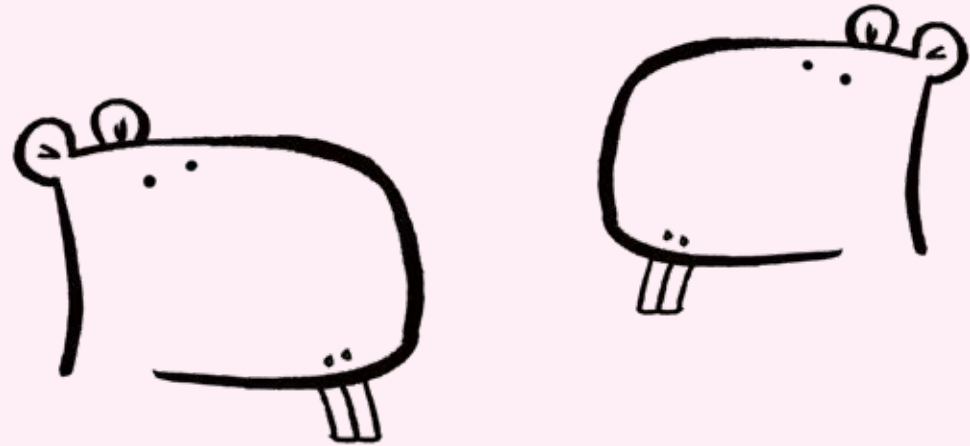
in college and took a theatre appreciation class. All of a sudden, I thought—I like this and want to do this for the rest of my life. I have been lucky enough to travel across the country doing shows. I also give back to the community by volunteering my time working on many different benefits for many 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.



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# “The Gettin’ Ready Rules”

(an original rock song...by you!)

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!

## 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, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What does your shirt look like?

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

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

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

## [CHORUS]

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# NAKED ON STAGE! (No, not really naked.)

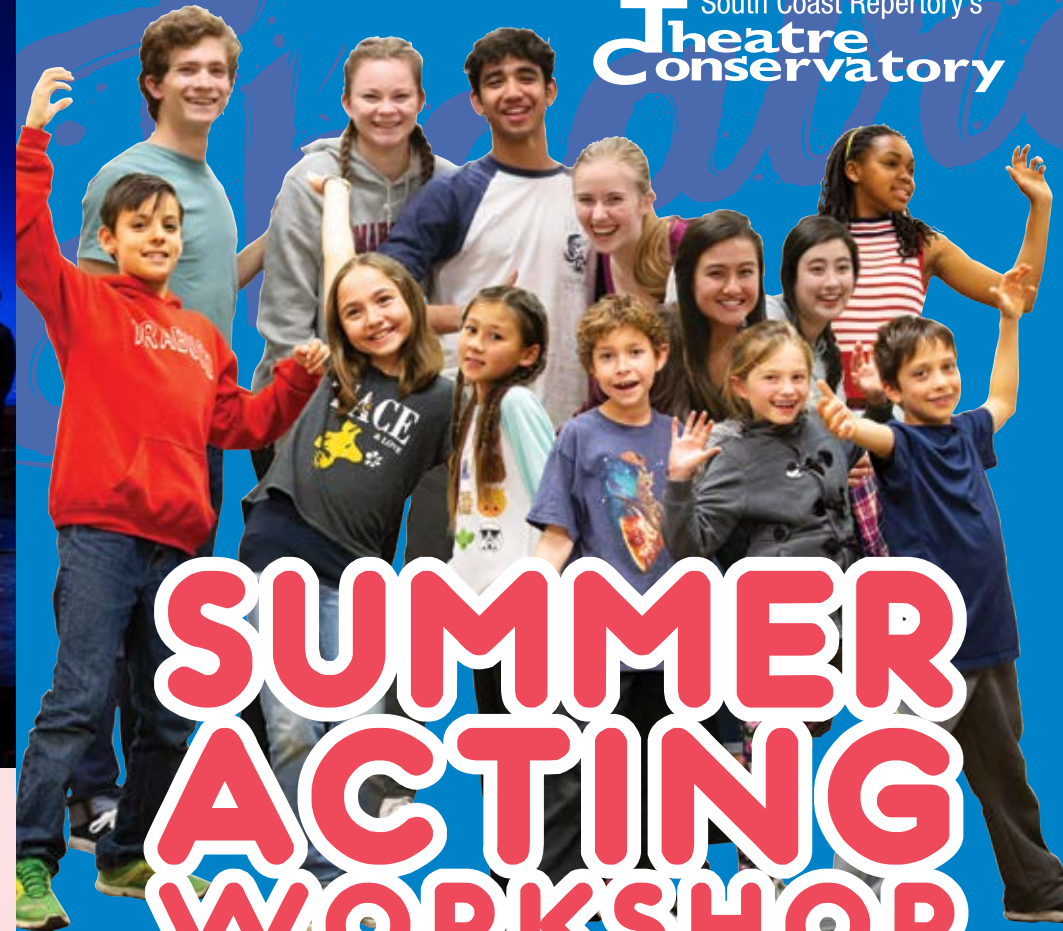
In *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, six actors take the stage to tell the story of a little naked mole-rat who discovers who he is—and then decides to show it to the world. It's a story about overcoming inhibitions, or shyness, and revealing (metaphorically!) who you are, warts and all.

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.

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*The long-term development of Theatre for Young Audiences and other educational programs at SCR is greatly assisted by the establishment of endowment funds. We deeply appreciate the following donors who have honored us with gifts:*

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