



South Coast Repertory

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

2018/19 SEASON • JULIANNE ARGYROS STAGE

The Velveteen Rabbit



adapted for the stage by

Janet Allard

from the book by Margery Williams

directed by Beth Lopes

MAY 24–JUNE 9

Be sure to check out our website for *The Velveteen Rabbit* study guide, which features additional information about the play, plus a variety of other educational resources. scr.org

 South Coast Repertory

DAVID IVERS
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI
Managing Director

DAVID EMMES & MARTIN BENSON
Founding Artistic Directors

PRESENTS

The Velveteen Rabbit

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY **JANET ALLARD**

FROM THE BOOK BY **MARGERY WILLIAMS**

DIRECTED BY **BETH LOPES**

SET DESIGNER
KEITH MITCHELL

COSTUME DESIGNER
KATHRYN WILSON

LIGHTING DESIGNER
KARYN D. LAWRENCE

SOUND DESIGN
EARS UP SOUND DESIGN

PRODUCTION MANAGER
HOLLY AHLBORN

CASTING
JOANNE DENAUT, csa

STAGE MANAGER
KATHRYN DAVIES

HONORARY PRODUCERS

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**WELLS
FARGO**

The Velveteen Rabbit is produced by special arrangement with Stage Partners.
(www.yourstagepartners.com)

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

Use this space to collect autographs or take notes!



The Cast

Velveteen Rabbit.....AMIELYNN ABELLERA
 Boy..... RICKY ABILEZ
 Wooden Lion/Furry Rabbit/
 Sam the Gardener JOSEPH ABREGO
 Wind-up Ballerina/Wild Rabbit/
 New Bunny..... NICOLE COWANS
 Skin Horse..... PAUL CULOS
 Model Airplane/Doctor/
 Nursery Magic FairyNICOLE ERB
 Nana/Toy Soldier.....CARINA MORALES

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, 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.

OCFAMILY
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These folks help bring all of our shows to life

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PAULA TOMEI
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 Production Manager

These folks are helping run this show backstage

DRAMATURG: Kat Zukaitis

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Anna Klevit

COSTUME DESIGN ASSISTANT: Raven Loc

STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERNS:

Madeleine Blossom, Millie Graham

LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR: Sean Deuel

SOUND BOARD OPERATOR: Jim Busker

SOUND ASSISTANT: Andrea Allmond

AUTOMATION OPERATOR: Robert Harrison

WARDROBE SUPERVISOR/DRESSER: Margaret Johnson

ADDITIONAL COSTUME STAFF:

Kaitlyn Kaufman, Erik Lawrence, Sarah Timm

COSTUME INTERNS:

Sean Castro, Ashton Montgomery,

Kaylynn Sutton, Lauryn Terceira

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 Stringfellow, Terra Writz, **SCENIC ARTISTS**

THESE PEOPLE CREATED PROPS

David Saewert, **PROP MASTER/**

PROPERTY SHOP MANAGER

Molly Thuot, **ASSISTANT PROP MASTER/**

SOFT GOODS ARTISAN

Byron Bacon, **PROPS BUYER**

Cat Kerr, **PROPS ARTISAN**

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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 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**

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



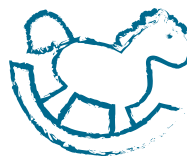
A-MAZE-ing Adventures

Join the Boy and the Velveteen Rabbit on a hunt for buried treasure!



My Favorite Things

The Boy sleeps with his very favorite toy but keeps the rest of them nearby, on the shelf.



What are your favorite toys? Draw them here.



What do you think your toys talk about when you leave the room?

The Wonderful World of Toys

A **corn husk doll** is made out of the dried leaves (or “husk”) of a corn cob. When the husks are wet, they soften and can be molded into intricate shapes; then they harden when they dry. Corn husk dolls have been popular children’s toys in northeastern Native American tribes like the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and the Penobscot for **more than 1,000 years**.



In *The Velveteen Rabbit*, the Boy has a nursery full of toys: model airplanes, wind-up ballerinas, wooden animals and more.

Stuffed animals first appeared in Germany in 1880 and, soon after, began being sold in the United States. In 1903, a store owner in Brooklyn saw a cartoon of President Teddy Roosevelt with a bear and started selling stuffed bear cub toys called “Teddy’s bears.” I bet you can guess how popular Teddy bears became!

What do kids play with in other parts of the world?



Kong Zhu is one of many names for a toy that was invented in **China** over 1800 years ago. They were originally made of bamboo, wood or metal and juggled by using two sticks and a string. They are also known as “**diablos**,” from a Greek word meaning “**throw across**.” Today, you can see diabolo performances in circuses, on streets and in schools across the world.

What’s a toy or game that you grew up playing with? Do you know where it comes from?



Lotería is a Mexican game similar to bingo. There are 54 traditional images in the game—like *la sirena* (the mermaid), *la rana* (the frog), *el músico* (the musician) and *la muerte* (death). Each player chooses a card with 16 images and marks their board each time the caller (or *cantor*) draws one of their images. The first to fill up their board wins!



A **galimoto** is a toy vehicle made from wires, twigs or plants. “**Galimoto**” is the word for car in Chichewa, the national language of the east African country **Malawi**, but a *galimoto* can also be a truck, a plane, or a bicycle—anything with wheels!

Who's Who in the Cast



AMIELYNN ABELLERA (*Velveteen Rabbit*)

Hello! I'm Amielynn and I love playing the Velveteen Rabbit. My very first pet was a floppy-eared rabbit. We named him Valentine because my big brother and I rescued him from a busy street on Valentine's Day. I was born in Stockton, Calif., and dreamt of becoming an actress since I was five—that's because my parents brought me to see plays and musicals on big stages just like SCR!

I earned my graduate degree in acting at the University of Southern California, and I've performed in many plays in LA and all over the country. I've performed in award-winning films and on television shows such as "Just Add Magic," "Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn" and "NCIS." I also narrate fun middle school and teen audiobooks, which you can listen to on Audible.com. You can find more information on me at amielynnabellera.com. Thanks for coming—and I hope you enjoy the show!



RICKY ABILEZ (*Boy*)

I come from a Hispanic family of more than 200 people who taught me to love, laugh and embrace my passion, which has always been the arts. When I was 16, I was determined to win "American Idol" and become a recording artist, so I auditioned and was quickly sent home. I was heartbroken, but, soon after, I was cast as the lead in our school musical! Theatre inspired me to

pursue my BFA in acting at California State University, Fullerton. I learned many things: to actively listen, challenge yourself, work hard and change the world by sharing meaningful stories. So that's what I do. I'm a teacher, an activist and an artist. You may have seen me here at SCR in *Shakespeare in Love* or with MainStreet Theatre Company in *Frederick!* Always pursue your dreams, never give up and remember to be proud of the things you do, because you matter!



JOSEPH ABREGO (*Wooden Lion, Furry Rabbit, Sam the Gardener*)

I grew up in Northern California and fell in love with acting when I was in 8th grade. I moved down to Southern California to attend UC-Irvine and studied theatre and singing there with talented and passionate professors who taught me a lot about acting, music and myself! I graduated from college in 2016 and, since then, have had the pleasure of being in incredibly fun musicals such as *Evita*, *Carousel*, *Man of La Mancha* and *In the Heights*. Last year, I played dorky little Ricardo in *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook* and had a blast! I hope you have a great time watching *The Velveteen Rabbit!*



PAUL CULOS (*Skin Horse*)

I definitely identify with my character—Skin Horse—in *The Velveteen Rabbit*. Many of my toys were very real to me when I was a child. In fact, I still have a select few that I couldn't part with and have passed them on to my nieces and nephews. Playtime was an important part of my life and, in many ways, it led me to continue playing on stage and screen. In LA, I perform as a member of The Antaeus Company and with many other theatres, most recently at Boston Court Pasadena in a show called *Everything That Never Happened*. On TV, you'll see me in "Modern Family," "The Middle," "Superior Donuts" and "Shameless." You can find out more about me at paulculos.com.



NICOLE ERB (*Model Airplane, Doctor, Nursery Magic Fairy*)

Hi, there! You might have seen me playing Lucille and the Grouchy Typing Lady last year in *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*. Growing up, I forced family members to watch me perform shows that were part-singing, part-very-bad-dancing and part-stand-up comedy; they always started with a fake fall (pratfall). I love making people laugh, even if it made me look silly. I feel very lucky to get to tell stories, sing and dance badly. My advice to you: keep practicing fake farts, silly voices and weird walks because someday, someone might even pay you for them! I've been in commercials, movies, plays and on TV shows like "Scandal," "Big Time Rush" and "Hack My Life." I'm a sketch comedy writer and performer (silly voices and wigs) at Upright Citizens Brigade. I studied acting at Temple University and UC-Irvine. I can't wait to laugh along with you today!



NICOLE COWANS (*Wind-up Ballerina, Wild Rabbit, New Bunny*)

I'm an international Afro-Latina performing artist who speaks both English and Spanish fluently, which makes it possible for me to connect with all kinds of amazing people. I received my MFA in drama from the University of California, Irvine (2018), where I studied various forms of theatrical expression, such as acting, singing, clowning, masking, dance and much more. When I'm not on stage, I teach theatre arts, drink tons of coffee, watch cartoons, make lots of organizational lists, spend time with family and cuddle my three little dogs. I'm over the moon to be returning to the South Coast Repertory stage after my recent professional debut as Tall in *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. For more about me, follow @nicolecowans or visit: NicoleCowans.com.



CARINA MORALES (*Nana, Toy Soldier*)

I graduated from the University of California, Irvine, with a BA in drama and honors in musical theatre. After college, I moved to New York City and auditioned for lots of fun shows that took me all over the world. I visited more than 80 different countries while working as a singer for Holland America, Seabourn and Silversea cruise lines. I also performed in musicals at Hong Kong Disneyland and Universal Studios Singapore. You might have seen me as Lucille in the national tour of *Junie B. Jones*, or here at South Coast Repertory, when I played Minden in *Amos & Boris: A New Musical*. When I'm not performing, I teach acting and direct plays and musicals for kids all over Orange County. I loved *The Velveteen Rabbit* when I was a kid, and I am excited to have the opportunity to share that story with you!

Artist Bios

JANET ALLARD (*Playwright*)

I have written a lot of plays including *Vrooommm!* (Summer Play Festival, Triad Stage, published by Samuel French), *Speed Date*, *Incognito*, *Loyal* and *Untold Crimes of Insomniacs* (published by Playscripts, Inc.). My musicals include *Into the Wild*

(commissioned by Perseverance Theatre; developed at Berkeley Rep Ground Floor, Rhinebeck Writer's Retreat; performed at 54 Below and Rattlestick Playwright's Theatre's "New Songs Now"); *Pool Boy* (Barrington Stage, Provincetown Playhouse), *Driving West* (Ars Nova) and

The Unknown (Jonathan Larson Award, P73 Productions, and New York Music Festival). My work has been seen at The Guthrie Lab, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Mixed Blood Theatre Company, Playwrights Horizons, Yale Repertory Theatre, The Yale Cabaret, The Women's Project, Perseverance Theatre, Joe's Pub, Barrington Stage, P73 Productions, Ars Nova, Arts and Artists at St. Paul, Birdland Jazz Club and Feinstein's/54 Below. Among my awards and honors are a Fulbright Fellowship, two Jerome Fellowships (The Playwrights' Center), three MacDowell Colony Fellowships, a North Carolina Arts Council individual artist grant and a writer's residency grant from National Alliance for Musical Theatre. I received two Rhinebeck Writer's Residencies (2011, 2014) and had a 29-hour reading there in 2016. I have an MFA in playwriting from Yale School of Drama and studied at New York University's Tisch Graduate Musical Theatre Writing Program. janetallard.com.

BETH LOPES (*Director*)

I was very young when my parents started taking me to theatre and my interest was ignited. (Thank you, parents!) I was lucky enough to attend a high school with exceptional drama teachers who encouraged me to pursue a career in the arts. I traveled all the way from California to New York City to study acting at New York University, and that's where I encountered brilliant mentors and friends who guided me towards my true theatre love: directing. I traveled back to California to become a better director under the instruction of extraordinary professors at UC-Irvine. It was through them that I was

first introduced to the wonderful people and artists at South Coast Repertory. Last year, I had the great pleasure of directing *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*, and I am truly delighted to be back directing *The Velveteen Rabbit*. I hope you enjoy this bittersweet and beautiful story!

KEITH MITCHELL (*Set Designer*)

I have designed many shows based on books you may have read, like *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*, *Ella Enchanted*, *Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business* or *Mr. Popper's Penguins*. I even make a miniature of the set for every show I design. Sometimes, I design and make sets for commercials, like Taco Bell, or for shows on TV or Netflix, and sometimes I even design dentist offices! I grew up in Thousand Oaks, in the Conejo Valley. *Conejo* is Spanish for "rabbit," and there are cottontail rabbits everywhere! I made a lot of tree houses and forts and invented my own toys, which is sort of like working in the theatre! I once took a study abroad program in Cambridge, England. I would ride my bike to and from class, along the banks of the River Cam, through parks and meadows every day, and I reminisced about how it felt, being at the edge of the woods, while I was designing for a play.

KATHRYN WILSON (*Costume Designer*)

I am a costume and makeup designer for theatre, dance and opera. I went to school at UC-Irvine to learn how to design costumes and to make things like hats, masks, armor and jewelry. I didn't always know that I wanted to be a designer, but I always loved to draw and make clothes to wear. When I was growing up, I loved to play dress-up in

my grandmother's vintage dresses. The best part was putting together fancy outfits with hats and jewelry. Now, I get to go to work and play dress up with the actors on stage. The best part of being a costume designer is that I get to be creative every day and see my designs come to life on stage. I teach costume design and theatrical makeup at California State University, Fullerton, and help the next generation of designers bring their dreams to life.

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 *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*, *Nate the Great*, *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*, *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.

EARS UP SOUND DESIGN

(Sound Design) Hi, we're Matt Caspary and Mark Glenn, and we're great friends who love to work together as a team at our company, Ears Up. We met in graduate school at UC-Irvine, just down the road from South Coast Repertory. We love making fun sounds and music that tell stories for people all around the country and the world. We have a sound playground in Los Angeles; it's our laboratory where we create all kinds of sounds and music for theatre, theme parks and museums. You may have heard some of our sounds right here at SCR (*Pinocchio*, *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*). We are thrilled to be working together again with this brilliant team of friends to tell you the story of *The Velveteen Rabbit*!

KATHRYN DAVIES (Stage Manager)

I grew up in Nova Scotia, Canada, where I studied piano, ukulele, recorder and tap dancing. My parents took me to see a lot of shows, and I decided to become a stage manager when I was in the 12th grade. My high school drama teacher, Mr. Drew, inspired me to do this. Through the years, I have studied French, Italian, German and Spanish, which has helped me to work on big opera productions. I am very grateful to my parents for making me keep up with my music lessons, because if I hadn't, I wouldn't be able to do what I do now. Today, I get to work with amazingly creative actors, directors, designers, singers, musicians and film stars in several countries.

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.



Sometimes we're lucky and we're surrounded by the people and things we love—but sometimes we're far apart from them. Write a letter to a person or toy you haven't seen in a little while.

What do you want to tell them about your life?
What do you want to ask them?

SOUTH COAST REPERTORY'S THEATRE CONSERVATORY
PRESENTS **THE SUMMER PLAYERS** IN

THE WIZARD OF OZ

by **L. Frank Baum**

with music & lyrics of the MGM

motion picture score by

Harold Arlen & E. Y. Harburg

background music by

Herbert Stothart

book adaptation by **John Kane**

from the motion picture screenplay

directed by

Hisa Takakuwa & Erin McNally



AUG 10-11 & 17-18

South Coast Repertory

(714) 708-5555 • SCR.org

Hop to It!

We all get that rabbits are cute...
but how much do you really
know about them?

Test your rabbit trivia here!

1. More than half of the
world's rabbits live on
which continent?

- a) Asia
- b) South America
- c) North America

DID YOU KNOW?

Rabbits don't eat carrots in the wild!
They prefer greens like weeds, grasses
and clovers—although pet rabbits enjoy
the extra sugar in carrots.

Sometimes rabbits also eat their own poop.
Don't laugh! It seems gross to humans,
but it helps with their digestion.

3. What are
baby rabbits called?

- a) Kits
- b) Does
- c) Buns

2. Their teeth
never stop
growing.

- a) True
- b) False

6. Rabbits are very clean:
they often groom themselves
by licking their own fur.

- a) True
- b) False

4. How many rabbits
are typically in a litter?

- a) 1-2
- b) 4-12
- c) 10-20

5. The longest recorded
jump by a rabbit was:

- a) 3 feet
- b) 10 feet
- c) 17 feet

Rabbits reproduce very quickly and can have
lots of kits in one litter. In one year, a single female
rabbit can produce as many as 800 children,
grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

7. When rabbits are happy,
they perform a "binky."
What is a binky?

- a) They touch noses with another rabbit
- b) They roll over and flash their tail
- c) They jump in the air and twist around

(The solutions are on the last page of the program.)

Acting is for Everyone



“Best theatre classes in Orange County”

—Parenting OC

Have fun and make new friends while learning valuable skills at South Coast Repertory’s award-winning Theatre Conservatory. All skill levels are welcome! Beginning acting students will discover the fundamentals of performance, character building and more, while intermediate and advanced students will expand and enrich their knowledge and craft. **Visit scr.org/classes or call (714) 708-5577.**



“I love the teachers here because they are nice and push you to do your best.” —Emma Pancake

“I love SCR because it makes me feel more confident.” —Audrey Mulvihill

“The teachers and staff are always fun, professional, and interesting, giving me an awesome experience in every class I take.” —Henry Ficcadenti

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9 am–12 pm OR 1–4 pm**

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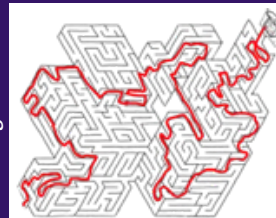
The cast of the 2018 Summer Players production of *Seussical*



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SOLUTIONS

A-MAZE-ing Adventures:



Hop to It:
1=C; 2=A; 3=B; 4=A; 5=B; 6=A; 7=C

THANK YOU

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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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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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