

South Coast Repertory

Julianne Argyros Stage • November 3 - 19, 2006

Theatre for Young Audiences
presents

James and the Giant Peach

adapted by **David Wood**

based on the **Roald Dahl** book

Set Design
Sibyl Wickersheimer

Costume Design
Angela Balogh Calin

Lighting Design
Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz

Sound Design
Josh Schmidt

Production Manager
Jeff Gifford

Stage Manager
Kristin Ahlgren*

directed by **Shelley Butler**

Bank of America

Honorary Producer



Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Theatre for Young Audiences season has been made possible in part by generous grants from
The Nicholas Endowment and **The Segerstrom Foundation**

The Cast

Spider/Others	DIANA BURBANO*
Grasshopper/Others	GREGG DANIEL*
Centipede/Others	LOUIS LOTORTO*
James	ALEX MILLER*
Ladybug/Others	JENNIFER PARSONS*
Earthworm/Others	TOM SHELTON*

* denotes members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers

For Your Information

Everyone must have a ticket. No babes in arms allowed. Latecomers will be asked to watch the lobby monitor until an appropriate time that they can be taken into the theatre and seated at the discretion of the House Manager. They may then take their assigned seats at intermission.

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

As a courtesy to all patrons, please turn off all cellular phones, pagers and watch alarms or switch them to non-audible mode before the performance begins. If doctors or parents expect calls during a performance, please leave your name and seat number with the House Manager, who can be reached at 714-708-5500, ext. 5442.



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South Coast Repertory

DAVID EMMES
Producing Artistic Director

MARTIN BENSON
Artistic Director

PAULA TOMEI
Managing Director

JOHN GLORE
Associate Artistic Director

NICKI GENOVESE
General Manager

JEFF GIFFORD
Production Manager

MELAINE BENNETT
Development Director

BIL SCHROEDER
Marketing & Communications Director

These folks are helping run the show back stage!

Louis Lotorto*
Mia D. Osherow
Andrea Cousins
Elisabeth Vella
Tom Cavnar
Kelly Marshall

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
STAGE MANAGEMENT INTERN
LIGHTING BOARD OPERATOR
SOUND BOARD OPERATOR
DRESSER

And these folks helped get it ready for you!

Linda Sullivan Baity
Joanne DeNaut

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES COORDINATOR
CASTING DIRECTOR

THESE FOLKS BUILT THE SCENERY

Jon Lagerquist, *Technical Director*
John Gaddis IV, *Assistant Technical Director*
Jeremy Lazzara, *Master Carpenter*
Tristan Dalley, *Scenic Carpenter*
Amanda Horak, *Scenic Carpenter*
Judy Allen, *Lead Scenic Artist*
Tabatha Daly, Gabriel Barrera, *Scenic Artists*

THESE PEOPLE CREATED THE PROPS

John Slauson, *Property Shop Manager*
Byron Bacon, *Assistant Property Shop Manager/Buyer*
Jeffery G. Rockey, *Properties Artisan*
Sara Greenhouse, *Properties Artisan*

THE FOLLOWING MADE THE COSTUMES

Amy L. Hutto, *Costume Shop Manager*
Carol Cooley, *Cutter/Drafter*
Laurie Donati, *Full Charge Costumer*
Katie Wilson, *Costume Design Assistant*
MK Steeves, *Wig Master*
Kelly Meurer, *Wig Maintenance Technician*
Lisa Kovarik, *Wardrobe Supervisor*
Bronwen Burton, Laurel Burton, Catherine Esera
Peggy Oquist, Swantje Tuohino, Bich Vu,
Additional Costume Staff

THIS GROUP DEALS WITH LIGHTS & SOUND

Elisha Griego, *Lighting Design Assistant*
Keith Friedlander, *Master Electrician*
Elisabeth Vella, *Argyros Stage Electrician*
B.C. Keller, *Audio Engineer*
Tom Cavnar, *Audio Technician*



SPECIAL THANKS TO

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A Tasty Tidbit from *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl

“**H**ungry and trembling, James stood alone out in the open, wondering what to do. The night was all around him now, and high overhead a wild white moon was riding in the sky. There was not a sound, not a movement anywhere.

Most people — and especially small children — are often quite scared of being out of doors alone in the moonlight. Everything is so deadly quiet, and the shadows are so long and black, and they keep turning into strange shapes that seem to move as you look at them, and the slightest little snap of a twig makes you jump.

6 James felt exactly like that now. He stared straight ahead with large frightened eyes, hardly daring to breathe. Not far away, in the middle of the garden, he could see the giant peach towering over everything else. Surely it was even bigger tonight than ever before? And what a dazzling sight it was! The moonlight was shining and glinting on its great curving sides, turning them to crystal and silver. It looked like a tremendous silver ball lying there in the grass, silent, mysterious, and wonderful.

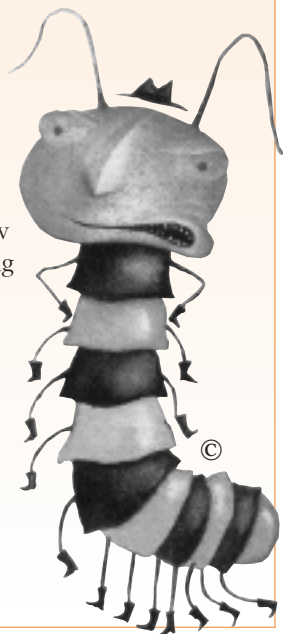
And then all at once, little shivers of excitement started running over the skin on James’s back.

Something else, he told himself, something stranger than ever this time, is about to happen to me again soon. He was sure of it. He could feel it coming.

He looked around him, wondering what on earth it was going to be. The garden lay soft and silver in the moonlight. The grass was wet with dew and a million dewdrops were sparkling and twinkling like diamonds around his feet. And now suddenly, the whole place, the whole garden, seemed to be alive with magic.

Almost without knowing what he was doing, as though drawn by some powerful magnet, James Henry Trotter started walking slowly toward the giant peach.”

Hungry for more? Read the book!



Hello Dahl-Y

How do you get the ideas for your stories?

It always starts with a tiny little seed of an idea, a little germ, and even that doesn't come very easily. You can be mooching around for a year or so before you get a good one. When I do get a good one, mind you, I quickly write it down so that I won't forget it because it disappears otherwise rather like a dream. I walk around it and look at it and sniff it and then see if I think it will go. Because once you start, you've embarked on a year's work, so it's a big decision.



How did you get the idea for *James and the Giant Peach*?

I had a kind of fascination with apples. There are lots of apple trees around here and you can watch them through the summer getting bigger and bigger, so it seemed to me an obvious thought — what would happen if the fruit didn't stop growing? This appealed to me and then I had to think of which fruit I should take for my story. The peach is rather nice, I thought. It's pretty and it's squishy and you can go into it and it's got a big seed in the middle which you can play with. And so the story started.

How do you create interesting characters?

When you're writing a book with people in it rather than animals, it's no good having people that are ordinary because they're not going to interest your readers at all. I find that the only way to make my characters really interesting to children is to exaggerate all their good or bad qualities, and so if a person is nasty or bad or cruel, you make them very nasty or very bad or very cruel. If they are ugly, you make them extremely ugly. That's fun, and it makes an impact.

(Transcribed from audio clips of an interview with Roald Dahl conducted in 1988, two years before his death at the age of 73. You can hear the answers to these and other questions in the author's own voice at his official website: www.roalddahl.com.)

Silly Song Sing Along

Here are the words to one of the many silly songs from the play. This one is heard when James and his bug buddies head off on their great trans-Atlantic caper.

*We may see a Creature with forty-nine heads
Who lives in the desolate snow,
And whenever he catches a cold (which he dreads)
He has forty-nine noses to blow!*

*We may see the venomous Pink-Spotted Scrunch
Who can chew up a man with one bite.
It likes to eat five of them roasted for lunch
And eighteen for its supper at night!*

*We may see a Dragon, and nobody knows
That we won't see a Unicorn there.
We may see a terrible monster with toes
Growing out of the tufts of his hair!*

*A Gnu and Gnoceros surely we'll see
And that gnormous and gnorrible Gnat
Whose sting when it stings you goes
in at the knee
And comes out through the top of your hat!*

*We may even get lost and be frozen by frost
We may die in an earthquake or tremor
Or nastier still we may even be tossed
On the horns of a furious Dilemma!*

*But who cares! Let us go from this horrible bill!
Let us roll! Let us bowl! Let us plunge!
Let's go rolling and bowling and spinning until
We're away from old Spiker and Sponge!*

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Now here's a chance to write your own silly song about a magical adventure you'd like to take. If you wish to use Roald Dahl's poem as a model, your verses should each be four lines long with a similar "A-B" rhyme scheme, and be sure to try making up some wacky new words of your own!

A _____

B _____

A _____

B _____

C _____

D _____

C _____

D _____

E _____

F _____

E _____

F _____

G _____

H _____

G _____

H _____

Who's Who in the Cast

I have never traveled in fruit before but I have done a lot of traveling. I've been to Fiji, England, Costa Rica and Belize. I think going to new places is fun and exciting. I have been acting since I was a very little girl, and I have always liked making silly faces and doing funny voices. Musicals are my favorite kind of show, since I get to sing very loudly in them. Last year I played Chester the cat in *Bunnacula*, and a lot of roles in *Eureka!* which you may have seen at your school. Here at SCR I get to be on stage with many giant things including a giant chicken in *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*, a giant celery stalk in *Bunnacula* and now a Giant Peach. Giant things don't scare me anymore, so next I hope to work with Godzilla or King Kong.



**DIANA
BURBANO**
Spider/
others



**GREGG
DANIEL**
Grasshopper/
others

The last production I did for young audiences was at Center Stage in Baltimore, Maryland. It was entitled *This is Your Play, Mad Merton*. I was Merton's best friend Bennie who wanted to be a jazz saxophonist and always wore dark glasses to look cool. We took our show all over the state and performed for hundreds of boys and girls. My father was from the West Indies and I grew up listening to a lot of fantastic children's stories from his country. I would tell the neighborhood kids my father's stories since they weren't like any of the ones they had heard. I think I became an actor because I loved to tell people new stories that no one had heard before. I bet you all have special stories that we might not have heard before. Why not share them when you can?

Roald Dahl was one of my most favorite authors when I was much younger. He always seemed to know just how to tap into my imagination and make reading fun and exciting. In fact, I still love to read voluminously; a gift I thank my father for giving to me. *James and the Giant Peach* was one of the first books I can remember him reading to me when I was just a boy, along with another Dahl favorite of mine, *Charlie and the*

Chocolate Factory. I am thrilled to get the chance to bring to life characters I've known for many years in my imagination and introduce them to you, maybe for the first time. I am happy to say that this is my fifth Theatre for Young Audiences production. You might remember seeing me as Harold in *Bunnicula*, as the fox in *The Little Prince*, as Louis in *Sideways Stories from Wayside School* or as the Swindler in *The Emperor's New Clothes*. I'd like to dedicate this performance to Ralph Rosinbum who, with my father, gave a young boy the dream of enjoying a life in the theatre and to my three-year-old niece, Alexis who traveled all the way from Seattle to come see me onstage. She reminds me that there is magic in the world. Hi Alexis!



**LOUIS
LOTORTO**
Centipede/
Others

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**ALEX
MILLER**
James

I am so very pleased to be playing James from one of my favorite stories! I was seen recently at this very theater as Por Quinly in *The Adventures of Por Quinly*. I have loved performing since a very young age in shows like *Oliver!* and *Mame* and continued in *Anything Goes*, *Pippin* and the *The Velveteen Rabbit* (as the rabbit himself!). My Nana is from England, a beautiful place where I also attended college appearing in *West Side Story*, *Nine* and *The Grimm Tales* as a rabbit and a drummin' dog. Since my move to L.A., I have been a dad in *Grand Hotel*, a Frank Sinatra crooner in *My Way* and Gilbert in *Anne of Green Gables*. When I'm not performing I babysit my buddies Jack, Michael, Jacob and Evan who keep me

young at heart. Love to my brothers, parents and Jess. Enjoy the show and remember... if your house is a peach... you can eat it!

The last time I appeared at SCR was as Mrs. Cratchit, the mom, in *A Christmas Carol* and just before that I played the mom in *Bunnacula*. Although I play moms a lot now, I used to play the kids. When I was about 8, my mom, impressed by my imitations of Captain Kirk from “Star Trek,” suggested I take acting classes at a place called Junior Theatre in San Diego. I got to do lots of plays there and, later on, when I was in high school I got to do some plays at The Old Globe theatre. Since then I’ve done lots of plays in all sorts of different places and even got to be in a Broadway musical called *Quilters*. I’ve been in movies like *Never Been Kissed* and *Dragonfly* and, most recently, television shows like “Boston Legal,” “Judging Amy,” “JAG” and “The OC.”



**JENNIFER
PARSONS**
Ladybug/
Others



**TOM
SHELTON**
Earthworm/
Others

I played Big Dipppa and Mister River in *The Adventures of Pør Quinly*, was Mr. Monroe and a giant celery stalk in *Bunnacula*, Amos and Father Tree in *Pinocchio*, the Mayor in *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency* and Mr. Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*. Many seasons ago I played Mr. Topper here at SCR in *A Christmas Carol*. My favorite moments onstage include dancing in a sleeping bag (in SCR’s touring show *The Right Self*), singing an aria to the moon from the prow of a ship (as Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore*), and in *Travels With My Aunt* at Laguna Playhouse, playing 13 different people wearing a three-piece suit and a bowler hat all the while. I love being an actor because it helps make you quick on your feet, smart about so many different things and a citizen of the whole world.

Behind the Scenes

Author **ROALD DAHL** first became interested in writing children's books by making up bedtime stories for his children, Tessa and Olivia. He once said "writing a book is rather like going on a very long walk across valleys and mountains and things. You get the first view of what you see and you write it down. Then you walk a bit further, and you see something else, which you also write down. The highest mountain on the walk is obviously the end of the book because that one has got to be the very best view of all, when everything comes together. It's a very, very long slow process, but I have a passion for writing funny, exciting stories that kids will want to read." For more, check out www.roalddahl.com or www.roalddahlfans.com.

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Since 1967 playwright **DAVID WOOD** has written approximately 60 plays for children. He says it is still a real joy and a real challenge and it never gets easier! His plays are usually written for professional adult actors to perform in theatres for audiences of children, both original plays and adaptations of popular books, like Roald Dahl's *James and the Giant Peach*. "My aims haven't changed: I still want to use the magic of theatre — the lighting, the sound, the scenery, the costumes, the music, the movement — to provide a unique event. I want to trigger your imagination, to make you laugh (and sometimes cry) while involving you in a really good story." He invites you to visit his website — www.davidwood.org.uk.

Director **SHELLEY BUTLER** began her life in the theater playing the role of Molly, the littlest orphan in *Annie*. Not long after this experience, Shelley realized what she really wanted to do was be in charge of putting the whole story together. At the age of 16 she directed her first play — a production of *Little Shop of Horrors* with 40 junior high students. Shelley grew up in Maine and went to school at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. Since finishing school, Shelley has been lucky enough to travel around the country telling stories and directing new plays. Shelley also spent the last year working on many television shows including "ER," "Bones" and "The Unit." This play taught Shelley to think before squishing spiders and that bugs have feelings too!

Set Designer **Sibyl Wickersheimer** became a set designer because she loves to create environments for actors to play on, like kids play on a playground. Sibyl has designed in Southern California since

1999 when she graduated from UCLA with an MFA in Set Design for Theatre, Film, and Television. She has also worked in Colorado and Utah, and is looking forward to her first opportunity designing for Lookingglass Theatre Company in Chicago on an exciting new play called *Black Diamond* this spring. Sibyl is a recipient of the 2005-07 NEA/TCG Career Development Program for Designers. Visit her website to see her designs —www.sawgirl.com

Romanian-born Costume Designer **Angela Balogh Calin** has designed almost all of SCR's Theatre for Young Audiences productions. She also designed the costumes for SCR's recent Segerstrom Stage production of *Nothing Sacred*. For several years she has designed SCR's touring productions, including last year's *Eureka!* and this year's *Bad Water Blues*.

Lighting Designer **Lonnie Rafael Alcaraz** grew up in Orange County and first started in theatre at Estancia High School, where he was inspired greatly by his drama teacher, Barbara Van Holt. He went on to study theatre at Orange Coast College, and he received his BA and MFA from UC Irvine. He has designed many productions at SCR, including eleven years of *La Posada Mágica*. Other credits include six seasons at Utah Shakespearean Festival. He also designed shows, attractions and architecture for Universal Studios Japan and lived in Japan for two years. He is a member of USA Local 829 and a Professor of Lighting at UC Irvine.

Composer/Sound Designer **Josh Schmidt** has spent his career writing music for plays and dance, performing in recitals throughout the US and Europe and learning all he can about the technology of sound design. His latest projects include *Wrecks* at The Public Theater in New York (assistant sound designer), *Serious Money* at Bard College and *Much Ado about Nothing* at Milwaukee Shakespeare Company. Originally from the Midwest and currently residing in New York City, he is happy to be making his debut at South Coast Repertory, as well as his debut in the great state of California, where his lovely wife Amy and her family are from.

Stage Manager **Kristin Ahlgren*** became a stage manager because she discovered doing it was much more fun than piano lessons, dance class or acting camp. She has worked for Long Wharf Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Opera Pacific and Disneyland, where she got to set the Rivers of America on fire every night for two summers working on FANTASMIC. After working on *The Stinky Cheese Man* in June, she is really pleased to be part of a play that smells good and includes giant insects.

Introducing *Prunus Persica*

How much do you know about the pulchritudinous peach?

- Peaches are close relatives of roses.
- Most scientists believe that peaches originated in China.
- The nectarine is really a kind of fuzzless peach.
- In olden days, peaches were called “Persian apples.”
- Almost one-half million tons of peaches are grown in California each year (mostly in northern counties).
- Peaches require both chilly winters and hot summers to set fruit.
- Momotaro, or Peach Boy, is one of Japan’s most admired legendary super heroes.
- In China, peaches are considered the fruits of immortality.
- Although the peach is the state fruit of South Carolina and the state flower of Delaware, Georgia calls itself “The Peach State.”
- The word “peach” is also slang for a particularly pleasurable person or thing.
- Peaches contain lots of Vitamin A and C, and absolutely no fat.
- California gold-miners were the first people in the world to commercially farm cling peaches.
- Peaches are harvested from June through Labor Day.
- Along with cherries, plums and apricots, peaches are known as “stone fruits” because they have a single large seed (called a “stone” or “pit”) which is encased in hard wood.



The World According to James

Can you find all 12 of these places mentioned in the play? (Hint: Words are spelled up or down, from either side and diagonally.)

16

D K A B A M E T C Y I L
Z L C I T Y U E E N Y W
U H I G L R N E N M T L
I C F A A A E R T A R E
C G S P N M V T R N E F
W N H P T N A S A H B M
G E X L I E H T L A I T
B Z W E C E T N P T L Z
A N D D O U F E A T F Z
Q C S G C Q I G R A O G
H D F D E F F E K N E M
R W E Z A F T R P Y U W
G O O Z N O D N O L T Y
B R O A D W A Y T H A W
D N A L G N E U L T T Y
W H I T E C L I F F S D



ATLANTIC OCEAN
BIG APPLE
BROADWAY
CENTRAL PARK
ENGLAND
FIFTH AVENUE

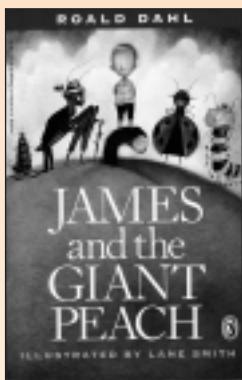
LONDON ZOO
MANHATTAN
QUEEN MARY
REGENT STREET
STATUE OF LIBERTY
WHITE CLIFFS

Visit SCR Online

Be sure to check out our website — www.scr.org — for the “Playgoer’s Guide” to *James and the Giant Peach*, which features additional information about the play, plus links to a variety of supplemental educational resources and the solution to this word search puzzle.

©

New in the Theatre Shop



James and the Giant Peach: A Children's Story

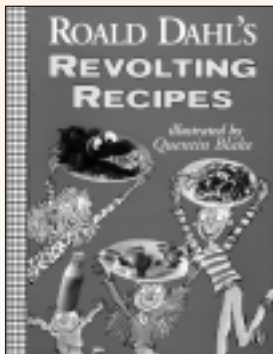
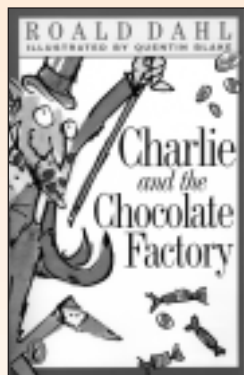
by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Lane Smith
(Puffin Books, 1996).

A little magic can take you a long way! When young James Trotter accidentally drops some magic crystals by the old peach tree, strange things start happening. He meets a handful of oversized insect friends and soon they're all rolling away on a marvelous adventure. Recognized worldwide as a true children's classic, *James and the Giant Peach* appears on the California Dept. of Education Recommended Literature List for Grades 3-5.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

by Roald Dahl, illustrated by Quentin Blake
(Puffin Books, 1998).

Willy Wonka's famous chocolate factory is opening at last, but only five lucky children will be allowed inside: Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregarde, Mike Teavee and Charlie Bucket, a boy who is honest and kind, brave and true, and good and ready for the wildest time of his life!



Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes

by Roald Dahl, Felicity Dahl, Josie Fish;
illustrated by Quentin Blake, photography by
Jan Baldwin (Puffin, 1997).

Who's hungry? How about some Snozzcumbers for a snack, or a Fresh Mudburger for dinner? Or perhaps you're in the mood for Stink Bugs' Eggs or Mosquitoes' Toes! Fans of Roald Dahl will recognize these peculiar culinary inventions (that sound much worse than they taste)

which are collected together in one scumdidlyumptious book of recipes disgusting to contemplate, and lots of fun for the whole family to make together.

Meet the Peachy Crew

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JAMES HENRY TROTTER — Our Hero — develops from the loneliest little boy you could ever find into the brave “captain” of the big bug brigade, which includes CENTIPEDE, EARTHWORM, MISS SPIDER, OLD-GREEN-GRASSHOPPER and LADYBUG. Try to identify each character from James’ rhyming introductions below, then fill in the blanks with their correct names. (By the way, only two of these creatures are true insects. Do you know which ones? Here’s a hint: all insects have six legs.)

1. First there’s the _____
His music is a tonic
Now he plays the violin
In the New York Philharmonic
2. Next here comes _____
Clothes are now her passion
She works on Fifth Avenue
She’s very big in fashion
3. Now please meet the _____
His skin’s so soft and fair
That he advertises face cream
On a billboard in Times Square!
4. It’s time to greet _____
She spins the finest thread
Now she runs a factory
Making ropes for ships instead
5. Finally, here’s _____
A business tycoon who’s
Vice-president-in-charge-of-sales
Of high-class boots and shoes

