

MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia
Launches New Production
www.mermaidtheatre.ca

(Windsor, NS) Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia will mark its 50th season with the first staged adaptation of three favorite contemporary storybooks. Directed to very young audiences, the forty-five-minute production entitled, *It's Okay to Be Different – Stories by Todd Parr* will be launched in October 2022 for a 9-month tour at multiple U.S and Canadian venues including, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Walton Arts Center, and Manitoba Theatre for Young People.

Todd Parr is the author and illustrator of more than 71 books for children, including the New York Times bestsellers: *The I Love You Book*, *The Earth Book*, and *The Thankful Book*. Todd's books are available in over forty countries throughout the world. He was the cocreator of the 3X EMMY-Nominated children's television show *ToddWorld™*, and he has created several short films for Sesame Street. His work is published by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, a division of Hachette Book Group.

"It's inspiring for me to see my books come to life on stage, especially with Mermaid Theatre. I've always believed that storytime should be a fun and exciting time for my readers. Now seeing them come alive on stage will be the ultimate experience for young and old alike."

-Todd Parr

"Todd Parr's important message of building confidence, self-expression, celebrating diversity, and taking care of our environment is paramount for today's children. Parr's work is refreshing, bright, and joyful with simple thoughts that make profound statements."

- Danny Everson, Executive Director,
Mermaid Theatre

Mermaid's new show will be directed and adapted by Jim Morrow, veteran director of numerous internationally-acclaimed Mermaid productions, narrated by Nova Scotia Poet Laurette and Mi'kmaw artist Rebecca Thomas, with special voices from children who come from underrepresented and diverse communities. The new show will be composed by multi-awarding film composer and musician, Asif Ilyas who has appeared with Sting, Leonard Cohen, and Joni Mitchell on their albums.



-imagery from Mermaid Theatre's live stage adaptation, Shehab Ilyas.

It's Okay to Be Different – Stories by Todd Parr will feature an innovative approach to puppetry manipulation and construction, combined with playful original music for which the company has earned worldwide praise. Mermaid Theatre is represented in the United States and Canada by the Shaw Entertainment Group and Agence Station Bleue (Québec & Asia).

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's unique adaptations of children's literary classics have enchanted more than six million spectators on four continents. Founded in 1972, the company ranks among North America's most respected theatres for the young and plays an important role as cultural ambassador for Nova Scotia and for Canada.

For More Information
Shaw Entertainment Group
Simon Shaw simon@shawentertainment.com
+1 (917) 392-6739
Sherri Leathers sherri@shawentertainment.com
+1 (615) 500-6922

Todd Parr
Visit him online at www.toddparr.com
and follow him on Twitter and Instagram @toddparr

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers,
A division of Hachette Book Group www.lbr.com



Shaw
Entertainment
Group