



THE RAINBOW FISH

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's elegant new show, *The Rainbow Fish*, will include an original stage adaptation of Marcus Pfister's colourful story as well two of the author's companion tales, *Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea* and *Opposites*.

The Stories

The Rainbow Fish

The *Rainbow Fish* tells the story of the most beautiful fish in the sea, whose scales shimmer in all the colours of the rainbow. He is admired by the entire underwater world, and the other fish dream of owning one of his magnificent shiny scales. Resentment and isolation ensue when he is unwilling to give any of them away, and he becomes the loneliest fish in the ocean. Following the advice of a clever octopus, he gives each fish one of his scales. The more he shares, the happier he becomes.



The idea of depicting the exceptional beauty of the *Rainbow Fish* with shimmering silver foil came from the author himself. The result was the first picture book of its kind to appear on the market, and *The Rainbow Fish* took the best seller lists by storm when it was published in 1992. To date more than 30 million copies of the various *Rainbow Fish* volumes have been sold worldwide, in more than 50 languages. Now celebrating its twenty-fifth year of publication, *The Rainbow Fish* is undoubtedly one of the classic titles of children's literature.

Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea

Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea highlights further adventures. When his last glittering scale falls off and sinks down into the deep sea, *Rainbow Fish* finds the courage to follow it into the great unknown, discovering a new world with wonderful sights and friendly creatures of all shapes, sizes and colors that are eager to make his acquaintance.

Opposites

Opposites uses striking images from *Rainbow Fish*'s underwater wonderland to introduce very young children to the concept of opposites such as up/down, in/out, over/under, big/little, long/short. As a fitting finale, the story ends with the most satisfying opposite of all—give and take—as *Rainbow Fish* shares one of his shining scales with a friend.



The author about his book:

"*Rainbow Fish* has no political message. The story shows us the joy of sharing. We all enjoy making presents for Christmas or birthdays and we are feeling good doing so. I want to show to our children the positive aspect of sharing: To share does not only mean to give away something (which is quite hard for a child), but above all to make happy someone else - and itself."

The creative team

Marcus Pfister, Author/Illustrator

Marcus was born in 1960 in Bern, Switzerland. After attending art school in Bern and subsequently training as a graphic designer, he worked from 1981 to 1983 in an advertising agency. In 1984 he started his own business, which inspired his first picture book, *The Sleepy Owl*, published in 1986 by NordSüd. The big breakthrough followed in 1992 when he wrote *The Rainbow Fish*, taking the bestseller lists by storm. To date, more than thirty million copies have been sold worldwide, in different formats, appearing in over fifty different languages. In his studio overlooking the Swiss capital, Marcus continues to create new characters and stories.

Jim Morrow, Director/Production Designer

Jim creates puppets for stage, television and film. He's directed numerous shows for the Theatre, including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites*; *Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook*; *Swimmy*, *Frederick*, *Inch by Inch*; *Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny* and many others. A gifted performer, Jim has toured extensively in Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan. He serves as director of puppetry for Symphony Nova Scotia's production of *The Nutcracker*, and frequently conducts master classes in puppetry in North America and abroad. Jim is Mermaid Theatre's Artistic Director.

Steven Naylor, Composer

Steven has created the music for more than a dozen Mermaid shows, including *Stella*, *Queen of the Snow*; *Guess How Much I Love You & I Love My Little Storybook*, *Swimmy*, *Frederick*, and *Inch by Inch*; *Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny* and others. His many other professional activities include original film and television scores; contemporary music composition and performance; university teaching and curriculum development; and a long-term international involvement with electroacoustic concert music. Steven is Mermaid Theatre's Artistic Advisor for Music and Sound Design.

Company members

Two seasoned performers and a veteran stage manager will participate in this engagement.

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