

Frog Belly Rat Bone

"We're hoping for a world tour in the near future." (4 articles)

Metromix Los Angeles

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Metromix Los Angeles

April 18, 2008

"LA Times Festival of Books"

It's the festival of books! Over 300 exhibitors, 100 author panels, and two days at UCLA that will test your skills at balancing large amounts of printed matter and your ability to negotiate Royce Hall's nearby parking structures.

Saturday standouts look to be Sherman Alexie and Richard Price (with his new novel "Lush Life") plus poet Albert Goldbarth reading from "The Kitchen Sink: New and Selected Poems." Meanwhile, on Sunday there's "Wonder Years" book-hot actress (and UCLA math grad) Danica McKellar reading from her new book, "Math Doesn't Suck." Former Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky will grace the poetry stage and so will Chris Abani, with his new book "Hands Washing Water." Be sure to check out The Comix Strip, this year's concession to the burgeoning comic book / graphic novel industry. Throw in a performance by Rogue Artists Ensemble and you've got a well-rounded, brainy weekend of bookmarks and sunscreen.

Check the website for specific events, as there are truly a ton.

Curious George's Notes on the Hut

(curiousgeorgestore.blogspot.com)

April 18, 2008

Greetings from sunny Cambridge!

After his appearance in our store during the Bookish Ball last Saturday, we were so excited to have email from Timothy Basil Ering! Turns out The Rogue Artists Ensemble will be performing their stage adaptation of The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone on Sunday, April 27, at the Los Angeles Times/UCLA Festival of Books. We're hoping for a world tour in the near future, but for the moment we'll have to make do with this trailer he forwarded to us -- not to mention poring over our signed copies of "Frog Belly" and "Necks Out for Adventure!"

Book, Booker, Bookest

(bookbookerbookest.blogspot.com)

October 3, 2008

The 7th Annual West Hollywood Book Fair had me with this poster. I love it! At first, I thought the blue fellow was a walrus, goo goo g'joob. I know, I know. But, Candy, where are the tusks? Okay, so maybe I wanted to see a walrus. But I'll settle for the super-cute blue pug, too.

Unfortunately, I lost all of the wonderful pictures I took while there last Sunday. Please don't ask how, it will depress me all over again. Anyway, my son lit up with the spirited reading of Green Eggs and Ham by actors Randy Oglesby and M.C. Gainey.

In an interesting display of the ripple effect, my son has been requesting to read his CD-ROM version of the book throughout the week; and tonight he started reciting lines from the book while helping me cook, as he sampled the sharp cheddar cheese we were grating.

We also enjoyed the creative puppetry of the Rogue Artists Ensemble in their performance of The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone, based on the picture book by Timothy Basil Ering. I love the concept of the puppet as extension of the puppeteer. Where does one end and the other begin?

Lisa Yee was funny as usual on her panel, "Tough Issues, Light Touches: Writing for Teens Without Turning Them Off." This was the only children's literature panel of the day (hint to the organizers: How about at least one more for next year?) And we enjoyed listening to Erica Silverman read her newest book, There Was a Wee Woman...

Finally, my Southern California helio-biblio index theory proved correct once more. Books are hot and so is the weather when L.A. hosts a book fair. Can I hear you say, "90's?"

Tartan Today

January 15, 2009

"The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone: An Assembly for Preschool and Lower School Students"

Monday, in an assembly supported by the PTF Arts Alliance, Rogue Artists Ensemble performed an adaptation of the book *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone*, by Timothy Basil Ering, for Lower School and Preschool students at St. Margaret's. Life-size puppets gathered in "Cementland," aka Sillers Hall, to search for treasure. A boy, a rabbit, a rat, a fruit fly and a singing monster find a mysterious envelope filled with gray specks. As they come to understand how these flower seeds could beautify Cementland, they learn that friendship can be the greatest treasure of all.

This ragtag group of friends works through adversity and forms bonds while learning that taking without asking can be the same as stealing, and that being duplicitous to try to gain friends, instead of being genuine with those you meet, can backfire. Mrs. Jennifer Arundale, Lower School PTF Arts Alliance Coordinator, chose this group for the Lower School assembly performance "because the story personifies the Character Counts pillars of Fairness, Caring and Trustworthiness and proves that forgiveness and working together make for better friendships."

Rat learns his lesson in a difficult way, when he has Rabbit gather the treasured seeds while the monster is sleeping. When Rabbit discovers that he has been tricked into stealing, he is angry at Rat, who was motivated by the desire to be more popular. As Mrs. Arundale notes, "This performance showed that while everyone can make mistakes, we all have the power to forgive." In the end, Rat and Rabbit reconcile, and Rat shares his books with the group so that they can all identify the flowers that are blooming in Cementland.

After the performance, the puppeteers (and the puppets) gave high-fives and posed for photographs with the Lower School students. At first, some were hesitant to shake hands with Rat, who has bony appendages, but in the end, all were friends, onstage and offstage. Mrs. Arundale believes that the show was well-received by the students, and that the interaction with the puppets after the show was a high point for the kids.

Mrs. Ingrid Andrews, Director of the Early Childhood Development Center and Wee Tartan Center, reports that teachers thought it was "zany, creative humor, interactive and fun," and that the children wanted to talk about the characters they "met" after the performance. Mrs. Andrews believes that the assembly provided both a fun experience and the opportunity for the students to think about what it means to be a friend.

Rogue Artists Ensemble is supported by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and is part of Orange County Performing Arts Center Arts Teach, a roster of educational assembly artists. The group presented a signed copy of *The Story of Frog Belly Rat Bone* to St. Margaret's.