

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: *THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR SHOW* RETURNS TO DALLAS CHILDREN'S THEATER IN 2026

(Dallas, TX) – Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) is excited to ring in the new year by welcoming back one of the most popular performances for our youngest theatergoers, their families, and the young at heart: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*. The distinctively simple stories and colorful illustrations of beloved children's author Eric Carle leap from the page to the stage in a display of color and artistry in this returning classic. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* opens at DCT on January 24 and runs through February 28.

The critically acclaimed production of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* features a loveable cast of 75 larger-than-life puppets representing familiar characters from four of Carle's most well-known stories. In a beautiful celebration of animals and imagination, attendees will visit the worlds of *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse*, *Mister Seahorse*, *The Very Lonely Firefly* and course, the star of the show – *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Under the direction of Douglass Burks, founding member and Master Puppeteer with Kathy Burks Theatre of Puppetry Arts, four actors will bring to life the classic characters that were famously originated by Carle's iconic collage and watercolor illustrations.

"I grew up loving these books, and now I have the privilege of shaping their world onstage through these remarkable puppets," said Doug Burks, director of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*. "Returning to direct this production allows me to dive even deeper into its craft, its rhythm, and its heart. Each new cast brings fresh discoveries, and that continual evolution is exactly what makes this show such a joy to lead."

Dallas audiences were first introduced to *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* during its exciting Southwest premiere at DCT in 2018. In fact, DCT was one of the first Theater for Young Audiences (TYA) regional theaters approached by the show creator Jonathan Rockefeller and Rockefeller Productions to bring the show to life on stage. After the overwhelming positive response from audiences, DCT theatergoers were treated with a dreamy, cozy edition of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Christmas Show* in 2019 and a hilarious array of merry mishaps in *Paddington Saves Christmas* in 2021.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show debuted Off-Broadway in January 2016 and was nominated for both a Drama Desk Award and an Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best

Family Show. The show continues to tour internationally. Since it was first published in 1969, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* has sold more than 50 million copies worldwide. Though beloved children's author Eric Carle passed away in 2021, DCT is excited to be part of continuing his legacy of introducing families and young children to his classic stories.

"If you ask actors to demonstrate 'yellow' or 'green,' the response is surprisingly universal. That instinctive connection to color is at the heart of Eric Carle's work. His bold, saturated hues—often set against a clean white backdrop is the feeling which lives on in the puppets and design of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show*," said DCT Artistic Director Emily Ernst. "We treat the stage as a canvas for light, allowing color to move through the space the way it moves across Carle's pages, painting the world and bringing visual art and theatre together in a way that young audiences instinctively understand."

Join us one hour before the performance to participate in our interactive scavenger hunt and learn how to draw the characters in the style of Eric Carle. After the show, stick around for one of DCT's most cherished traditions: meet the cast, where you can take photos with them and get their autographs.

Tickets for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* are available online at dct.org/performances or by calling the Box Office at 214.740.0051.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show

Created by Jonathan Rockefeller

Produced in association with Rockefeller Productions

Based on four Eric Carle books

Recommended for ages 3 and up

Cast

Ensemble – Kyle Igneczi*

Ensemble – Gerald Taylor*

Ensemble – Autumn Robinson*

Ensemble – Gena Loe*

Understudy – Ania Lyons

Production Team

Director – Douglass Burks

Scenic Designer – Josh Smith

Lighting Designer – Troy Carrico

Props Designer – DCT Production Staff

Sound Designer – Marco Salinas

Costume Designer – Lyle Huchton

Stage Manager – Maddie Collins*

Performance Dates and Times

Saturday, January 24, 1:30 PM (Sensory-Friendly)

Saturday, January 24, 4:30 PM – Public Opening

Sunday, January 25, 1:30 PM

Saturday, January 31, 1:30 PM

Saturday, January 31, 4:30 PM

Sunday, February 1, 1:30 PM

Sunday, February 1, 4:30 PM

Saturday, February 7, 1:30 PM

Saturday, February 7, 4:30 PM

Sunday, February 8, 1:30 PM

Saturday, February 14, 1:30 PM

Saturday, February 14, 4:30 PM

Sunday, February 15, 1:30 PM

Sunday, February 15, 4:30 PM (ASL)

Sunday, February 22, 1:30 PM

Sunday, February 22, 4:30 PM

Saturday, February 28, 1:30 PM – Public Closing

Photo Credit: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show* (2018) photo courtesy of Dallas Children's Theater. From Left to Right: Dustin Curry, Charli Armstrong, Steph Garrett. Photo by: Linda Blase.

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Dallas Children's Theater
5938 Skillman St
Dallas, Texas 75231

About Dallas Children's Theater

Co-founded by Robyn Flatt in 1984, Dallas Children's Theater serves over 95,000 young people and their families annually with professional productions and a robust arts-in-education program. As the only professional theater in North Texas focused exclusively on children and families, DCT fosters understanding across generations and cultures, nurturing an early love for literature, art, and the performing arts.

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