



# TMP FAMILY THEATER TEACHER GUIDE



Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus  
January 17th - 25th

Directed by Lexi Barnett  
Music Directed by Leischen Moore

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**03.**

ABOUT THE SHOW



**05.**

THEATER ETIQUETTE

**08.**

IN CLASS PROJECT  
IDEA

**04.**

MEET THE TEAM

**06.**

PRE/POST SHOW  
DISCUSSION IDEAS

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## SYNOPSIS

It's not easy being the Pigeon-you never get to do ANYTHING! But when the Bus Driver has a crisis that threatens to make her passengers (gasp!) late, maybe that wily bird CAN do something.

Featuring an innovative mix of songs, and feathers, Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical! is sure to get everyone's wings flapping.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive The Bus is ultimately a story about a little bird trying to find his "thing" that makes him uniquely himself- that thing he is made most to do in this world. Childhood for many of us is a time to explore the possibilities of what could be our "thing". Many of us try out sports or dance or art or music and switch around until we find our thing that just fits. One thing I love about children is that when they find their thing, they are unabashed in their pursuit of it and love for that thing. When we grow up, we often choose more sensible paths or forget about them when life becomes busy. I hope that Pigeon and his search to find his thing encourages you, no matter what age you are, to pursue your passions and live into the things that make you feel the most like yourself in your life. I find myself particularly grateful in this season to Jon Douglas Rake for creating an arts venue that allows so many of us artists to "do our thing" locally and give the arts back to our community while doing so.

Lexi Barnett, Director

# MEET THE TEAM

**Mo Willems (Author, Book and Lyrics)** began his career as a writer and animator for PBS' Sesame Street.. During his nine seasons at Sesame Street, Mo also served as a weekly commentator for BBC Radio and created two animated series. Mo began writing and drawing books for children. His debut, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* became a New York Times Bestseller. In addition to picture books, Mo created the Elephant and Piggie books, a series of "Easy Readers", which were awarded the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal in 2008 and 2009 and a Geisel Honor in 2011.

**Deborah Wicks La Puma (Music)** A composer, music director and orchestrator, Deborah Wicks La Puma is one of the most produced Theatre for Young Audiences artists working today. Some of her most popular musicals include *ELLA ENCHANTED* (based on the book by Gail Carson Levine), *OLIVERIO: A BRAZILIAN TWIST*, and *EINSTEIN IS A DUMMY* with playwright Karen Zacarías, and the off-broadway hit *SHE PERSISTED* (based on the book by Chelsea Clinton) with playwright Adam Tobin.

**Leischen Moore (Music Director)** is happy to back as the Musical Director for this production. Most recently she served as MD for *Holiday Inn* and *Anastasia* the last two Christmases at TMP. She has also music directed *Jesus Christ Superstar* at TLT, *Annie* at Auburn Avenue Theatre, and *James and the Giant Peach* and *Junie B. Jones* for Tacoma Family Theatre. She is often in front of the curtain, and was recently seen as Eliza Dolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Other favorite shows include: *25th Annual Putnum (Rona) Hello, Dolly!* (Irene Malloy), *Annie* (Grace Farrell), and *They're Playing Our Song* (Sonia Walsk). She holds vocal performance degrees from PLU and New York University. She is owner and voice teacher at Rare Bird Studios ([www.rarebirdstudios.com](http://www.rarebirdstudios.com)) and adjunct professor of Musical Theatre for Pacific Lutheran University.

**Lexi Barnett (Director)** has worked as a director, choreographer, and teaching artist in the Puget Sound area for the past 14 years. She has served as Artistic Director of Broadway Olympia Productions, the head of KidCo. Productions and as Coordinator for TMP Family Theater. She holds her B.A. in Theatre Performance from Whitworth University and her Masters of Fine Arts in Directing and Theatre for Young Audiences from the University of North Carolina Greensboro. Favorite projects include: *Anastasia* (Tacoma Musical Playhouse) *Songs for a New World* (Broadway Olympia) *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Tacoma Little Theatre) *Music Man* (Clinton Area Showboat) *A Year with Frog & Toad* (NCTYP), the NW regional premiere of *Spring Awakening* (Balagan Theatre), and *CATS* (Tacoma Musical Playhouse 2011).



# AT THE THEATER

Live theater is incredibly exciting and fun for all ages, but can come with a bit of a learning curve for young audiences who are not used to the art form. Below are some tips and instructions to share with your students before attending the theater.

Remain seated the whole performances with your feet hanging off the seat, not tucked under yourself or kicking the seat in front of you.

Do not talk during the performance. It disrupts the actors and the other audience members. If an actor talks to you directly, it's okay to respond!

Use the restroom or get a drink of water **BEFORE** the show or during intermission (if there is one). Getting up during a performance can be distracting, so avoid it if you can!

Make sure to clap for things you enjoy and laugh at things you find funny! Actors appreciate the feedback!

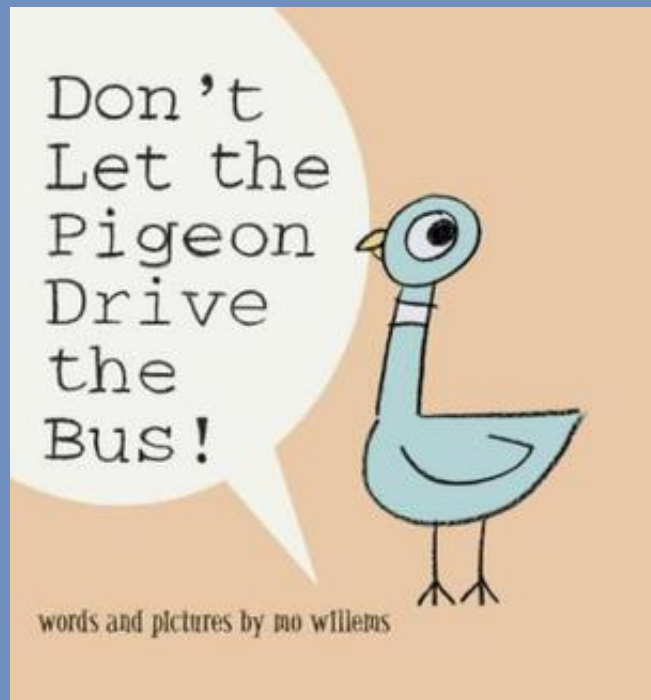
After the show, the actors may line up in the lobby to greet you! Feel free to say hello and tell them something you enjoyed about the show!



## PRE - SHOW

# INFO AND ACTIVITIES

This musical is based off Mo Willem's book *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* Consider reading this as a class before attending the show!



### Pre-Show Discussion Ideas

1. What is something you have always wanted to try?
2. What does it mean when someone says that something is "their thing"?
3. Would you let the pigeon drive the bus?
4. Should the bus driver have trusted the reader to watch the bus for him?

## POST - SHOW

# CLASSROOM DISCUSSION

After attending the show, allow students to share their thoughts on the show and experience. Here are some guiding questions to keep the conversation going:

1. What was the biggest difference you noticed between the stories and the musical?
2. What character was your favorite?
3. Which character did you relate to the most?
4. What was your favorite song in the show?
5. What was your favorite moment in the show?

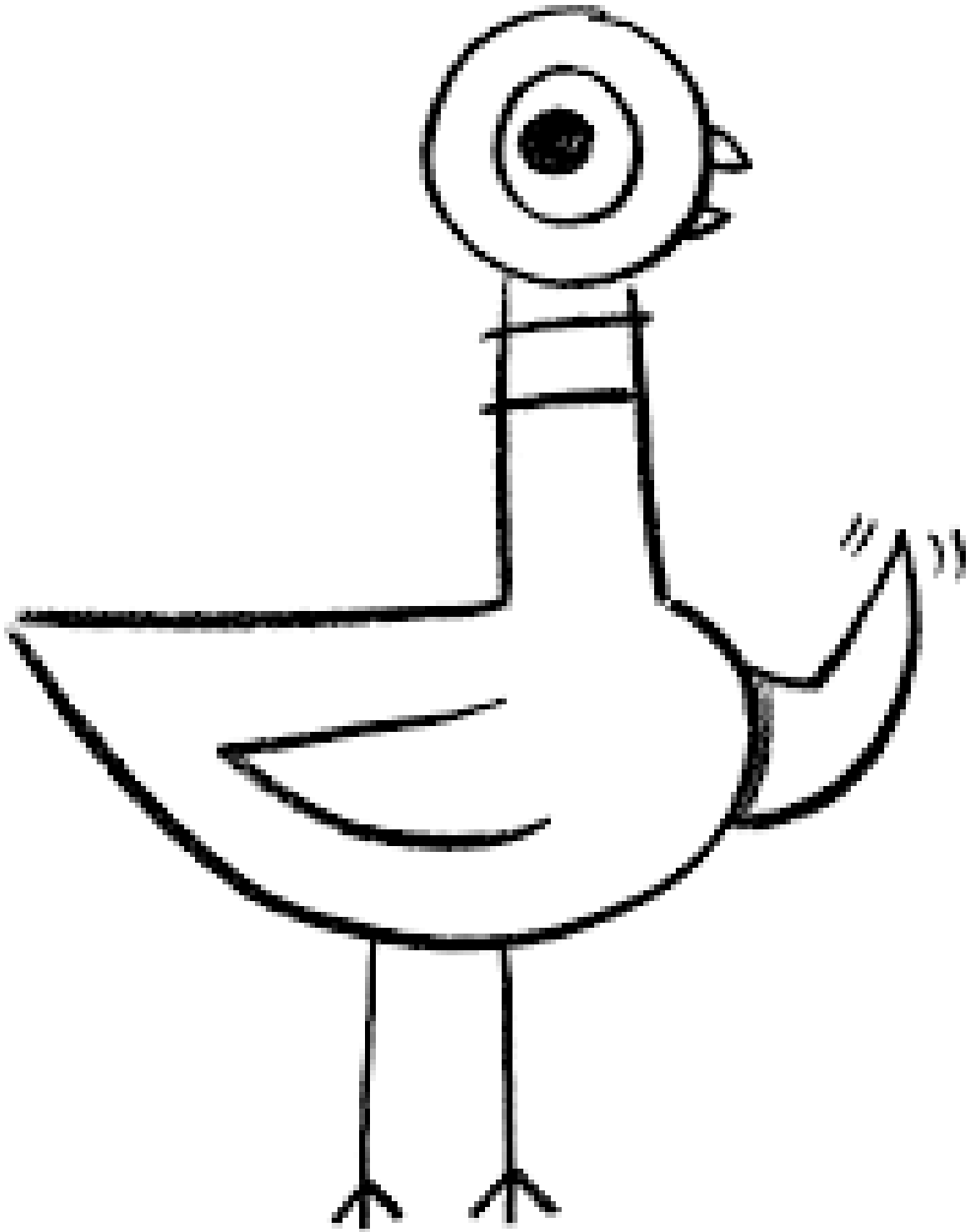
# GIVE THE PIGEON A JOB

In *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus*, Pigeon is trying to find what his "thing" is - what he is supposed to be doing in his life. Give your students a chance to help him decide, by designing what he would wear to this new job.

(See next page for coloring page)







Pigeon's New Job is

---

# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TMP FAMILY THEATER! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK NEXT SEASON!

If you have any questions about this show or future ones, please feel free to reach out to Kayla Littleton, Director of Education.

## CONTACT US



PHONE  
253.565.6867



EMAIL  
kayla@tmp.org



WEBSITE  
[www.tmp.org](http://www.tmp.org)

