

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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the  
**GOTTABEES**



**Puppet  
Showplace  
Theater**

The Gottabees Announce

**ScreenPLAY!**  
***an irresistible, interactive family ZOOM adventure***

**Back by Popular Demand at Puppet Showplace Theater**

*The Gottabees have been intensely missing the communal, in-the-moment shared joy of live theater. Thus, they are very, very excited to announce ScreenPLAY! - a joyfully ridiculous mashup of interactive theater, puppetry and Simon Says for families...experienced over ZOOM.*

*After an intensive summer of development and performances at Puppet Showplace Theater with hundreds of intrepid families making puppets from strips of toilet paper and sailing around on icebergs in their living rooms, The Gottabees are ready to share ScreenPLAY! with the world.*

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**BOSTON, MA, October 8, 2020 -- ScreenPLAY!** is a live performance that isn't your typical screen time -- you'll be running around your living room chasing a magical butterfly or trying to escape a thundering herd of imaginary yeti. So, clear some space at home, jump into your ZOOM square, and get ready for imagined adventures!

"You know what we need? Some unabashed fun," said Bonnie Duncan, Lead Artist of the Gottabees. "We're not ignoring the world with **ScreenPLAY!**, we're giving families a joyfully ridiculous 30 minutes so they can handle the world."

Every **ScreenPLAY!** starts by the whole audience putting their screens into Gallery Mode on ZOOM, so all the participants can see each other. Then, it's off to the races, as Bonnie leads them through a series of playful exercises, taking them on and off their screens, sending them racing around their houses to collect props and costumes, and culminating in everyone acting out a story together. All performed to original live music from The Gottabees long-time composers, Brendan Burns and Tony Leva.

"As a parent, I love *ScreenPLAY* because it's a great way to get (you and) your kids moving and using their imagination, in the company of other families and guided by an expert. It's really an interactive adventure more than a show," said Alison Plante of Brookline. "As a Puppet Showplace Theater Trustee, *ScreenPLAY* has provided a great opportunity for Puppet Showplace to continue to fulfill our mission, allowing world-class puppeteers a way to continue to innovate in this art form while reaching new audiences."

How to Experience **ScreenPLAY!**

ScreenPLAY is a live 30-40 minute interactive ZOOM event hosted by Puppet Showplace Theater October 9 - November 14 (Fridays at 10:30 am & 4:00 pm ET and Saturdays 10:30 am ET). Registration is required and closes 90 minutes before start time.

1. Register for *ScreenPLAY!* on Puppet Showplace Theater's website.
2. Get your family together—kids, grown-ups, teens, elders, pets. Anyone who wants to PLAY!
3. Find an open space or clear a room so you can move around without tripping or bumping into anything.
4. Click the top-secret ZOOM link in your email to join the adventure.

\*Note: ScreenPLAY uses ZOOM gallery view and works best on a laptop or computer.

Kristin Baker, a parent of three children and participant from Woburn said, "These performances are meaningfully interactive and will spark creative play that will continue long after the screen goes off. Bonnie is a master at what she does."

### **About The Gottabees**

The Gottabees are a Boston-based ensemble dedicated to creating inspirational, engaging, and empowering theater for family audiences. Our company is known internationally uniting simple-but-elegant visual theater with astonishing technique. Our shows, *Squirrel Stole My Underpants*, *Lollipops for Breakfast*, and *Go Home Tiny Monster* have been performed for over 36,000 people in 5 countries and 14 states.

The Gottabees' stories reflect children's everyday aspirations, concerns, and emotional experiences. We find it deeply satisfying to create this style of theater for families to giggle, gasp, sigh, and cheer together in 45 minutes or less. One of the things that makes us happiest is when we meet children who have seen a show and parents tell us how their child acted out the entire show for weeks after seeing it. This is the core reason why we make theater for young audiences: *The Gottabees want children to know in their hearts that they, too, can make theater wherever they are and whomever they are.*

Our work earned a 2017 UNIMA-USA Citation of Excellence and won the "Artistic Achievement Award" for Puppeteers of America's Northeast Region in 2015. The Gottabees have performed all over, including the Center for Puppetry Arts (Atlanta, GA), La MaMa E.T.C. (New York City), Detroit Institute of the Arts (Michigan), ICA/Boston (MA), Izmir International Puppet Days (Turkey), and AHA! International Theater Festival for Families (India).

*ScreenPLAY!* is part of The Gottabees' *Try This at Home* series which aims to engage families during COVID-19 through pre-recorded videos, livestream events, and virtual interactive experiences.

<http://www.thegottabees.com>

### **About Puppet Showplace Theater**

Puppet Showplace Theater is dedicated to presenting outstanding professional puppetry to diverse audiences through performances, workshops, and community outreach activities. Each year, they present over 300 performances by professional puppet companies at their Brookline Village theater. They offer workshops, classes, summer camps, and training opportunities to both children and adults, and they partner with local and emerging artists to develop new work.

They share their passion for puppetry as a vital, living art form and strive to engage audiences of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Puppet Showplace Theater supports the use of puppetry for entertainment, in education, and as a means of creative self-expression. After 46 years of operations, their theater has become a treasured cultural institution.

<http://www.puppetshowplace.org>

PHOTOS

Press photos: <https://bit.ly/screenplayIMAGES>

Photo credit: "photo by Rex Milstein, age 9"

*\*Yes! All photos were taken by Bonnie's son.\**

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## CALENDAR LISTING

Theatre | Performing Arts | Virtual Events

### WHAT

*ScreenPLAY!*

### WHO

The Gottabees

### FEATURING

Bonnie Duncan, performer

Brendan Burns & Tony Leva, music

Dan Milstein, director

### WHEN

Oct 9-10, *How to Charm a Sea Monster*

Oct 16-17, *Race Through the Snow*

Oct 23-24, *What We Found in the Forest*

Nov 6-7, *Look Up: A Hot Air Balloon Adventure*

Nov 13-14, *Journey into Space*

### PERFORMANCES

Fridays at 10:30 am & 4:00 pm ET

Saturdays at 10:30 am ET

### WHERE

ZOOM via Puppet Showplace Theater

### ABOUT

Calling all families! The intrepid artists of The Gottabees are gathering our community for an all-ages at-home adventure series. This super-interactive experience allows you to channel your household's creativity into an inspiring work of participatory art. Each ScreenPLAY episode is non-stop interactive FUN, where your whole family becomes part of the story. We explore movement, puppetry, theater, and the irresistible power of being ridiculous.

It's really fun and exciting...but a little hard to describe until you've given it a try.

So, clear some space at home, jump into your ZOOM square, and get ready for imagined adventures!

### REGISTRATION

ScreenPLAY is a live 30-40 minute interactive ZOOM event. Registration is required and closes 90 minutes before start time.

Tickets are \$15 / per family. \$10 tickets for Puppet Showplace Theater members.

<http://www.puppetshowplace.org/screenplay>

Contact Box Office for more details: [boxoffice@puppetshowplace.org](mailto:boxoffice@puppetshowplace.org)

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QUESTIONS?

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