



News Release: A fantastic puppet show for families!

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Why does the platypus look *SO STRANGE??* You'll find out when **Barefoot Puppet Theatre** presents *Dreamtime:Tales From Down Under*, a wonderful production for all ages! This show was inspired by three traditional tales of the Aborigines of Australia and is told through the eyes of Billy, an inquisitive young platypus. Rod puppets come to life on a beautiful "table-top" stage to create this delightful cast of characters. You will meet and be entertained by some of the most unusual animals in the world in this show that allows for lots of audience participation. This 45-minute show is great for all ages – we look forward to seeing you there!

Company Information

Barefoot Puppet Theatre has been building and performing original works since 1997 when founder and director, Heidi Rugg, began building puppet shows from the basement of her home in Richmond, Virginia. The first show was originally designed to fit in the back of a Volkswagen Golf! From these humble beginnings, the company (and the touring vehicle) has grown significantly and now tours nationally to libraries, schools, and theaters while continuing to create new works for children and their families. Each performance features beautiful puppets in a variety of styles, imaginative and well-researched scripts, unique staging, audience participation, and original music. These elements combine to bring to life world folktales, classic tales (with a twist!), and adaptations of true stories. Performances have thrilled audiences at Boston's Puppet Showplace Theater, The Center for Puppetry Arts, The National Zoo, The Smithsonian Discovery Theater, and The Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts. In 2005, Barefoot Puppet Theatre was awarded a UNIMA Citation of Excellence, the highest distinction in North American puppetry.

Barefoot Puppet Theatre's mission is to celebrate the cultural diversity and natural wonders of our world through the art of puppetry. Contemporary adaptations of world Folktales, classic tales, myths, and true stories combine with original scripts and meticulously crafted puppets, scenery, and staging to create unique theatrical experiences for young audiences and their families. Through performances, interactive workshops, and residency programs, Barefoot Puppet Theatre seeks to nurture the creative spark, cultivate a joy of learning, and plant the seeds for a greater understanding and appreciation of the arts and the world around us.