

Presto, Mambo!

PROGRAM INFORMATION

(September 2022 – Please destroy all previous versions)

The following text must be included in the concert program.

Presto, Mambo!

Written and directed by Peter Duschenes
Musical direction by Alain Trudel
Artistic advisors: Lisa Griffiths and H el ene Ducharme
Puppets and masks by Claude Rodrigue, Sandra Turgeon and Colin St-Cyr Duhamel
Costumes by Sarah Waghorn

Performers:
Samantha Bitonti and Peter Duschenes

Stage Manager:
Wendy Rockburn



(N.B. Logo must be included in program and is available on the Platypus website at www.platypustheatre.com)

This production was co-commissioned by The National Arts Centre Orchestra, The Vancouver Symphony, the Edmonton Symphony and the Toronto Symphony.

(N.B. Logos of all four orchestras must be printed in the program and are available from www.platypustheatre.com)

Platypus Theatre wants to hear from you! Leave a comment at platypustheatre.com or follow us on Twitter or YouTube

Repertoire list

Excerpts from the following:

Guti�rrez	Alma Llanera Pajarillo
de Abreu	Tico Tico no Fub�
Sousa	Liberty Bell March
B�langer, Marc	Potpourri Lavalois
Piazzolla	Oblivion
Trudel, Alain	Drum Magic
Traditional (arr. Wagler)	La Mariposa
Revueltas	Duelo from "Hommage a Federico Garcia Lorca"
Traditional (arr. Wagler)	La Bruja
Sheldon, Robert	Danzas Cubanas
Morricone	Gabriel's Oboe from "The Mission"
De Falla (arr. Chapelier)	Spanish Dance No.1 from "La Vida Breve"
Bernstein (arr. Peress)	"Mambo" from West Side Story

Biographies

N.B: Please include photographs of the actors and Stage Manager. High-resolution photographs of the artists are available on the Platypus website at: <http://www.platypustheatre.com>

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989, almost one million young audience members have been introduced to classical music through Platypus Theatre. After more than 650 performances with more than 75 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as one of North America's premiere music education theatre companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize with the characters while learning musical concepts, styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most cherished productions *How the Gimquat Found her Song* was produced for TV and went on to win several awards including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV, followed by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000. During its 25th anniversary year, Platypus premiered its eighth original production, *Presto, Mambo!*, in partnership with four orchestras across Canada. Other Platypus Productions include *Emily Saves the Orchestra*, *Rhythm in your Rubbish*, *Bach to the Future*, *Charlotte and the Music-Maker*, *Flicker of Light on a Winter's Night*, and *Peter and the Wolf*.

Peter Duschenes, Artistic Director, Actor and Writer

Thousands of young classical music fans have Peter to thank for introducing them to symphonic music. He co-founded the Platypus Theatre touring company in 1989 to make orchestral music accessible for youth, and more than three quarters of a million concert-goers have benefitted from his creativity. As an award-winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include all eight Platypus productions and the television adaptation of *How the Gimquat Found Her Song*. In addition to his roles in Platypus shows, he has also acted and directed with companies across Canada and the United States. When Peter isn't busy helping the Gimquat find her song, he and his wife Sarah are helping their children, Magda and Theo, find their socks.

Samantha Bitonti - Actor

Samantha is thrilled to be joining the Platypus team for the 2022-2023 season! Combining her love of clown, puppetry, music, and Theatre for Young Audiences, Samantha is eager to bring to life your favourite characters from *How the Gimquat Found her Song*, *Presto, Mambo!* and *Rhythm in your Rubbish*. Samantha calls Montréal home, and loves to spend her days playing Shakespeare with Repercussion Theatre, and cultivating creativity for kids aged 4 to 99 as a drama teacher with Geordie Theatre School. It's no wonder bringing something classical to the hearts and minds of young people is right up her alley! Asking questions and getting to the heart of a story is what she's all about: believing firmly that curiosity and connection lead to joy and abundance. Samantha loves acting, singing in the car, her friends and family, her cat Tilly, and ice cream. See you at the theatre!

Wendy Rockburn – Stage Manager

Want to know who and what goes where and when and how? Wendy's the one who has it well under control. Since 2005, Wendy has expertly juggled all of the details for Platypus Theatre productions, from monster's heads to lighting cues. Not only does she manage the Platypus touring company's stage, but she also works with theatres all over Eastern and Central Canada. And as often as possible, she jets off to far places to photograph the world, most recently in the far reaches of Mongolia. Wendy has also been known to skydive over the desert in Namibia or outrace a gaucho in Argentina. Her favorite part about Platypus shows is watching the kids follow every turn in the story in rapt attention. And the climax of the *Gimquat* still makes her cry, even after all of these years. No wonder we're wild about Wendy!