



study guide

MOON MOUSE

A SPACE ODYSSEY

Presented by **Lightwire Theater**
Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 10:00 am

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theatre etiquette

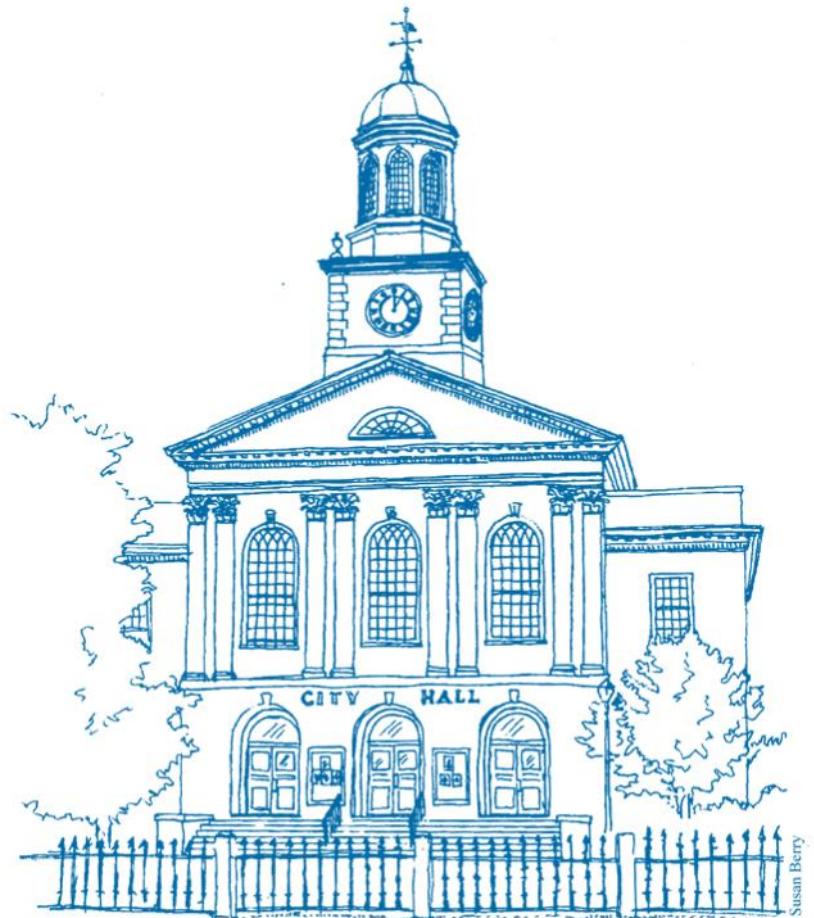
We are looking forward to your visit to Lebanon Opera House! Please take a moment to review our house rules and common theater etiquette with your class before attending the performance. Enjoy the show!

Do:

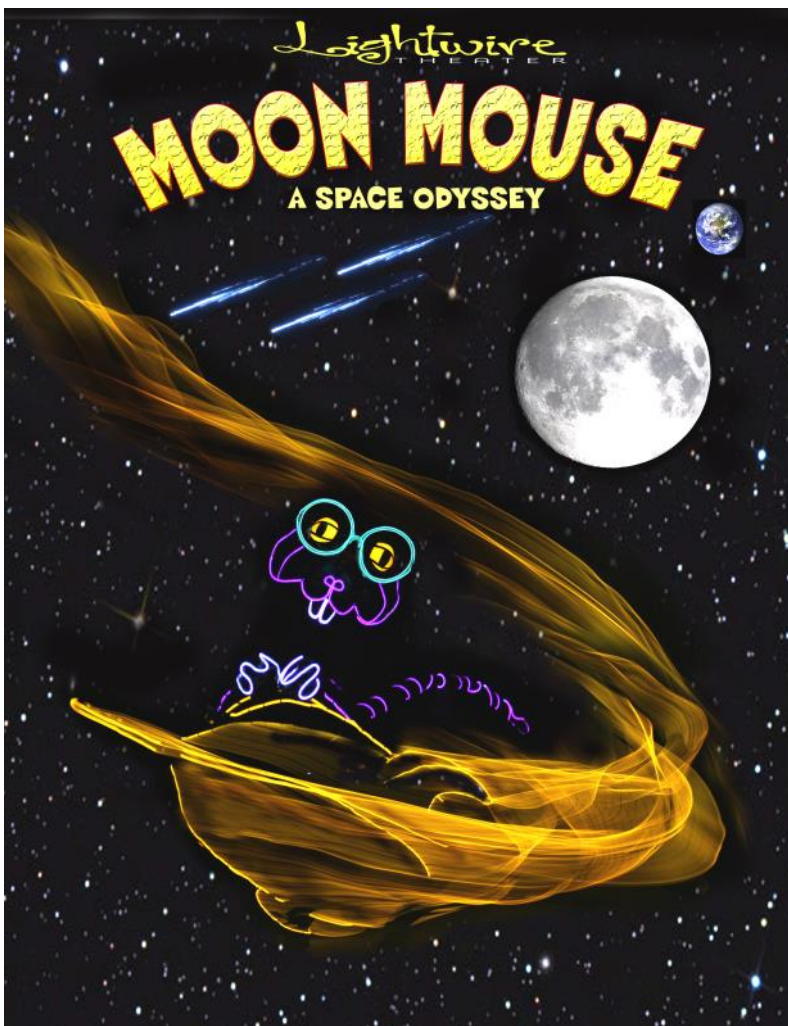
- Arrive at Lebanon Opera House early.
- Use the restroom before the performance.
- Turn off cell phones, pagers, watch alarms, and other electronic devices.
- Keep your feet on the floor.
- Show your appreciation of the performers by applauding.
- Stay with your group or school at all times.
- Wait for your school or group to be dismissed by the announcer after the show.

Don't:

- Stand in the aisles or stairwells.
- Put your feet on the seats or balcony railing.
- Talk, sing, hum, or fidget.
- Take pictures or record the actors during the performance.
- Leave the theater during the performance.
- Kick the seat in front of you.
- Eat, drink or chew gum in the theater.
- Leave your seat before the performers have taken their curtain call.



The 2016-17 **Youth Education Series** at Lebanon Opera House is generously supported in part by our sponsors. Thank you to:



Ian Carney

Creator, Artistic Director and Choreographer

Eleanor B. Carney

Creator, Executive Director

Corbin Popp

Creator, Technical Director

Whitney Popp

Creator

Stephen Charles Nicholson

Tour Manager & Performer

Jonathon Whalen

Tour Manager & Performer

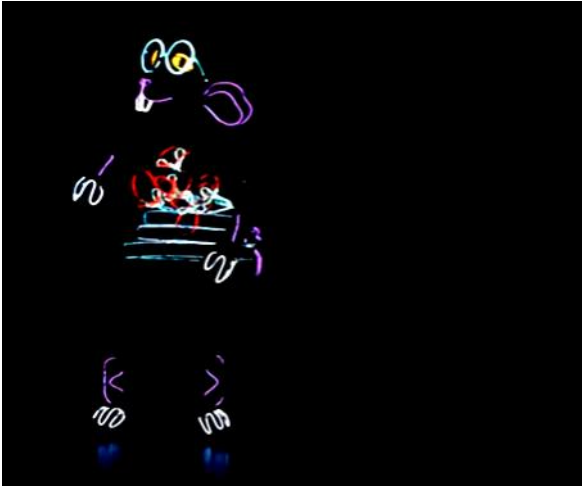
Elizabeth Daniels

Dance Captain

About the Study Guide

Information in this study guide is adapted from www.lightwiretheater.com ; www.puppetsnow.com ; www.theaterseatstore.com ; www.sciencekids.co.nz ; www.planetsforkids.org





About the Performance

Marvin the mouse wants to be popular. Constantly bullied and picked on by the "cool" rats, he is labeled as a loser and a geek. As respite from the continuous badgering, Marvin retreats into his science books and a world of fantasy. He longs to have adventures and to be the hero.

Join Marvin on the space adventure of a lifetime: a trip to the surface of the moon on his homemade rocket, where he meets a strange cast of misfit creatures, learns of infinite peril and views awesome beauty. Will Marvin make his dreams come true and experience the glory and acceptance he craves?

**CHECK OUT CLIPS OF
LIGHTWIRE THEATER!**

www.youtube.com/watch?v=20JL_yOH_UM
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqKdCgX7M8g



Some notes from the Director

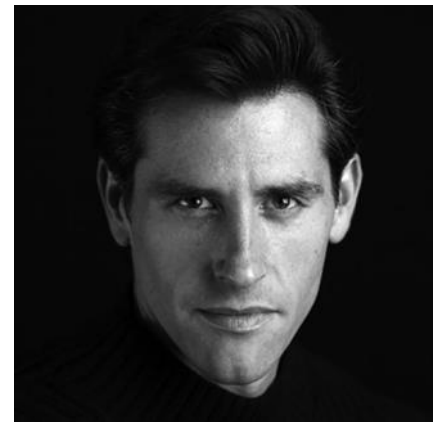
Space, the "final frontier," is the destination for Lightwire Theater's new show and latest adventure!

Flying to the moon is an idea that has captivated both children and adults for ages. Our sympathetic lead character Marvin the Mouse, who believes the moon is made of cheese, is both lovable and relatable. His journey of self acceptance is portrayed with both humor and honesty as he teaches us the important message that being different is "cool."

Our musical score will include a wide variety of styles from pop to classical as well as original compositions. It is our aim to engage every age group musically, and we hope that parents and teachers will enjoy such classics as Elton John's "Rocket Man" and David Bowie's "Space Oddity."

Over 40 luminous characters will be operated by five performers in this hour show, and a short Q & A will be offered so all can have an interesting peek behind the scenes. As creators we are constantly looking for new ways to combine our passion for both theater and technology. With this new show we are excited to offer our audiences the signature elements that they have come to love as well as a brand new cast of endearing characters.

Lightwire Theater is proud to produce MOON MOUSE: A SPACE ODYSSEY as its 5th full length show. Our hope is to inspire a new generation to come to the theater as they experience this eye popping, lesson filled, and exciting journey into space.



Ian Carney, Artistic Director

Lightwire THEATER

What is Lightwire Theater?

Creators Ian Carney and Corbin Popp met while dancing in Twyla Tharp's Broadway show *Movin' Out*. An immediate connection was made as they discovered their mutual love of art, theater and technology. After coming across a product called electroluminescent wire, or "EL wire" for short, the possibilities seemed endless. Together with their wives Eleanor and Whitney, they began to develop EL wire puppetry based on creatures that quickly gained personality. The performances are a truly unique, innovative and visually dazzling theater experience. Utilizing the talents of four cast members, they strap on EL wire puppetry to their entire bodies and bring the creatures to life through movement and dance.



Why is Lightwire Theater unique?

Each Lightwire Performance is a unique interpretation of a story told by dancers and glow-in-the-dark puppets.

These stories are told solely through movement and puppetry, without words, so it is up to your creative imagination to determine what is happening on stage!



BEFORE MOON MOUSE₁₀₀₀

The first man to make proper maps of the moon was Galileo.
The first person to walk on the moon was American astronaut Neil Armstrong in 1969.

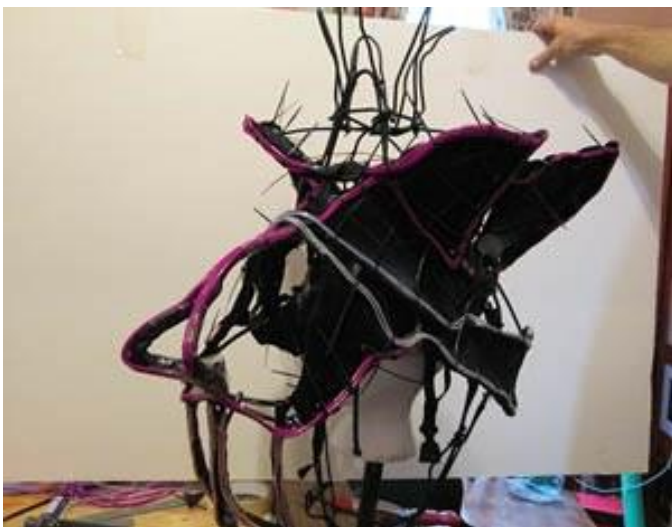


What is electroluminescent wire?

Electroluminescent wire (EL wire) is a thin copper wire coated in a **phosphor**, which glows when an electric current is applied to it. Used in safety and emergency lighting, toys, clothing, and structure decoration, EL wire is unique from other stringed lights in that it produces a continuous stream of unbroken visible light. The wire's extreme thinness allows for great flexibility—fantastic for use in designing puppets.

How are characters created?

The EL wire is attached to a battery pack that the actors wear. The characters are made from **struts** and **joints** and then covered with black cloth lined in EL wire. The actors must remain invisible during the performance; therefore they will be seen due to the EL wire **backlighting** their bodies. Considering this is a show without words, the characters are brought to life by the actors through movement and dance set to music.



History of Puppet Theater

While the precise birth date of puppets is unknown, puppetry dates back over 3,000 years. Probably originating in Egypt, puppets are mentioned in writing as early as 422 B.C.E. Following Egypt, puppetry became popular culture in India, Indonesia, Japan, and Europe. India included the use of stick puppets depicting **epics** such as **Mahabharata** and **Balakanda**. Indonesian puppets were and still are considered sacred and part of ritual ceremonies. In Japan, puppets took on more entertainment with **ornate** designs as well as on a larger scale in street theater. In Europe, puppets acted out **morality** in plays, behaving in ways that



would have been unacceptable for humans to portray. By the 19th century, string puppets had upgraded from two strings to controls that included as many as eight strings. Shortly thereafter, puppetry would be divided from actor theaters and began to compete with **vaudeville** and music hall theater. In the 20th century, a resurgence of popular puppetry was seen with the introduction of The Muppets, created by Jim Hensen, and the musical *The Lion King*, based on the Disney classic tale. Puppets continue to appeal to children and families on television, movies, and stage and are seen as a way to relate moral messages

Types of Puppets

Marionette (String Puppetry) — puppets are suspended by strings from a horizontal bar held in the puppeteer's hand. By manipulating the tilt of the bar, puppeteers make the puppet move.

Hand Puppetry — puppets are controlled by the puppeteer's hand fitting directly inside of the puppet.

Two-man Puppetry — larger puppets are controlled by two puppeteers, typically one operating the head while the other operates the body.

Carnival (Body Puppetry) — these puppets are seen in Lightwire Theater's shows, street spectacles, sporting games or *The Lion King*. Puppets are worn as a full-body suit.

Bunraku Puppetry — based in Japan, a life-sized wooden puppet is illuminated by focused light; however, puppeteers can be seen by the audience.

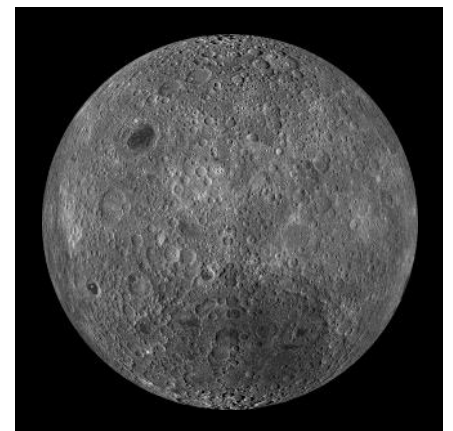
Shadow Puppetry — a paper cutout on a stick is illuminated onto a piece of white fabric, producing shadows that are viewed by the audience and allow for puppeteers to be hidden.



Did you know?

- The Moon is much smaller than the Earth, with a diameter of 2,159 miles. It is airless, waterless and lifeless.
- The Moon is the Earth's only natural satellite. A natural satellite is a space body that orbits a **planet**, a planet-like object or an **asteroid**.
- The average distance from the Moon to the Earth is 238,857 miles.
- The Moon orbits the Earth every 27.3 days.

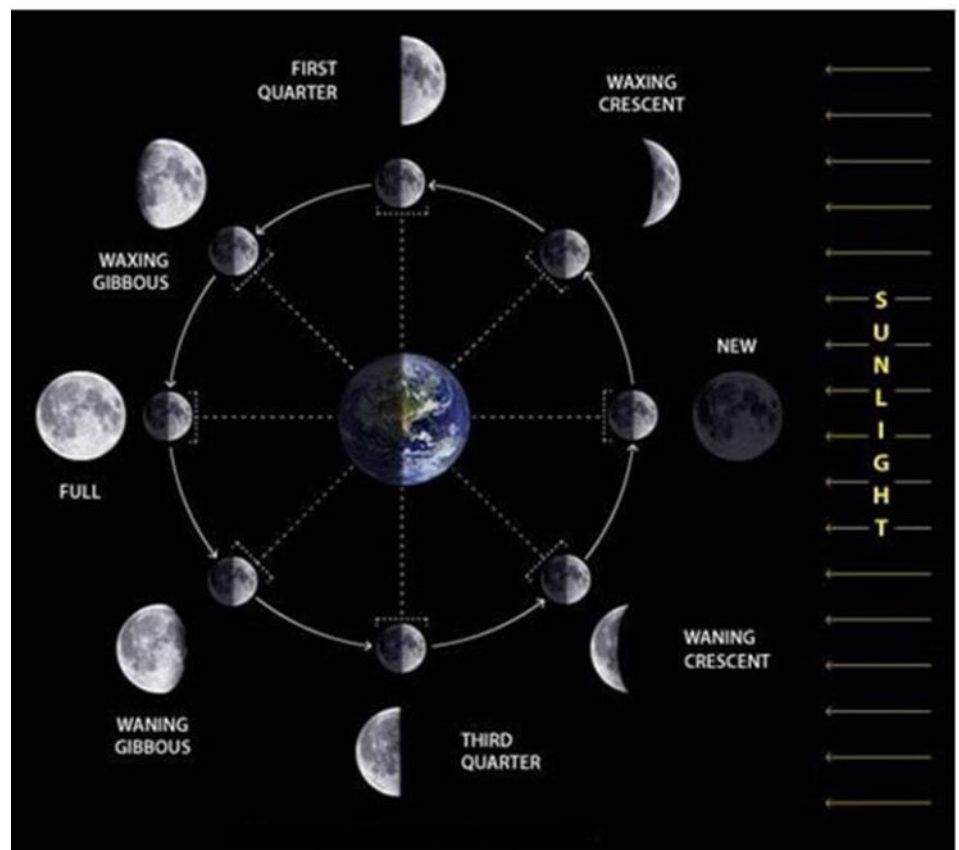
- You can see the surface of the Moon by using a pair of binoculars or a large telescope. The Moon's surface shows the damage caused by these large pieces of rock hitting it billions of years ago. The surface is covered in craters, pits and scars.
- From the Earth we can only see one side of the Moon; the other side is always turned away from us. Photographs from space show a similar scarred surface on the other side.
- The Moon has no atmosphere and so we can still see the damage caused billions of years ago.
- If you look at the Moon when it is nearly full you can see the dark areas which are known as the seas. These are not really seas but are huge expanses of smooth dark lava.



Far side of the Moon

Phases of the Moon

- All parts of the Moon are lit in turn by the sun. As it rotates around the Earth we see different fractions of the sunlit half, or **hemisphere**, of the Moon. These are known as the phases of the Moon, or **lunar phases**. The Moon changes from a thin crescent to a full moon and back again to a crescent in one month (actually 29 days, which is a lunar month).
- The **waxing** Moon. “Waxing” means growing. After the new moon appears in the sky as a tiny sliver of light, the moon waxes. It grows into a crescent, curving to your left as you look at it and then into a half moon. This takes a week and so the period is described as the Moon’s first quarter.
- The **waxing gibbous** Moon. “Gibbous” means humped and describes the shape of the Moon as it grows from a half moon to a full moon. Another week has passed and this is the Moon’s second quarter.
- The **waning** Moon. “Waning” means shrinking. Now the Moon begins to get smaller again — it “waned.” The third quarter takes us from a full moon to a half moon again, but this time it is the right hand side of the moon that shines.
- The **waning crescent** Moon. The last quarter takes us from a half moon back to a crescent moon, facing right, and to a point where the moon disappears.
- When the Moon is a crescent and only the crescent is being illuminated by the Sun, you can often see the shadow of the rest of the Moon. This is caused by reflection of sunlight from the Earth. It is sometimes called “the old moon in the new moon’s arms.”
- The gravity of the Moon, the pull which it exerts on the Earth, causes two high tides on the Earth every day—one every 12 hours and 25 minutes.



Performance Evaluation

Your Name (optional)

Your School (optional)

Grade Levels: _____

Which performance did you attend?

- Jigsaw Jones
- Out of Bounds
- Moon Mouse
- Story Pirates
- ArcAttack
- Biscuit

- ⇒ Was the performance appropriate for your students' grade level? Yes No N/A
- ⇒ Was the post-show discussion valuable to your students? Yes No N/A
- ⇒ Did this performance fit in with your curriculum? Yes No N/A

⇒ How would you rate the following aspects of the performance?
(Circle a number on the scale where 1 means below average and 5 means above average.)

	BELOW AVERAGE		AVERAGE		ABOVE AVERAGE
Entertainment Quality:	1	2	3	4	5
Educational Quality:	1	2	3	4	5

⇒ To what extent were your students challenged by the content of this performance?
(Circle a number on the scale where 1 means not at all challenged and 5 means very challenged.)

NOT AT ALL CHALLENGED	1	2	3	4	5	VERY CHALLENGED
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⇒ How did this program compare to similar programs you've attended in the past?
(Circle a number on the scale where 1 means below average and 5 means above average.)

BELOW AVERAGE	1	2	3	4	5	ABOVE AVERAGE
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⇒ Will you bring your students back to another YES! performance? Yes No

⇒ What types of shows would you like to see us present in the future?

- Music
- Dance
- Musical Theater
- Non-Musical Theater
- Other _____
- Puppetry
- Historical
- Literature Based
- Multicultural

⇒ How did you hear about the Youth Education Series?

- LOH Website
- Postcard
- Email
- Posters
- Enrichment/Arts Coordinator
- Other _____
- Radio
- Newspaper
- Teacher
- Parent

⇒ Please share any additional comments here:



2016 2017 SEASON



YES!
@LOH

ARTSPOWER in
**JIGSAW JONES:
THE CASE OF
THE CLASS CLOWN**

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 // 10 am
Recommended for grades 1 – 4

There's a joker on the loose, so it's up to Jigsaw and friends to catch the clown in this story filled with music, charm and humor.

**WORKING GROUP
THEATRE in**
OUT OF BOUNDS

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2016 // 10 am
Recommended for grades 5 and up

A girl is caught between new and old friends in a story that explores the vicious world of cyber-bullying and the complicated politics of friendship.

LIGHTWIRE THEATRE in
MOON MOUSE*

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017 // 10 am
Recommended for K - grade 4

The adventure of a lifetime—join Marvin on a trip to the moon on his homemade rocket in a tale that celebrates differences.

**STORY
PIRATES**

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2017 // 10 am
Recommended for grades 2 - 5

Story Pirates celebrates the words and ideas of young people by turning kids' original stories into wild sketch comedy musicals.

For full show descriptions please visit
lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh

ARCATTACK*

Thursday, Apr. 27, 2017 // 10 am
Recommended for grades 4 and up

Students get inspired to pursue interests in physics, mathematics, chemistry and engineering with a show that's unlike any other.

ARTSPOWER in
BISCUIT

Thursday, May 11, 2017 // 10 am
Recommended for Pre K - grade 3

Biscuit is a modern classic. See the little puppy explore, make new friends, stir up mischief and learn the joy of having a family.

School groups and children:
\$6/orchestra
\$4/balcony

One free chaperone ticket with 15 students

Additional chaperones at school group price

Other adults: \$10

*This is a sensory rich show and may be overwhelming for some audiences.

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