

# ***Lollipops for Breakfast***

a marvelous confection of friendship, invention, and adventure



## **About the Show**

You can't have lollipops for breakfast! But today, Sylvie decides she's going to break that rule, even if it means she has to make her own amazingly perfect lollipop from scratch. Come along as she and her trusty pet bird search for missing ingredients, wrestle with giant candy machines, and get lost in a magical pop-up cookbook.

With *Lollipops for Breakfast*, I am exploring the dream of making something perfect: a lollipop. I want every child (and every adult, really) to feel that they are seeing their own experience of trying something new, failing and then trying again. The performance, told entirely without words, features multiple styles of puppetry, original music, and a tiny bit of acrobatics. I am drawing inspiration from the fearlessly imaginative female leads in these wondrous stories: *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, by Andrea Beaty; *The Most Magnificent Thing*, by Ashley Spires; *Mrs. Meyers, the Bird*, by Wolf Erlbruch; and *Alice's Adventure's in Wonderland*.

## **Highlights from the Show:**

- *Breakfast à la Rube Goldberg*: Sylvie and Bird prepare their morning cereal via a marvelously complex contraption.
- *The One Lollipop Conundrum*: Sylvie and Bird's friendship is put to the test when they discover a single lollipop...and neither wants to share. Their struggle escalates until they're throwing each other all over the stage. In the chaos, the lollipop is destroyed.
- *Maybe It Just Needs More Blinking Lights*: Sylvie and Bird assemble a crazy machine in an attempt to rebuild that perfect lollipop.
- *Under the Hood*: When the machine doesn't initially work, first Bird and then Sylvie dive inside the machine and attempt to rewire it from the inside. After much struggle, they discover a giant, strange book.
- *The Book of Color & Flavor*: Opening the book reveals a beautiful, colored pop-up world. A tiny Sylvie travels from page to page, gathering color and flavor for their lollipop---happening upon a candy forest, a ferocious bee, a very slippery ice pond, and a vast mountain range.

*Lollipops for Breakfast* premiered during the historic blizzard-filled winter of 2015 at Puppet Showplace Theater in Brookline, MA.

The show was generously supported by Puppet Showplace Theater's Incubator program.



## Why I make theater for family audiences

As a performer, I want audiences to relate to the story on stage in a way that sparks their imaginations and lifts them out of their ordinary lives. I make work that is delightful, and silly, and moving, and beautiful, all at once. I want the audience to discover the story for themselves. I want them to laugh, I want them to cry, then I want them to laugh again.

My shows are often stories told without words—I embrace the physical and the visual in theater. The result is a poetic, non-linear story that surprises audiences.



One of the things that makes me happiest is when I meet children who have seen my show and their parents tell me how their child acted out my entire show for weeks after seeing it. This is the core reason why I make theater for young audiences: I want them to know in their hearts that they, too, can make theater wherever they are and whomever they are.

## Lead Artist:



**Bonnie Duncan** (creator & performer) has blended puppetry, dance, and physical theatre in surprising and delightful ways for the past 14 years. Her work has been described as “an artful world of silent dreams, mime, and dance” (Austin Live Theatre). She has most recently been working as one half of They Gotta Be Secret Agents with Tim Gallagher. Their show, *Poste Restante*, continues to tour worldwide, winning “Best Touring Show of 2011,” Austin, TX; Best of the Fringe, San Francisco, 2009; and a nomination for Most Innovative Show at Prague Fringe Festival. She is currently touring her solo family show, *Squirrel Stole My Underpants*, throughout the US to delighted audiences.

Prior to her work as a Secret Agent, Bonnie was a company member of Snappy Dance Theater for 8 years, performing sculptural, acrobatic dances nationally and internationally. Her movement was called “breathhtakingly simple” and “delightfully crafty” by the Boston Globe. When Bonnie is not performing, she is the mother of three young children, an avid runner, and vegan cupcake maker.

## Collaborators:

**Brendan Burns** (music) Brendan Burns is a guitarist, educator, composer & producer based in the greater Boston area. His debut album, *TimeStamp*, was released in 2012. Brendan is the lead guitarist for SchoolTree & Kristen Ford Band and is the musician-in-residence at the Puppet Showplace Theater. Brendan holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Berklee College of Music and is the guitar department coordinator at Brookline Music School. <http://www.brendanburns.com/>

**Tony Leva** (music) Tony Leva is an educator, improviser, collaborator and performer. He performs regularly with Bury Me Standing and Jaggery. He currently teaches bass at the Rockport Community School and is an active collaborator/educator at Tunefoolery, an artist collective of musicians with psychiatric disabilities. <http://anthonyleva.wordpress.com/>

**Dan Milstein** (co-creator/director/husband) is the founding Artistic Director of Boston’s Rough & Tumble Theater with whom he has made over twenty original plays. He holds fast to his quixotic belief that theater should be cheap, fun, and deeply satisfying. When not making theater, he is a software engineer with Hut 8 Labs.

**Penney Pinette** (costumes) is currently a Costume Design MFA student at Boston University and costume designer for the dance department at Boston Conservatory. Prior to graduate school, she was a lead pattern maker for the Huntington Theatre Company. She still teaches costume production at Boston University.

**Brett Bundock** (set) has designed sets for Mill 6 Collaborative, Rough & Tumble Theater, and Suffolk University, among others. Brett is also a freelance industrial show carpenter for companies such as Ford, Kawasaki, and Mercedes. He currently lives with his family in Vermont.

### **Show Listing Information:**

#### *Lollipops for Breakfast*

a marvelous confection of friendship, invention, and adventure

You can't have lollipops for breakfast! But today, Sylvie decides she's going to break that rule, even if it means she has to make her own amazingly perfect lollipop from scratch. Come along as she and her trusty pet bird search for missing ingredients, wrestle with giant candy machines, and get lost in a magical pop-up cookbook.

### **Press Pitch Ideas:**

- Two years ago, Bonnie built a family show out of love (*Squirrel Stole My Underpants*) and it promptly surprised her by turning into a runaway hit (over 10,000 people have seen it, from Atlanta, GA all the way up to Ottawa!). Now she's back with a new show.
- Bonnie has created her own blended career: Mom (to 3 under 6), performer/business owner, local tot lot celebrity.
- Bonnie's been able to make her family a part of her touring career: her husband and 3 kids (ages 6, 3 and 3) often travel with her. The kids meet other performers, sell merchandise after shows, tote puppets and props, and have many oddball adventures in and out of the theater.

### **Technical Requirements**

- Recommended Audience: ages 3 & up; family audiences; pre-K-4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Audience Size: up to 250
- Performance Time: 35 minutes plus Interactive Demonstration with audience
- Stage Requirements: minimum of 15 feet wide x 15 feet deep x 10 feet high, clear space with clean, safe floor (more space needed for live music accompaniment)
- Lighting & Sound Requirements: electrical outlet no more than 10 feet of stage area, adequate general lighting of stage area or focused stage lights (lighting looks & cue sheet provided to venue)
- Set-Up / Breakdown Time: 90 minutes for set up with arrival to space two hours prior to performance or house open; 60 minutes for breakdown

### **Family Dance Party Option:**

- We can host a 15-minute super awesome dance party on stage immediately following the performance! Get in touch for details.

### **For Photos & Video:**

For on-line videos to view and embed:

<http://www.bonnie-duncan.com/lollipops-for-breakfast.html>

For downloadable high-resolution photographs:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/112215696114981006647/LollipopsForBreakfast>

### **Shout Outs of the Show:**

*From Facebook fans—*

"*Lollipops for Breakfast* is brilliant, astonishing, amazing!"

"It was loved by our 3 year old, our 8 year old, AND the grown-ups in the family; what kind of show can appeal to everyone like that?!"

*From an enthusiastic parent—*

"[What an] amazingly fun and creative puppet show. [My children] truly loved it. And so did I. You are so talented and gifted and extraordinary and fun-neeee. And my daughter just exclaimed, 'Good job on the puppet show. We really enjoyed it!'"



### **Contact Bonnie for more information:**

[bonniedone@gmail.com](mailto:bonniedone@gmail.com) / 617-817-2603