



TOUCHSTONE
theatre

The Seven Mysteries of Life

written and directed by Erika Batdorf

The Seven Mysteries of Life

Written and Directed by Erika Batdorf
Based on "The Seven Mysteries of Life"
by Guy Murchie

Music composed and produced by
Randy Armstrong

Technical Direction by Tyrohne Kontir

The Cast

MARK MCKENNA: The Student
SARA ZIELINSKA: The Host
BILL GEORGE: The Scientist
JENNIE GILRAIN: The Skeptic
TIJUANA LAYNE:
FRED MIDDLETON: Tech Booth Voice

ACT ONE

The People's Debate
Abstraction
Interrelation
Omnipresence
Polarity

*Fifteen Minute Intermission
Refreshments Upstairs*

ACT TWO

Transcendence
Germination
Divinity

We gratefully acknowledge the permission of the publisher, Houghton Mifflin Co., for use of material from The Seven Mysteries of Life.

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Special Thanks to Glenn Gerchman, Karen Gosch, Anne Gratton, Tony Lee, Fred Middleton, Helena D. Roller and Carey Wendell

The use of cameras, tape recorders or other recording equipment during the performance is prohibited. Thank you.

Director's Notes

What is mystery? What is life? What is time? What is God? . . . As we created our play, these questions became both exciting and ridiculous.

Despite the moments of total absurdity, the piece was inspired by people and subject matter that is challenging and serious. Obviously Guy Murchie's book which is an encyclopedia of delightful mysteries and new ways to wonder at our world, was foremost. Others I must mention are: *The Global Brain* by Peter Russel; the work of Pierre Tielhard de Chardin; and *The Promise of World Peace*, a statement by the governing body of the International Baha'i Community. All of these works look at the growth of our planet as a whole, from both a scientific and spiritual perspective.

We look at the questions through the eyes of the characters in the play; the scientist, the skeptic, the student, and the host, as well as through your eyes—our studio audience. There is one answer, there are infinite answers. Perhaps there is no answer.

—Erika Batdorf

NEXT IN THE CHILDREN'S SERIES

Saturday June 11, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

KRAKUS AND THE DRAGON

Mock Turtle Marionettes

An adaptation of the classic Polish tale using beautiful hand-carved marionettes.

Saturday July 9, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

BY THE LIGHT OF THE SILVERY MOON

Touchstone Theatre — Premiere

Based on Nola Langner's book for children, a contemporary fairy tale of immense wit and charm. The play is conceived by Jennie Gilrain, director, and Doug Roysdon, designer; and performed by Sara Zielinska as Mona; and Mark McKenna as the King of the Dragon Slayers, the King of the Cowboys and the King of Rock. The play also features four life size puppets playing Mona's parents and her cat and dog.

All companies in our Children's Series present a one hour workshop for children between the two performances at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$6 for the performance and \$5 for the workshop. Call 867-1689 for reservations.

HANDS ON WITH THE DIRECTOR

June 4 - 10:00 a.m.-Noon

Erika Batdorf — MOVEMENT FOR ACTORS

A look at energy, focus and rhythm for the actor, dancer or anyone interested in developing dramatic presence. Don't miss the last workshop in this season's Hands on with the Director Series. The workshops take place in the rehearsal studio upstairs and are designed so that you can meet the author or director of each show in our season in a setting where they can discuss their work and share some of their techniques. The fee for the two hour workshop is \$8 (\$6 for subscribers). Enrollment is limited to 30 participants.

CALL 867-1689 or register at the box office before you leave tonight.

Biographies

ERIKA BATDORF (writer/director)

Erika Batdorf is a movement theatre artist who has been performing, teaching and choreographing since 1983 in Canada, U.S.A and France. Recently she was a member of Pontine Movement Theatre in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where she still lives.

Erika's training focused on corporeal mime including studies with Etienne Decroux at L'Ecole de Mime Corporel and Daniel Stein in Paris, L'Ecole du Mime Corporel de Montreal and others. Her studies also include work with Richard Pochinko in clown and Native American mask, as well as experimental theatre and dance.

Recently Erika co-directed a production "Bitter Bliss" for Pontine that will be featured at the Movement Theatre International Festival in Philadelphia this month. During the same festival Erika's solo piece "I Have Something for You" will appear in the National Showcase and will then be featured at the New Hampshire Movement Theatre Festival in July.

RANDY ARMSTRONG (composer)

Randy Armstrong is nationally recognized for his work with instruments from countries around the world including the instruments he plays in the music for "Seven Mysteries of Life"—acoustic guitar, acoustic-synthesizer guitar, Brazilian Rain-Maker, Wind-Breath, Chimes, African Mbira and Balafon, Native American Drum, Cameroonian Shakers, Samoan Wood-Block, African Bell, Drum Machine and Percussion. Randy is a co-founder of Do'a World Music Ensemble and has played with this performing group for twelve years during which time they have four national record releases "Light upon Light", "Ornament of Hope", "Ancient Beauty" and "Companions of the Crimson Coloured Ark", and received grants from the New Hampshire Commission on the Arts, the Arizona Council on the Arts and the Arkansas Council on the Arts.