

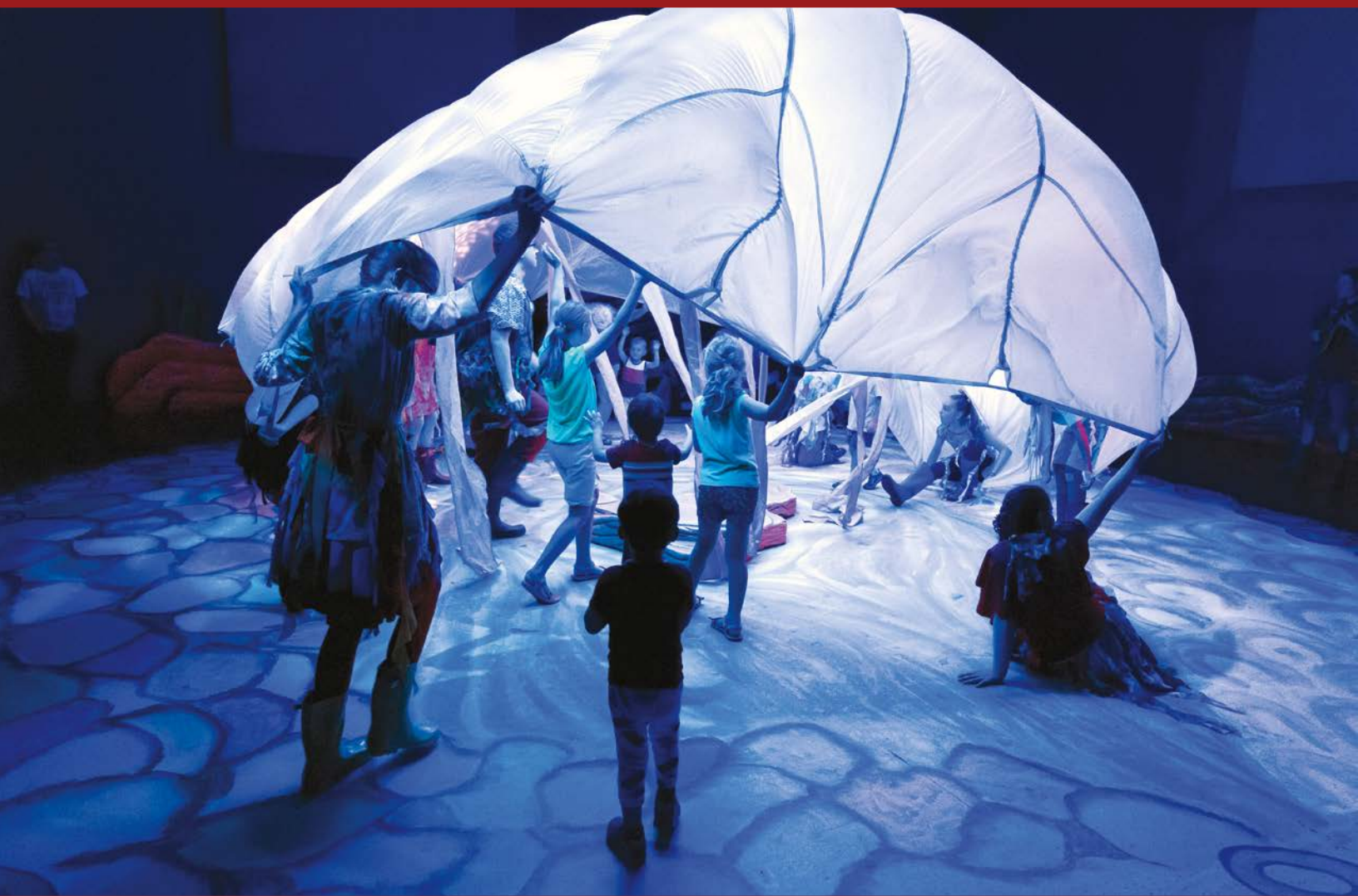
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STAGES THEATRE COMPANY

TO

SWIMMY

stage



Performance

Stages Theatre Company's production of *Swimmy*.
Created and Directed by Melanie Salmon-Peterson. Based on the book by
Leo Lionni. Set Design by Jim Hibbeler. Costume Design by Stacey Palmer.
Lighting Design by Sarah Brandner. Props Design by Megan Teynor. Original
music composed by Nathan Rowan. Artistic Director – Sandy Boren-Barrett.
Playwright – Katharine Benyo.

Photo

Actors and audience explore together in *Swimmy*, created by
Melanie Salmon-Peterson. Stages Theatre Company, Minneapolis, MN.
Photo by Bruce Challgren for Stages Theatre Company.

In Stages Theatre Company's world premiere of *Swimmy*, a performance for the very young, *Swimmy* may be a different color than the rest of his school, but his uniqueness inspires everyone to work together to ward off impending danger and think outside the box.

Our approach to theatre for the very young is highly participatory, tactile, and interactive, and with *Swimmy* we workshoped with our actors and children under five to create ways for the audience to become the various creatures that *Swimmy* encounters in his journey through the ocean such as creating the jellyfish together.

MELANIE SALMON-PETERSON, CREATOR AND DIRECTOR

The parachute jellyfish captures one of the many moments in the show that strive to engage our young audience within their multiple levels of ability. For those older children, the active, tactile engagement creates one opportunity for wonder and play, while our youngest, less active audience members were given the opportunity to engage from the beautiful visual moment, underscored by the soothing music of our musician.

JIM HIBBELER, SET DESIGNER

The production crew came up with this idea, and I enjoyed being able to produce the supporting elements: softly colorful jellyfish legs that float and bend safely, effortlessly, and magically. When I work, I try to imagine what will delight and spark the imagination, wonder, hope, and wisdom in a child and work to my greatest ability to get the work there for them. This is the joy and way theatre pushes us deeper into the present as well as the future.

MEGAN TAYNOR, PROPS DESIGNER

This moment was an opportunity for kids who may have never been exposed to theatre before to be fully immersed in it. I was inspired by the illustration in the book by Leo Lionni to create swirling strips of fabric that draped on the costumes to mimic sea life and jellyfish tentacles. The cohesiveness of all of the design elements allowed the young audience to fully experience the essence of Lionni's book.

STACEY PALMER, COSTUME DESIGNER

The jellyfish moment was the most magical, as it truly transformed the entire theatre into a single moment that included everyone of all ages. Even the audience members that remained seated could see and hear the little ones inside the jellyfish. It was simple, beautiful, and exactly what was needed to engage the entire audience and transport them physically and visually into a single moment of the show.

SARAH BRANDNER, LIGHTING DESIGNER