PROGRAM

In this award-winning production, Morgan the Clown takes us on a journey full of self-discovery and celebration, sharing a valuable lesson about the true meaning of friendship and happiness.

Today’s performance will last approximately one hour without intermission.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms, and unwrap all lozenges prior to the performance. Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
ABOUT THE SHOW

The play is a captivating exploration of joyous yet challenging human experiences and offers audiences a unique opportunity for active participation. The magic of this production lies in the strong connection between Morgan the Clown and the young (or young at heart) audiences. This play has been delighting families of all ages, backgrounds, and languages for over three decades and recently traveled to Hong Kong and Juarez and Chihuahua, Mexico. Originally created by Robert Morgan and director David S. Craig in 1980, Morgan’s Journey is now the longest-running touring play in Canadian history. It won the prestigious Chalmers Canadian Play Award for outstanding play and has rightly earned the description given to it: “a true Canadian classic.”

ROBERT MORGAN

Robert Morgan has enjoyed a lengthy and eclectic career. His work has helped establish Canada as one of the world’s foremost producers of theater for young audiences. Over the past 25 years, he has written more than 20 professionally produced plays and acted in and directed over 40 productions. He has won the prestigious Chalmers Award for outstanding playwriting six times.

His work has received a total of 10 Dora Award nominations, four of which won best production, and has been performed in countries around the world, including Cuba, the former Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, India, Thailand, Nepal, and Iran as well as extensively throughout the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. Journeys to Hong Kong and Singapore occurred in 2015.

In 2001, Mr. Morgan founded the Children’s Peace Theatre in Toronto, which has involved thousands of children and young people in active programs of training and performing. In his role as artistic director, Mr. Morgan delivered two official presentations to the United Nations in New York at the 2002 Special Session on the Children of the World. The Peace Theatre is part of a global movement committed to establishing “a culture of peace for the children of the world,” and its work has been honored with several awards, most recently a Leonardo Da Vinci Award for creativity and innovation in 2007.

In 1986, Mr. Morgan formed Roseneath Productions with David S. Craig to produce and tour his solo show Morgan’s Journey. The play, which has been performed every year since and become the longest-running play in Canadian history, has been called “a true Canadian classic,” and the company, which incorporated as Roseneath Theatre in 1993, has gone on to establish an international reputation for producing plays of the highest quality for audiences of all ages. Mr. Morgan has been a strong advocate for bringing the arts to all children. While he has enjoyed performing in some of the most prestigious venues in the world, he continually welcomes opportunities to perform in rural and remote areas.

Throughout his career, Mr. Morgan has planned, produced, and presented a variety of special celebrations and spectacles nationally and internationally: Living Water, the Easter Sunday celebration for more than 16,000 in Lourdes, France; The Circus of the Heart with Dom Hélder Câmara and a cast of over 150 performers at the University of Toronto; One Heart at a Time, with a cast of 60 members of the communities of L’Arche at the Winter Garden and Markham Theatres in Toronto; and officially thanking Mother Teresa at a peace rally at Varsity Arena in Toronto. In addition, Mr. Morgan was invited to direct A Time for Magic, coauthored with David S. Craig, at an international festival of the arts in Belfast, and he has given countless workshops and made many appearances as a keynote speaker.

He is perhaps best recognized in theatrical circles for his groundbreaking work with Theatre Columbus. His creation with Leah Cherniak and Martha Ross, co–artistic directors of Theatre Columbus, of the often produced The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine helped usher in a new era of creation of new work in Canada. His other work with Cherniak and Ross, The Betrayal, won the 1999 Chalmers Canadian Play Award.

Other disparate artistic endeavors include writing and directing When the Bough Breaks for Dancemakers, Patricia Fraser, artistic director; the musical version of his Chalmers Award–winning How I Wonder What You Are for Tapestry Music Theatre, Wayne Strongman, artistic director; Not as Hard as It Seems for Frontier College (featuring then unknown University of Toronto students Yanna McIntosh, Valerie Buhagiar, and Don McKellar); directing and cocreating a one–woman show for Michele George; writing and directing two shows for symphony orchestra starring Mag Ruffman; and writing, producing, and starring in The Heart of Mine Tour, David S. Craig directing, a tribute to the music of Bob Dylan with a seven-piece rock band backing.

In 2006, Mr. Morgan was honored for his “vision, commitment, creativity, and leadership within his field and beyond” by being named one of 21 inaugural recipients of Trent University’s Distinguished Alumni Award. He currently lives in Toronto with his wife, Susan Morgan.