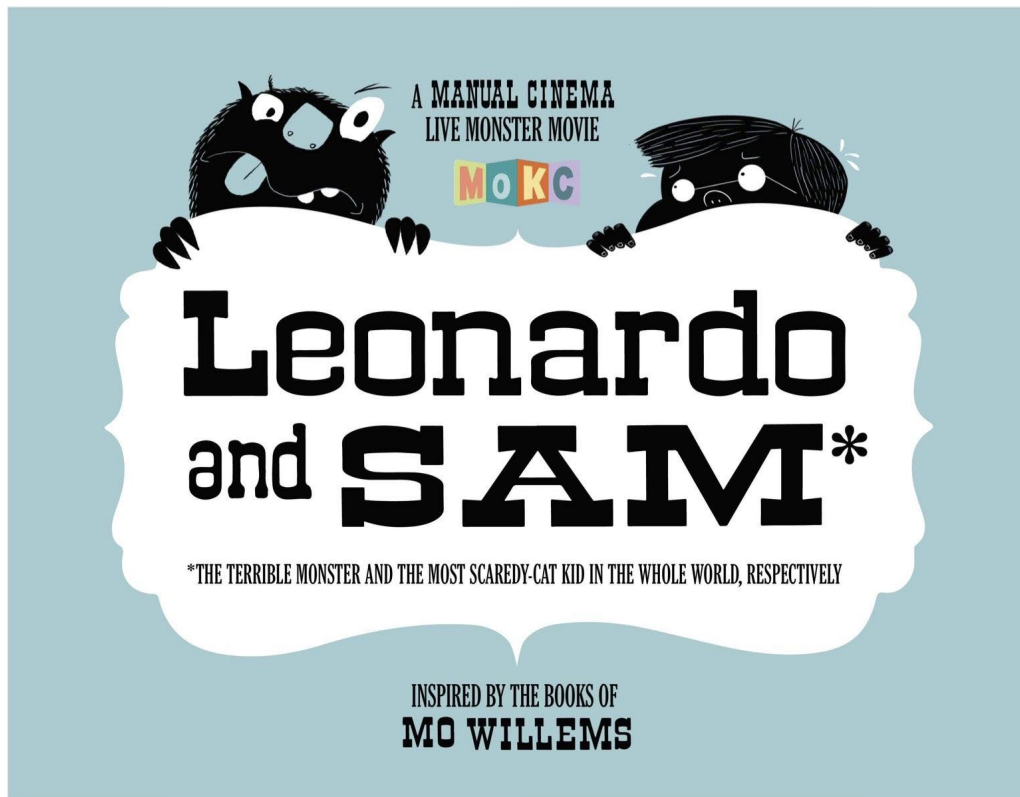


**Leonardo & Sam:  
the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World**



Manual Cinema is collaborating with celebrated children's book author and illustrator Mo Willems to create a new touring show titled **Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World** for children ages 3-9. Inspired by Willems' **LEONARDO, THE TERRIBLE MONSTER** and **SAM, THE MOST SCAREDY-CAT KID IN THE WHOLE WORLD**, this 50-minute show will premiere October 15 – November 1, 2020 at the Kennedy Center and be available for four dates in the 2020/2021 season and beyond. **Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World** will tour with a total of 5 people: 3 actor/puppeteers, 1 musician & 1 Stage/Tour Manager. We are actively seeking co-commissioning support and presenting venues.

Leonardo is a terrible monster. He tries so hard to be scary, but he just...isn't. Then Leonardo finds Sam, the most scaredy-cat kid in the world. Will Leonardo finally get his chance to scare the tuna salad out of an unsuspecting human? Or will it be the start of an unlikely friendship? The plot thickens when this pair meets Kerry and Frankenthaler, an even scaredier-cat and her monster friend. Kerry and Sam will need to make a big decision: will they be friends or will they be controlled by their fears?

Inspired by the beloved children's books by Mo Willems, and realized through mind-bending projection, DIY cinema, music, and immersive sound by critically-acclaimed multimedia artists Manual Cinema, **Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World** tells the story of a monster who longs to be scary and the big decisions about identity and empathy that we all must make.



preliminary stage mock up image (not to be distributed publicly)

#### **ABOUT MANUAL CINEMA:**

Manual Cinema is an Emmy-award winning multimedia ensemble that combines puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive visual stories for stage and screen. Using vintage overhead projectors, multiple screens, puppets, actors, live feed cameras, multi-channel sound design, and a live music ensemble, Manual Cinema transforms the experience of attending the cinema and imbues it with liveness, ingenuity, and theatricality. Based in Chicago, Manual Cinema's original theatrical productions have toured to six continents around the world. Their collaborating partners include everyone from art museums to opera companies to major motion pictures.

#### **ABOUT THE PRODUCTION:**

Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World will receive its world premiere in October, 2020 at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in conjunction with the two-year term as Education Artist-in-Residence of Mo Willems. Using their acclaimed mash-up of theater and cinema, Manual Cinema will translate Willems' striking illustrations for the big screen, creating a handmade "animated" movie.

50-minutes in length, this production is intended for families and young audiences ages 3-9. It will tour with a total company of 5: 3 actor/puppeteers, 1 musicians, and 1 Stage/Tour Manager.

#### **ABOUT MO WILLEMS:**

Author and Illustrator Mo Willems has been awarded the American Library Association's Caldecott Honor three times for his picture book illustration. Additionally, he is the recipient of two Theodor Geisel Medals and five Geisel Honors for his *Elephant & Piggie* early readers. Willems began his career as a writer and animator on *Sesame Street*, where he garnered six Emmy Awards. His work has been exhibited around the world, including solo retrospectives at the High Museum in Atlanta and the New-York Historical Society. Over the last decade, Willems has become the most produced playwright of Theater for Young Audiences in America thanks to the popularity of the theatrical adaptations *Knuffle Bunny: a Cautionary Musical*, *Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play!*, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: the Rock Experience*, and *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! (The Musical!)*. His papers reside at Yale University's Beinecke Library.

#### **CONTACT:**

Manual Cinema is actively seeking co-commissioning support, and presenting venues for Leonardo & Sam: the Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World. The production is available for engagements following its October, 2020 premiere and will be available for engagements in the 2020/2021 season and beyond. All inquiries should be directed to:

Elsie Management  
Laura Colby, President  
laurac@elsiemanager.org  
TEL: +1 718 797 4577