

THE BLOG

Stage Door: Mr. Popper's Penguins

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The New Victory Theater is staging a super creative and joyful ***Mr. Popper's Penguins***, based on the 1938 book. Mr. and Mrs. Popper live in the town of Stillwater. Mr. Popper is a friendly house painter, who quietly bemoans his drab life. The one bright spot: He is enthralled by explorers, especially Admiral Drake, stationed in the South Pole.

One day, Mr. Popper writes him a fan letter. A few weeks later, Mr. Popper receives a surprise package — a penguin he dubs Captain Cook. Captain Cook is growing, but his health is failing. The solution? Get him a mate — and the Popper household is never the same!

Brought to the stage by the UK's Pins and Needles Productions, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* is a 55-minute musical romp. It's funny, warm and unbelievably touching. It whimsically proves families come in all shapes and sizes, as do dreams.

That's easy to understand, given the first-rate cast: Lucy Grattan (Greta/Admiral Drake), Toby Manley (Captain Cook/Mr. Greenbaum), Russell Morton (Mr. Popper) and Roxanne Palmer (Mrs. Popper)

Charmingly directed by Emma Earle, designed by Zoe Squire and featuring Nick Barnes' brilliant puppetry design, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* is a great way to introduce children to the theater. Its captivating presentation will leave the kids wanting more.

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