

**WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**

**"WOLFIE PRESENTS"**

***Moving and Learning Through the  
Rainforest***

**Natasha Mirny, Wolf Trap Teaching Artist**

Take an imaginary journey to the rainforest to learn about some of the animals that call it home! Don't forget to pack your dancing shoes for a movement-filled adventure.

We encourage you to use this time to tap into children's imagination and to create movement-based experiences that will enhance all areas of development for the youngest learners.



## To Prepare for This Performance

- **Have everybody join!** This performance is highly interactive and will include something for everyone! We encourage you to share this experience with friends, family, and educators of all ages.
- **Find an open space.** You will experience opportunities for movement like stretching, moving your arms and jumping in place -- so if possible, join from a space that allows everyone to move freely.
- **Join at your own pace.** Don't worry if a child chooses not to participate in the whole experience, or is shy at first. They will likely be encouraged to join in if they see others participating.
- **Accessibility Notes:** Feel free to modify any movements or interactions as needed. Give everyone the time and space needed for dance movements.

## Vocabulary

A **rainforest** is an area of tall trees **with** a high amount of rainfall. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/rain-forest/>



## Songs and Lyrics

### “The Happy Song” by Natasha Mirny

I am so happy to be here today,  
I am so happy to be here today,  
I am so happy to be here today and dance like a pink dolphin!

I am so happy to be here today,  
I am so happy to be here today,  
I am so happy to be here today and dance like scarlet macaw!

### “Pinkie Goodbye Song” by Natasha Mirny

I wave a small goodbye with my pinkie,  
I wave a medium goodbye with my hand,  
I wave a big goodbye with my body,  
And I send all my love to my friends.

## Books

Brown, Carron and Alyssa Nassner. *Secrets of the Rainforest*. IVY PRESS, 2014.

Cherry, Lynne. *The Great Kapok Tree*. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2000.

Krebs, Laurie. *We're Roaming the Rainforest*. (Anne Wilson, Illus.). Barefoot Books, 2011.

Peck, Jan. *Way Up High in a Tall Green Tree*. (Valeria Petrone, Illus.). Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005.

## Artist Biography

**Natasha Mirny** is a Wolf Trap Teaching Artist, stage director, choreographer, performer, and founder of Happy Theater ([www.happytheater.com](http://www.happytheater.com)). She started her career as a stage director of one of the largest puppet theaters in Moscow, Russia. For the last seven years, she has been running her own theatrical company, Happy Theater, which produces shows for kids and adults.

As a teacher, Natasha has experience working with both children (from 1 to 15 years old) and adults (including teachers, actors, and choreographers). She teaches voice and movement for actors, and several other theatrical techniques, including puppetry, mime, improvisation, working with masks, and shadow theater. Natasha has also been developing her own movement technique since 2011, and has taught it to children, professional choreographers, and actors in Russia and the U.S. She is currently working as a teaching artist at several arts integration programs – Wolf Trap Institute for

Early Learning Through the Arts, Young Audiences of Maryland, Dumbarton concerts/Inner City Inner Child, and Local Motion. Natasha is also a faculty member at National Conservatory of Dramatic Arts.

Natasha graduated from Moscow State University, Russia with a Masters in Journalism. She also holds a degree in Pantomime and Movement Theater Directing from Moscow Academy of Culture.

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