

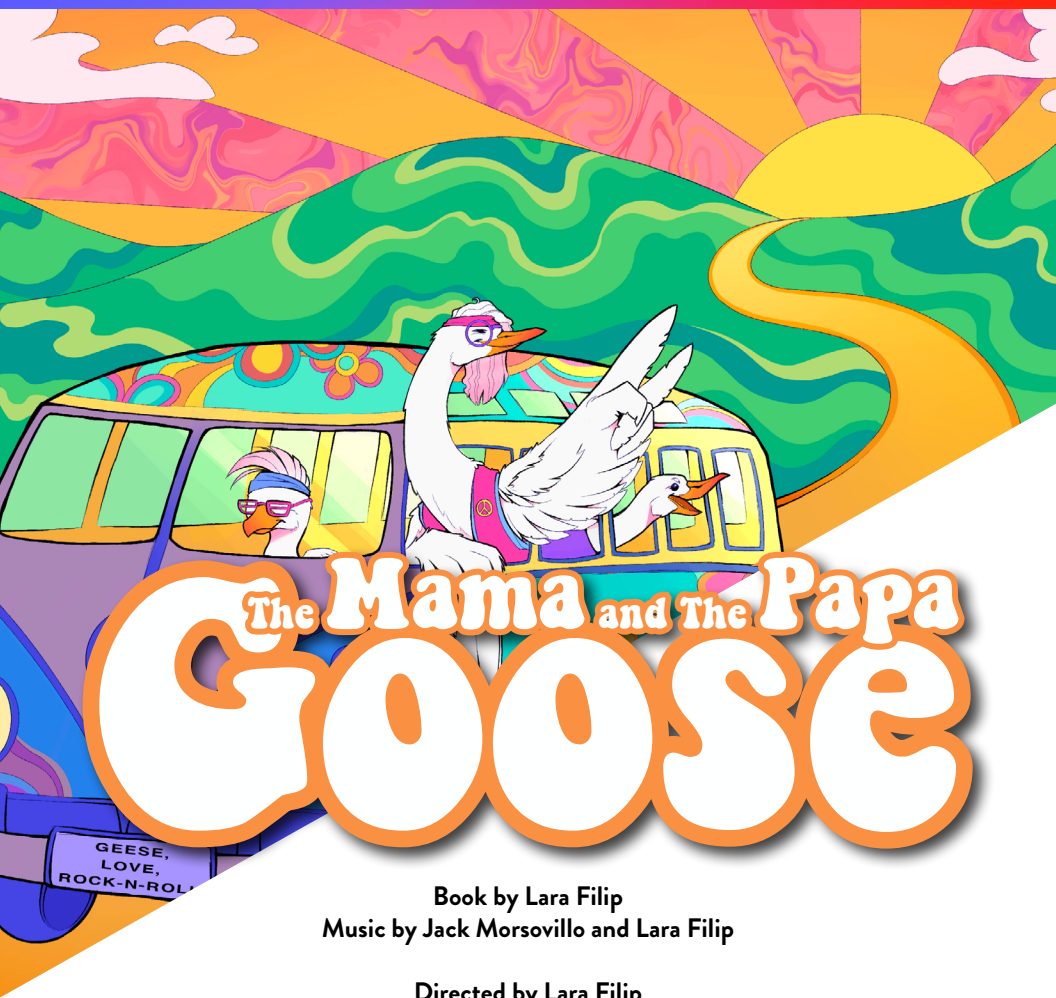
EXPLORE

Walking Plays

at The Morton Arboretum

Select dates, July–October





The Mama and The Papa GOOSE

Book by Lara Filip

Music by Jack Morsovillo and Lara Filip

Directed by Lara Filip

Music Direction by Jack Morsovillo

Intimacy Advisor/Artist Advocate: Courtney Abbott

Graphic Design by Dominic Rescigno

Artwork by Avery Multer

Photography by Allegra Imagery

In association with
The Morton Arboretum

With support from
The Illinois Arts Council Agency

Produced by Inkwell Arts and Learning
www.inkwellartsandlearning.com



Notes from the Inkwell

Think back to the first song you remember hearing, the first song you remember learning. You may not even be able to access those most distant places in your mind. Perhaps it was a cradle-side rendition of “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.” I certainly don’t remember learning the A, B, C song. Do you? And yet, those sweet tunes are etched forever in our hearts and minds. They helped us learn the very fundamental building blocks of language, comforted us at bedtime. In darker times, some of them even gave voice to historical incidents and tragedies (“Ashes to ashes” anyone?).

The person, or should I say “persona” who brought those unforgettable ear worms to you? Why, Mother Goose, of course! Sort of. The truth is, “Mother Goose” has several different points of origin, all a bit fuzzy, as records of oral tradition tend to be. But that’s the beauty of the thing. We take narratives of human existence from hundreds of years ago and offer up our own interpretation for each new generation. Maybe in this way, we are leaving some semblance of a finger print on history, a tiny piece of ourselves behind as we pass tales, rhymes, and songs on through the ages.

Considering that I’m the child of flower children, it’s no wonder I’d choose to take Mother Goose and place her into the era of “peace, love and rock-n-roll.” The cast has had a hand in bringing this tale to life as well, and in that way, we took a very communal approach to delivering another breadcrumb on the trail of oral tradition.

Our hope is that our offering entertains, delights, and inspires you to re-connect with your deepest memories, while also unleashing your deepest belly-laugh. And the next time you sing one of these old nursery rhymes, feel free to make it a little groovy.

Enjoy!

Lara

Chief Instigator, Executive Producer/Director
Inkwell Arts and Learning



Lara Filip, DIRECTOR/BOOK/MUSIC [She/Her] is a veteran of the Chicago theatre and music scenes. She's performed on nearly every stage in town, appeared at many regional theatres and has been featured in several National tours. Most recently, she appeared as Emily Hobbs in *Elf: The Musical*, at The Paramount Theatre. Her singer/songwriter album, *Stop Time*, is available everywhere you buy and stream music. Lara is also an independent producer and director, as well as a prolific playwright. Currently, she spends much of her time here at the Morton Arboretum as the "Chief Instigator" of Inkwell Arts & Learning, the in-house producer of the Walking Plays. She is also a regular performer with *Better Together* and *Artist's Lounge Live*, performing in bio-concert experiences, paying tribute to Dolly Parton, Al Jarreau, Paul McCartney, Ray Charles, The Carpenters, Elvis, Glen Campbell and many others. Lara is a graduate of The Chicago Academy for the Arts and is a member of Actor's Equity Association.



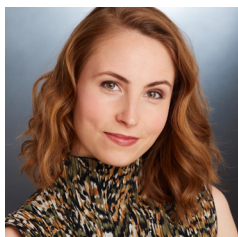
Gabriel Fries, JACK [He/Him] is a big fan of immersive theatre, working with kids, 1960s music and culture, and being in nature so is absolutely delighted to be combining all those passions in his debut with the Walking Plays! Most recently he appeared as Duke and Judge Thatcher in *Big River* at Mercury Theater Chicago. Gabriel has performed with various Chicagoland theatres including Paramount Theatre, TimeLine Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre, Oil Lamp Theater, Lifeline Theatre, City Lit Theater Co., Metropolis PAC, PrideArts, Adventure Stage Chicago, and Nothing Without A Company. You may have also seen him as The Conductor in the *Polar Express* ride from Union Station, or performing in local schools with GreatWorks Theatre, PlayMakers Laboratory, or Explore Theater. You can catch him in *The Merry Beggars' On the Night Train* wherever you get your podcasts! Gabriel is a graduate of Wesleyan University. Love and thanks to Mom and Dad! www.gabriefries.net



Old Mother Goose, when
She wanted to wander,
Would ride through the air
On a very fine gander.



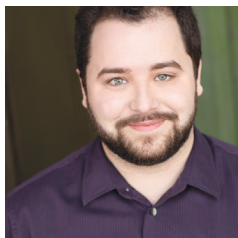
Koshie Mills, ENSEMBLE [She/Her] is honored and thrilled to join *the Mama and Papa Goose* cast as well as be working with the Arboretum for the first time! Koshie was previously seen in Midsommer Flight's production of *Midsummer Night's Dream* this summer as Helena, and her recent credits include *On the Greenbelt* (Strawdog Theatre, u/s, Jeff Recommended), *With Heart* (Oil Lamp Theatre), *The Cake* (Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Jeff Recommended), and *The Tempest* (Midsommer Flight). She is also a graduate of Columbia College Chicago, where she obtained her BA in Acting. Currently, Koshie is a professional dancer with dance teams Fantasy and Creation Dance Co. To see her journey, follow her on Instagram (@koshie_mills as well as her website, KoshiesKorner.com. Koshie would also love to thank her friends, her mom and brother, and her partner Jacob for being so loving and supportive.



Caitlin Wolfe, ENSEMBLE/WALK LEADER [She/Her] is a Chicago based actress, singer, dancer, musician, and an EMC member of the Actor's Equity Association. Her recent credits include *It's A Wonderful Life* (Oil Lamp Theater), *The Last Lifeboat* (Towle Theater), *Shout! The Mod Musical* (Metropolis), *When There Are Nine* (PrideArts), *Winnie the Pooh* (Citadel), and *Pride and Prejudice* (Illinois Shakespeare Festival). Television/film credits include *Chicago Med*, *Chicago Fire*, and upcoming film *Where Sweet Dreams Die*. She trains at Visceral Dance Studio in Chicago and enjoys creating her own pieces of choreography and music. Caitlin is represented by Dream Team Talent and Paige Model and Talent.



Ebby Offord, MAMA [She/They] is a theatre artist from the South Side of Chicago. Ebby received her BA in Drama from Washington University in St. Louis. Since returning home to Chicago, Ebby has been fortunate to have directed and acted across the city. Previous selected credits include: *Twelfth Night* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Midsommer Flight), *Millennial Church* (Bramble Theatre Company Festival of Unfinished Works), *Ruined* (Director- Invictus Theatre), *Hamlet* (Invictus Theatre), *Course Society* (Chicago Dramatist's), *Now More Than Ever* (St. Louis Actor's Studio). When not onstage, Ebby can be found at home playing cozy Nintendo Switch games or binge-watching old seasons of RuPaul's Drag Race. Ebby is also an Ensemble member of Midsommer Flight. She'd like to thank her family for their endless love and support, and her partner, Jack, for being the light. Always.



Jack Morsovillo, PAPA “CHUCK”/MUSIC/MUSIC DIRECTOR [He/Him] is an actor-musician from Chicago and is represented by BMG Talent. He has performed around Chicagoland with such companies as Midsommer Flight (Ensemble Member), Promethean Theatre Ensemble, Metropolis PAC, Invictus Theatre, Strawdog Theatre, and Bramble Theatre. In addition to performing, Jack has provided devised musical work, original composition, and music direction for numerous plays. Offstage, Jack works as a teaching artist for young actors and musicians throughout Chicagoland. He would like to thank Lara and the team for their talent and trust. Special shout out to his family for bringing the music of the 60’s and 70’s into his life from birth, and his partner Ebby for their constant inspiration and love. They all make this work matter.



Shea Hopkins, ENSEMBLE/WALK LEADER [He/Him] is an actor and mean egg shaker from Chicago, represented by BMG Talent. Shea is so honored to be back at the Morton Arboretum with Inkwell Arts, a second time, with *the Mama and the Papa Goose*! He has performed recently with Porchlights Revists, *The Apple Tree*, the Chicago one night only concert of *Children of Eden* and in *A Walk with Joy* with Inkwell Arts. Shea also streams on Twitch, where he streams anything and everything Nintendo! You can follow him at SheaBooter24! Shea would like to thank his mother, father, his three beautiful sisters, their significant others, Nana, and the rest of his friends and family for believing in him, with their love and support! Bubba loves you!



Caleb Swick, THE ROADIE [He/Him] is a Chicago based actor and is represented by BMG Talent. He has been a part of several walking plays in the past including *a Walk with Joy*, *Winnie the Pooh*, and *Hans Christian Andersen* here at the Morton Arboretum. In Chicago, he was also a part of a staged concert with Underscore Theatre Company. While studying theatre at North Central College, he was in productions such as *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Spring Awakening*, *Vinegar Tom*, and *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. Caleb would like to thank Lara for bringing him back for another fantastic summer, and all his mentors and loved ones for all they do. I hope you enjoy the show!!



Collan Simmons, ENSEMBLE/WALK LEADER [He/Him] recently moved to Chicago to pursue further performance opportunities in both theatre and film/television after acting in Minneapolis for nearly 10 years. A recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, he is thrilled to be involved with Inkwell Arts' production of *The Mama and Papa Goose*. His most recent theatrical performances are with The Factory Theatre (U/S *The Kelly Girls*), Jackdonkey Productions (*A Drug Play: Devised*, *The Zoo Story*), Melancholics Anonymous (*Copenhagen*), Univ. of Wisconsin - Stevens Point (*Clown Bar*, and *Sense and Sensibility*). To find out what's next for Collan, follow him on Instagram @collan_simmons, or visit his website at collansimmons.com.



Dakotah Brown, THE PIED PIPER PODCASTER [He/Him] is a Chicago-based actor and is represented by Gray Talent. He is honored and excited to be spending a second summer in the Arboretum after spending last summer as the Walk Leader and understudy in *A Walk with Joy!* His previous credits in the Chicagoland area include *Light Up the Sky* (William Gallagher) and *The Book of Will* (Ralph Crane) at Edge of the Wood Theatre, *The Tempest* (Juno/

Francisco) at Oak Park Festival Theatre, and *Boeing, Boeing* (Bernard) at The Dunes Arts Summer Theater. If you would like to view more of his work, please visit www.Dakotahbrownactor.com. He would like to thank his wife and family for being so supportive. Enjoy the show!



Marianna Gallegos, MINDY MUFFET [She/They] is excited to be doing her first walking play at the Morton Arboretum. She is a Chicago based actress from New Mexico. Her recent works include: Onini in *Anansi the Spider*, which is still touring through Chicago libraries this summer, Chulo/Factory Worker in *Carmen*, at the Lyric Opera, *North and Chicano*, an Original Revue at the Second City. Marianna is also an ensemble member and teaching

artist with Playmakers Lab who she will be touring with to Chicago Parks this summer with their annual "Summer of Stories" show. You can find more of her work on her website delaluzmarianna.com and this September you can catch her puppet show through Roughhouse Theatre's *Nasty Brutish and Short!*

The Experience

A walking play at The Morton Arboretum is like nothing you've ever experienced!

Here's what to expect.

Each show begins on the West Side, right off Parking Lot 21, at Thornhill Shelter.

We've got some open sunny spots and some shady woodland spots, so bring sunscreen and bug spray! Some people choose to sit on blankets on the ground, some bring a portable chair and some like to stand. The Walk Leaders will help make sure everyone can see and hear everything.

Today, we will head down Joy Path and back up again. A nice straight shot, mostly right off the paved trail, with one little section of "off-roading". There are 8 scene locations, covering just about a mile and a quarter, starting and ending conveniently at Thornhill Shelter. On rainy or extreme heat days, and on our accessible walk days, we'll stay even closer to the Thornhill Shelter, covering about a half-mile in total. As always, our trusty Morton Arboretum volunteers will help guide our way.

We hope you enjoy the journey!

For a closer look at the full route, here is a map that shows you where the locations are for each scene.

The shows will typically take about an hour and a half, including your walks to and from the first location.

Park in Lot 21



**Meet at
Thornhill Shelter**

Coming in September 2023
to The Morton Arboretum



Anne of Green Gables

