

# *Leonardo and Sam*

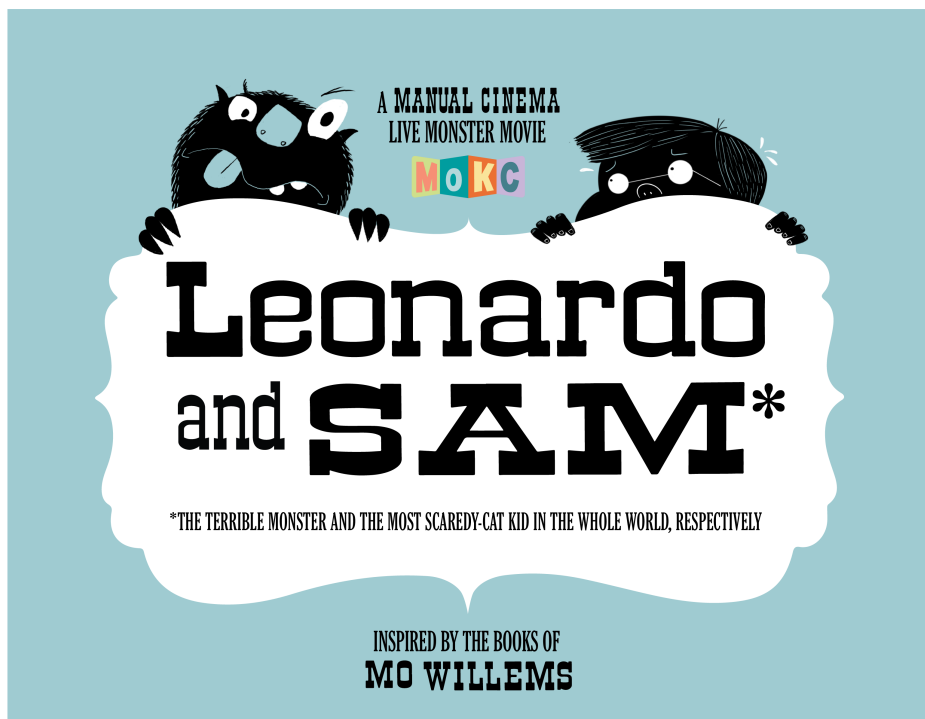
## *The Terrible Monster*

## *and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively*

Created by Manual Cinema

### **In this presentation, you'll:**

- Experience a digital performance by the company Manual Cinema (based in Chicago, Illinois) inspired by the books *Leonardo, The Terrible Monster* and *Sam, the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World* by Mo Willems.
- Examine how Manual Cinema creates live movies using paper puppets.
- Explore common themes in *Leonardo and Sam*, such as handling strong emotions and making new friends.



### **Education Standards Alignments:**

**National Core Arts Standards:** Th:Cr1.1k-6, Th: Cr1.2k-6, Th:Cr, TH:Re7.1k-6

**Common Core Standards:** CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

## Program Description:

Emmy Award®-winning theater company, Manual Cinema tells Mo Willems’s tale of a not-so-scary monster. Leonardo is truly a terrible monster—terrible at being a monster, that is. No matter how hard he tries, he can’t seem to frighten anyone. Determined to succeed, Leonardo sets himself to training and research. Finally, he finds a nervous little boy, and scares the tuna salad out of him! But scaring people isn’t quite as satisfying as he thought it would be. Leonardo realizes that he might be a terrible, awful monster—but he could be a really good friend.

## What to Look and Listen For:

- Different types of puppets, including paper puppets, shadow puppets, sock puppets, a rod puppet, and a live hand puppet (Other examples of live hand puppets are Ernie, Fozzie, and Rowlf from the Muppets!)
- Puppeteers - the people who bring the puppets to life.
- Cameos by other Mo Willems characters such as The Pigeon. How many characters can you spot?
- Descriptions of terrible monsters.
- Characters who experience a lot of feelings at once.
- Leonardo’s big decision.
- Puppetry techniques like moving a puppet side-to-side or up-and-down to show they are talking or feeling a strong emotion.

## Think About:

- How do the puppets’ movements help to tell the story and show the emotions they feel? For example, what might a puppet be feeling when it is moved slowly across the screen? When it’s hopping up and down? When it’s shaking?
- How does Leonardo find the most scaredy-cat kid in the whole world? What do you do when you’re looking for the answer to a confusing or difficult question or problem, a “conundrum”?
- Giacometti, the host of *Late Night Terrible Monster Movie* loves terrible, terrifying monsters. Even though Leonardo isn’t terrifying, he is a terrible monster. What makes Leonardo a terrible monster?
- Leonardo realizes he can choose whether he wants to be a terrible monster or a wonderful friend. If you were Leonardo, would you choose to be a terrible monster or a wonderful friend?
- Emily says, “Sometimes feelings stack up inside you like building blocks.” What happens to characters in *Leonardo and Sam* when they try to keep those feelings inside? What do you do when your feelings start stacking up?

## Questions?

Got a question for the team at Manual Cinema or one of the characters in *Leonardo and Sam*? You can send them to Sarah Fornace, Manual Cinema’s Director of Education here:

[sfornace@manualcinema.com](mailto:sfornace@manualcinema.com)

## Puppet Time!

Learn more about the puppets and puppetry techniques Manual Cinema used to create *Leonardo and Sam*. Watch this video after the virtual performance: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/digitalstage/plus/pya/education/leonardoandsamEDP/>

### About the Artists:

MANUAL CINEMA is an Emmy award winning theatrical performance collective, design studio, and film/ video production company founded in 2010 by Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace, Ben Kauffman, Julia Miller, and Kyle Vegter. Manual Cinema combines handmade shadow puppetry, cinematic techniques, and innovative sound and music to create immersive stories for stage and screen. The company received an Emmy Award in 2017 for “The Forger,” a video created for The New York Times and were named Chicago Artists of the Year in 2018 by the Chicago Tribune.

### CREDITS:

*Leonardo and Sam,*

*The Terrible Monster and the Most Scaredy-cat Kid in the Whole World, Respectively*

Created by Manual Cinema

Inspired by the books: “Leonardo, The Terrible Monster” & “Sam, The Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World,” by Mo Willems

Directed by *Sarah Fornace*

Adaptation by *Sarah Fornace and Drew Dir with Ben Kauffman*

Storyboards: *Drew Dir*

Original Score and Sound Design by *Ben Kauffman and Kyle Vegter*

Dramaturgy by *Megan Alrutz*

Emily, Narrator, Character Voices & Vocals: *Lily Emerson*

Giacometti: *Lindsey Noel Whiting*

Fiore and Assistant Giacometti Puppeteer: *Samuel Taylor*

2D Puppetry: *Lizi Breit, Drew Dir, Sarah Fornace and Julia Miller*

Keys and Guitar: *Ben Kauffman*

Keys: *Kyle Vegter*

Sound Recording: *Ben Kauffman, Charlie Malave and Kyle Vegter*

Video Editing: *Drew Dir and Sarah Fornace*

Paper Puppet Design: *Drew Dir*

Giacometti Puppet Design: *Lizi Breit*

Fiore Puppet Design: *Julia Miller*

Set Design: *Julia Miller*

Lighting Design: *Andrew Morgan*

Costume Design: *Maddy Lowe*

Props Design: *Lizi Breit and Julia Miller*

### **Songs**

Leonardo and the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the World

Finding Information

Why I Am Crying (Sam)

Wonderful Friend

Why I Am Crying (Kerry)

Kerry and Sam

Wonderful Friend (reprise)

*The Pigeon, Elephant Gerald, and Piggie characters © Mo Willems. Used with permission.*

*Special Thanks to Marcia Wernek, Laura Colby, Maria Pelone, Kate Gerhart Fagal and Lisa Dir*

*Co-Commissioned by Manual Cinema and John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts*

### **Kennedy Center Learning Content Developers:**

Dr. Liz Schildkret

Manual Cinema

Kennedy Center Office of Accessibility and VSA

Kennedy Center Education

Digital Learning

*Support for Performances for Young Audiences is provided by A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; and Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.*

*Generous support is also provided by the U.S. Department of Education.*