THE ENTOURAGE BOYS ARE BACK. C3

BREAKING NEWS AT THESTARPHOENIX.COM

SECTION C WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015

LOUD

Performer doesn't need words to get young audience going

> CAM FULLER THE STARPHOENIX

's entertained the fans of B.B. King and The Kinks but for a really discerning audience, Trent Arterberry knows where to go kids.

"They love exaggerated expression," the Sooke, B.C.-based mime says. "They love the illusions. They love to be amazed, and I think the non-verbal aspect of it is appealing to them."

Arterberry performs Friday and Saturday at the PotashCorp Children's Festival of Saskatchewan. His unique career started by chance. He saw a mime perform at a junior college and was intrigued. At home in front of the mirror, he taught himself to lean "and it looked pretty darn good."

In his 20s at the time and just starting pre-med, the California-born performer gave in to his performing instincts.

"It was like I wanted to be an artist and didn't know it. I stumbled into the mime thing and something clicked for

Soon after, almost on impulse, he threw everything into the back of a VW van and headed for Boston where he worked for 25 years. The music connection happened when a band made up of some friends of friends put him on their album cover; Arterberry was soon opening at concerts. He'd wade through the crowd as a robot, with flashy lights and sound, and then take the stage and do some comic mime bits.

"It was unusual enough and arresting

enough that it was totally unexpected. People would be shocked, then they were laughing. It was really pretty cool."

of the Kinks came backstage and told him he liked the show.

I thought it was pretty cool.'

for almost 20 years, started with tra-ditional whiteface mime and took work shops from the world-famous Marcel Marceau. Marceau was an inspiration. On one memorable day, Marceau, who was in his 70s at the time, taught a full day and then performed a two-hour show that night.

"I couldn't believe it. He loved it. He lived and breathed it, he really did."

Arterberry's act has evolved from pure mime to include characters like Mr. Bigg, a little guy who overcomes bullying with his amazing dance moves and

"He's kind of a metaphor for a little guy with a big heart," says Arterberry.

Mr. Bigg closes the show. Roboman opens it. In the middle, there's lots of audience participation.
"I have one very funny routine where

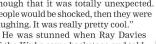
I get a volunteer on stage and I have a mime duel with them which, of course,

the volunteer wins."
With 42 years of experience, Arterberry knows what works.

"In the first 30 seconds, you've got to get a laugh," he says.

It's safe to say he has kids figured out.

They love broad humour. I don't have a lot of broad humour, but if you shake your butt, they laugh their heads off."



"It was a very brief interaction but

Arterberry, who's lived in Sooke

becomes the school hero.

■ The Little Prince. Based on the An-

puppetry and original music by Monster Theatre. Two shows Friday and Saturday.

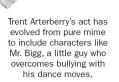
star of Will's Jams on CBC for Kids.

Two shows Friday, one show Saturday

and Sunday.
■ Flyin' Bob. Juggler and "highly skilled goofball."

Two shows Sunday

■ Wide Open Puppet Theatre. Six Robert Munch classics. Shows Saturday and



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OTHER SHOWS

toine de Saint-Exupery novel, featuring

■ Will Stroet and his Backyard Band. Inspiring music and singalongs by the

Site activities: LEGO, fossils, story tent, face painting, co-operative games and more

OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Sunset Party on Saturday evening, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. After the structured activities close, free access to the site for face painting, food trucks and free shows

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

WHEN: Friday to Sunday WHERE: Kinsmen Park

TICKETS: Site activities \$7, Mainstage shows \$12.50 (includes site pass) **BOX OFFICE:** Bessborough lobby through Friday, tent on site Friday to Sunday.