

BUGS

A KAKI KING & GLITCH PRODUCTION

STUDY GUIDE

"BUGS"

a captivating music and visual performance from Kaki King and GLITCH

KEY THEMES:

Insects & the Natural World

Curiosity & Observation

Music

Technology - Triggering and Projection Mapping

ABOUT KAKI KING

Kaki King is an iconoclastic guitarist, composer, artist, and teaching performer. For over 20 years, King has created a body of music celebrated for its enduring impact in performance, recorded albums, and cinema. She has expanded the known possibilities for the role of guitarist – synthesizing musical compositions with visual art, projection mapping, sound design, and theatrical production. Deconstructing and reconstructing norms of guitar playing and composing form the basis of all of King's creative practice. Kaki King's sole demand for any audience is that they feel their way through her work. BUGS is Kaki's first performance created for youth and family audiences.

ABOUT GLITCH

Orsolya Szantho and Attilio Rigotti are multidisciplinary artists who co-founded the multimedia theater company GLITCH, creating work that seamlessly combines digital and physical mediums with new forms of storytelling. Rigotti is a Chilean performer, director, technology artist, videogame designer, and teacher, and a former Associate Artist with experimental company Theater Mitu. Szantho is a multimedia designer and filmmaker, working across live performance, cinema, and interactive design. GLITCH has been collaborating with King on projection and interactive design for years and is joining her as full partners on BUGS.

ABOUT BUGS

A fun exploration of bugs, beetles, critters, and all things sugar. Audiences will experience Kaki King's signature guitar music, projection mapping and drum-triggered effects, as well as audio samples and multiple kinds of insect sounds. This gentle, interactive performance encourages audiences to participate and dance along. They will be invited to shout out to their favorite bug, dance like one of the insects jiggling around on the guitar, and embrace their curiosity about the world around us.

Best for Families, All Ages

Student Matinees: PreK -3rd

This new production was commissioned by La Jolla Music Society and The Harris Theatre of Chicago. The La Jolla Music Society was the lead co-commissioner and hosted a residency and premiere performance of BUGS in spring 2024. The Harris Theater presented a performance of BUGS in late fall 2024. 2025-2026 is BUGS' first national tour!

INSECTS & THE NATURAL WORLD

Insects are the most diverse group of animals on Earth, making up more than half of all living things, and coming in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

In the performance, we see bugs such as:

- Bees
- Butterflies
- Caterpillars
- Ants
- Praying Mantis
- Beetles
- Fireflies
- Spiders

How can you tell these bugs apart? What makes them different from each other?

Each species has their own personality! How would you describe each bug?

How do bugs make you feel? Inspired? Fascinated? Creeped out? Why do you think we have such strong emotional feelings towards different bugs?

What is your favorite insect and why?

CURIOSITY & OBSERVATION

Curiosity is wanting to know more and asking questions of the world around you. Observation is noticing something.

Describe or draw your favorite insect. What does its body look like? How does it move? How many legs? How many eyes? What kind of environment does it live in? What does it do during the day? At night?

Research a bug that you don't know anything about, maybe from a different part of the country or the world. Is it similar to any bugs in your area?



SUGAR & SLIME

Sugar and Slime exist in both the natural world and the man-made world.

In the performance, Kaki talks about how all living creatures need energy to survive, and sugar is a source of energy that both humans & insects like! What else do humans & insects have in common? What other kinds of energy do living beings need?

Certain animals like snails produce slime as a means of protection or movement. Humans produce slime as a means of entertainment! Have you ever made slime? What are its ingredients?

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of insect species is estimated to range from 1 million to more than 5.5 million.

A Fairywasp is the smallest bug in the world - its body length is as wide as a human hair.

The Giant Weta is the largest bug in the world and has existed since the time of the dinosaurs!

MUSIC

This performance invites young people and families to explore the fascinating universe of insects, all set to live music from a customized guitar, drum, and ukulele.

Different rhythms and melodies used in the show represent various insects and their activities. What different sounds did you hear?

Have you ever seen a ukulele? How does it sound compared to a guitar?

How does music make you feel? Can music make you feel a different way about a bug?



VISUAL TECHNOLOGY

The fireflies, ants, beetles, and caterpillars in BUGS all have their own visual worlds. Some of the images are cartoon-like illustrations or plastic bug toys. Others are images of actual insects in nature.

TRIGGERING

Did you notice sometimes when Kaki played a note on the guitar or drum, something special happened on the screen? This is called triggering--using something like a note or a loud sound to make something else happen. When you ring a doorbell, your finger pushes a button, a sound is created, and someone answers the door. This is also triggering! It has many uses in our daily lives as well as the performances we see. Can you think of another everyday experience that includes triggering?

LISTEN FOR:

- A praying mantis walking
- The flapping of a grasshopper's wings
- A marshmallow roasting
- An insect dance party
- Night falling



PROJECTION MAPPING

GLITCH uses projection mapping to create the outline of a video that matches the shape of the guitar and the shape of the background screens. Their computer tells the projector to shine only on the front of the guitar. Look carefully on the stage in front of the guitar and you will see a small projector.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES & RESOURCES

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

<https://www.readbrightly.com/insect-books-for-the-classroom/>

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/preschool-picture-books-about-bugs/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/teaching-tools/book-lists/subject/kids-books-about-bugs.html>

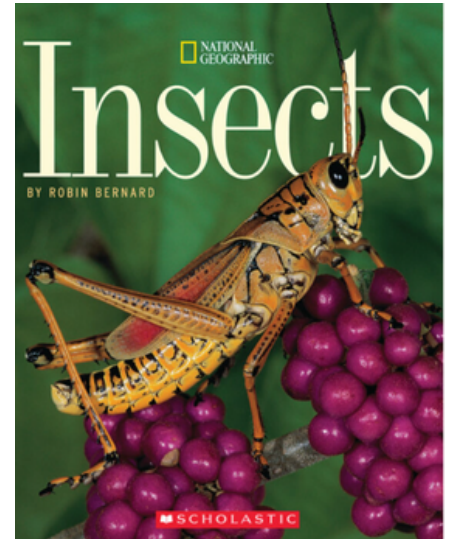
<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/reviews/books-insects-invertebrates-children>

<https://www.readbrightly.com/insect-books-for-the-classroom/>

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/preschool-picture-books-about-bugs/>

<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/teaching-tools/book-lists/subject/kids-books-about-bugs.html>

<https://www.discoverwildlife.com/reviews/books-insects-invertebrates-children>



ARTS & CRAFTS IDEAS

<https://turnertots.com/2023/10/04/bug-art-activities-for-preschoolers/>

<https://abcdeelearning.com/bug-crafts-for-preschoolers/>

<https://www.thecrafttrain.com/bug-crafts-for-kids/>



HOW TO MAKE SLIME

<https://www.thekitchn.com/how-to-make-3-ingredient-slime-without-borax-245904>

MORE INFO ABOUT THE SMALLEST & LARGEST BUGS ON THE PLANET

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2024-1-spring/critter/fairy-wasp-worlds-tiniest-insect-fights-crop-pests>

<https://www.pestworldforkids.org/pest-info/bug-articles-by-type/what-is-the-biggest-insect-in-the-world/>