

Talking Points For Marketing/Box Office Teams

Around the World in Song!
A Global Celebration for Children & Families

How to use this document:

This document is intended to arm marketing and box office teams with in-person conversation angles to interest audience members and media contacts. Think of this as a collection of angles for pitches.

There is a variety of talking points here.

Use those points that feel most appropriate for your needs — and if you need more, please don't hesitate to [be in touch](#).

What NOT to do with this document:

This document is not a press release.

It is not marketing language intended for print or digital publication.

We request that you avoid using it as such — mainly because if this is what you need, we have tools that will do a better job for you.

For press releases and copy for season brochures/websites, [please visit GME's Presenter Toolbox](#), [contact our publicist, Michelle Tabnick](#), or one of [GME's other representatives](#).



GUY MENDILOW ENSEMBLE

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Around the World in Song!

Supporting Pages

- [Show page](#)

Show Description

The Guy Mendilow Ensemble opens up a world of music to children in this deeply interactive global adventure. Uplifting, funny and fun, this show starts with the premise that children deserve the respect and dignity of “real people.” With songs, stories and instruments from cultures worldwide, GME introduces children to the amazing ways people make music with their voices, bodies, and whatever else they find at-hand.

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Guy Mendilow Ensemble

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Why Does This Show Matter? What Value Does It Add?

- The world's music is an open storybook for young listeners, if you invite them in. Active listening, joining in, and moving are integral parts of the show, from start to finish.
- These songs are not explicitly children's songs, but songs everyone can relate to, no matter what their age and experience.
- People all over the world make music in surprising ways, ways that resonate with the exploratory, curious minds of kids. This program explores with them, encouraging them to follow global examples and make music wherever they are, with whatever's at hand.

What Does This Show Sound Like?

- Cool vocal techniques, from the magic of perfect harmonies to the wonders of singing two notes at once (overtone or throat singing).
- Thrumming, humming instruments from across the planet, presented as “characters” in their own right and connected to the cultural context/folklore of their origins
- Rhythmic patterns that illuminate the foundations of music and show their connections to math/numeracy

Who Is This For?

This program is ideally suited for K-4th grade and families.
It can be adapted for slightly older/younger children in age-appropriate groupings.
GME has stage/workshop programs for older students.

Important Quick Facts

- Program is deeply informed by musical pedagogy (Guy is a trained music educator with his own school of music, as well as a composer/performer), and has been successful at a wide range of elementary schools across the country. Active involvement in high-caliber music performances can have a positive impact on children lifelong, and that's why GME created this show.
- Strong ensemble performance of highly skilled musicians fluent in a variety of musical styles
- Activities, games, stories, and songs make for a well-paced, consistently engaging program that gets kids out of

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GUY MENDILOW ENSEMBLE

their seats and into new musical worlds.

Guy Mendilow Ensemble (General)

Bio

Guy Mendilow Ensemble (GME) weaves moving stories through riveting scores, narration and theatrically projected sand animation. GME productions center on true tales of people's choices and chances as they navigate thresholds, whether personal or historical. GME is especially intrigued by decisions of generosity and grace despite upheaval.

With the leadership of artistic director/composer Guy Mendilow, GME's team is "an international tour de force" (Bethlehem Morning Call) of world-class artists, writers, composers and theatrical designers from the Middle East, Europe, South and North America now living mainly in Boston, MA and New York, NY. Musically, GME calls on expertise with a broad palette. The bittersweet rawness of Tango; the fire and intricacy of multilayered percussion; gorgeous vocal harmonies and other pan-cultural influences layer over the harmonic roots of Western classical music. GME's scripts are inspired by the dreamlike qualities of Pablo Neruda and Michael Ondaatje, and by Dan Carlin's vivid restoration of faded historical memory. Visually, evocative lighting and set pieces frame flowing sand narratives and locations. Theatrical editing and projection techniques enable the pre-recorded sand animations to follow live performance of script and score even when pacing varies as artists respond to each theatre's audience.

GME is a recipient of multiple funding awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Boston Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts and Western Arts Alliance on the basis of artistry, cultural preservation and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

Why Does GME Matter? What Does GME Give?

GME operates on the conviction that moving, multidisciplinary stories can be powerful agents for conversation: A coming together to listen to one another and share our stories in the service of exploring who we are and who we wish to be, building an understanding of how the other has come to see what they see, believe what they believe and

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know what they know. When equipped with well-crafted questions —fueled by genuine curiosity and inviting honesty, dignity and aliveness —conversation promotes a willingness to be vulnerable; to be surprised; to NOT have quick answers; to suspend assumptions; to probe ambiguity. Conversation is not necessarily about agreement, or common ground on specific issues, other than the meta-issue that we are humans worthy of being heard and understood.

Guiding Principles

This framework summarizes the means and aims in most of GME's work

GME's 3C's: Craft, Connection, Curiosity

- Through efficacy in **Craft**, we move people.
- By moving people we inspire personal Connection with what previously seemed unrelated or irrelevant.
- **Connection** drives Curiosity, opening opportunities for learning.
- **Curiosity**, directed by deft facilitation, expands willingness to explore, listen generously, and develop understanding of experiences, relationships and perspectives different from one's own.

Why This Matters

- Sustained, deepened inquiry strengthens awareness of often-tacit assumptions about how we relate to the world and to one another.
- It is more difficult to dismiss and dehumanize someone once we have heard their story, and have developed an understanding for their beliefs and viewpoints, even if we sharply disagree.
- Over time, this increases informed agency in **Choices** we make.

The process is dynamic and multi-directional.

About GME's Stories

- GME productions center on true tales of people's choices and chances as they navigate thresholds, whether personal or historical. GME is especially intrigued by decisions of generosity and grace despite upheaval.
- Life's tiny pivots, the unexpected moment that wind up changing all fascinate Guy Mendilow. They define our understanding of ourselves, and they lie at the heart of GME's shows.

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- Songs and sounds from other cultures help us connect to these moments in new ways. They contain sparks, hints, and feelings we can all engage with.
- Music can heighten emotional connections to stories, even ones that feel remote from our everyday lives. By moving listeners, GME makes the faraway and long ago intimately present.

What is GME's Music?

- Stories are conveyed through careful attention to instrument and vocal sounds and qualities.
- Musical soundscapes that hit the heart and paint vivid pictures.
- The bittersweet rawness of Tango, gorgeous vocal harmonies and the rhythmic fire of classical Arabic percussion intensifies the emotionality of Western classical chamber music.

Quick Talking Points

- Musicians from around the world, playing music from all over, reflect our contemporary, more connected world, giving a welcoming window into global culture.
- Contrasting sounds and unexpected instrumentation (mouth harp, overtone singing, musical bow and arrow) add excitement and visual variety.
- More doorways to the story thanks to spoken word, multimedia elements, community collaboration, and even participatory pieces (for some shows)

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