

# TINKER BELL

# THE FAIRY OF

# ELECTRICITY

LECTURE THEATRE D, OLD ARTS BUILDING, ROOM 155, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE  
**WEDNESDAY 5 OCTOBER 2011, 5.30–7.00 PM**



A PUBLIC TALK BY: **PROFESSOR MURRAY POMERANCE**, RYERSON UNIVERSITY, CANADA

James M Barrie's fairy construction is examined from her earliest appearance onstage in 1904 and in film in 1924, through numerous manifestations concluding with Marc Forster's *Finding Neverland* in 2004. The origins of Tinker Bell were concomitant with certain fascinating developments: the domestication of electricity; the prevalence of theosophical, spiritualist, and Calvinist thinking in western society; the identification of women with housework and mothering; and the prevalence and persistence of a belief in fairies and otherworldliness. Attention is given to early twentieth-century uses of electricity and its history, the gender politics of femininity (especially in the 1950s), and cinematic special effects as a transformative phenomenon.

Murray Pomerance is a professor in the department of sociology and director of the media studies working group at Ryerson University, Canada. He is a renowned author and social commentator. His books include: *Edith Valmaine* (Oberon, 2010), *Michelangelo Red Antonioni Blue: Eight Reflections on Cinema* (California, 2011), *The Horse Who Drank the Sky: Film Experience Beyond Narrative and Theory* (Rutgers 2008), *Johnny Depp Starts Here* (Rutgers 2005), *An Eye for Hitchcock* (Rutgers 2004), *Savage Time* (Oberon 2005), and *Magia D'Amore* (Sun and Moon 1999).

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