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By John Longenbaugh

ALL AGES

No children? No problem

I've said it before and I'll say it again: The Seattle International Children's Festival (through Sat., May 17) isn't just for kids. In fact, if your child is whining about seeing cool music acts (including Reem Kelani and women drummers from Guinea), stick Raffi on the CD player and hire a babysitter. If they complain about being deprived of their video games and TV for the day, stick *Hannah Montana* into the DVD and let their brains rot while you go check out Puppentheater Halle's delicate retelling of the Grimm tale *King Thrushbeard*, using unique puppets crafted out of mud and sticks; or the whirlwind antics of Circa, who promise "46 circus acts in 45 minutes." And only if they're very, very good should you consider taking them to see Italy's Teatro di Piazza o d'Occasione's *The Japanese Garden*, a storytelling experience that marries a garden's form with interactive technology that creates images and sounds, first from a dancer, then from members of the audience. Why wasn't the world this cool when I was a kid?