

For the Fair

It's theatrical magic and history at Live Arts Festival.

Ben Franklin: Paper boy's tale

By Brooke Honeyford
FOR THE INQUIRER

Sebastienne Mundheim admits she had reservations when approached to create a program about Benjamin Franklin for his tercentenary celebration.

After delving into nine books about his life and having enlightening conversations with Franklin experts, Mundheim developed a show that defies theatrical conventions and offers a unique interpretation of this anchor of American history.

Currently Franklin: The Story of a Paper Boy runs this weekend as part of the Philadelphia Live Arts Festival.

Staged on a set made entirely of paper, *Currently Franklin* wades through the currents of Franklin's life — from his childhood dream of sailing the high seas to his adventures in publishing and politics. "I tried to take difficult academic and esoteric material and find metaphors that work for kids,"



Sebastienne Mundheim is the creator of "Currently Franklin."

"Currently Franklin: The Story of a Paper Boy," 11 a.m. and 2 and 4 p.m. Saturday; 3 and 5 p.m. Sunday; 11 a.m. Monday at the Christ Church Neighborhood House, 20 N. American St. Tickets: \$15; \$5 for children under 12. Information: 215-413-1318 or www.livearts-fringe.org

Mundheim says.

For the festival, Mundheim reworked her earlier production, weaving physical movement into the multimedia repertoire that includes shadows, sounds and mechanical surprises.

It's a "simple story that hits the same milestones, but incorporates subtle ideas about Franklin." Equal parts history lesson and theatrical magic, *Franklin* is engaging for both young audiences and scholars.

Contact writer
Brooke
Honeyford at
weekend@phillynews.com.