



CLASS SHOW GUIDE

STELLALUNA & OTHER TALES



Theater Etiquette

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: To actively explore proper theater behavior.

Discussion: “*Etiquette* is a word we use to describe the way people behave when they are in social situations with other people. What is the proper etiquette when you see a play? How should you behave during the show? Is it the same way you should act when watching a movie at home or playing outside? Is it okay to laugh during a play if you think it is funny? Is it okay to talk to your neighbor during the performance?”

Brainstorming: As a class, create a list of ways that audience members might behave, good and bad, while in the theater. Write these behaviors on the board in two different columns: one for “Good Theater Etiquette” and one for “Bad Theater Etiquette.”

Modeling: Pick two students to come and sit in chairs in front of the class. Ask them to act out one of the “Bad Theater Etiquette” behaviors (with the teacher if desired) for ten seconds. Then have the class discuss why the behaviors were inappropriate and how they could be fixed. Now have the two students act out one of the behaviors under “Good Theater Etiquette” and discuss why this behavior is better.

Activity: Give the entire class one of the scenarios from their list of bad behaviors, like talking to their neighbor or not paying attention. Have the class act out this behavior for ten seconds then ask the students how they think this behavior makes the actors or the other audience members feel. Have them fix the behavior and act out this new scenario for twenty seconds. Repeat with a few other bad behaviors from the list.

Be Bats!

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 15-20 MINUTES

Objective: To explore how actors use their bodies to tell stories and portray different characters.

Discussion: “At the play, we will see the cast of *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, become several animals using puppetry and their bodies to create different characters. How do different animals move? How could we use our bodies and voices to become animal characters?”

Activity: Ask students to find their own individual acting spaces within the room. Students should have enough room to move freely without hitting other students. Direct students in using their bodies and, if appropriate, their voices when becoming new characters. Instruct students to, “Be Bats!” and encourage them to lie on the backs with their legs up in the air to simulate a bat’s sleeping position. Then instruct students to “Be Snakes!” and slither like Verdi. You can continue with characters from the three stories in the play (*Stellaluna*, *Verdi*, and *Pinduli*) and then ask students to suggest other animals to act out. Continue to explore how characters of the play would act within the space. If you have any of the Janell Cannon books for reference, you can encourage students to incorporate a character’s personality into their acting, such as the Proud Lion or the Grumpy Old Snake.

Extension: Once students have explored some of the animal characters using their bodies, voices, and imaginations, ask them to use their writing skills to bring the animal characters to life. Have students write a short “monologue” in which their favorite animal introduced itself and tells about a typical day in the life of that animal. Ask students to come up and read or act out their monologue for the class.



Where Do We Park?

Information for Bus Drivers

1. When dropping off please wait until a Rose Staff member has greeted your bus. They will get your bus information, parking instructions and when to unload the students.

2. Follow the staff's direction on where to park. We have three locations:

- a. Farnam St. between 20th and 24th bagged meters north side (10-15 slots)
- b. 20th St. North of Farnam- do not block Wells Fargo drive thru exit (4 slots)
- c. 20th St. East of Rose building (5 slots)

3. Most performances have a run time of 55-65 minutes. We ask that you are back at your bus by 10:50am (if it's a 10am performance) or by 1:50pm (if it's a 1pm performance). If the performance is longer we will notify you at drop off.

4. After the performance is over we ask that the buses form a line behind the buses that are parked on 20th North of Farnam. Please do not double park.

5. Wait until all buses have pulled out away from our building before pulling up on the east side for pickup.(We load 5-6 buses at a time.)

6. After being loaded please keep in mind that other buses are waiting so please try and leave the loading area as soon as possible.

Want to book a workshop?

Workshops at Your School

The Rose offers several workshops that can take place AT YOUR SCHOOL. A professional Rose teaching artist can visit your classroom for one to five days in a one week time period to explore, through drama, a curriculum topic of your choice.

To register your class for a workshop that will take place at your school, please contact Lindy Glenn at (402) 502-4625 or lindyglenn@rosetheater.org.

Workshops at The Rose

A workshop AT THE ROSE is the perfect way to explore themes from a school field trip show or learn about the profession of theater. A professional teaching artist with a college degree in dramatic arts education will lead your class. To register your class for a Workshop at The Rose, please contact Lindy Glenn at (402) 502-4625 or lindyglenn@rosetheater.org.

Visit www.rosetheater.org for more information!



Free Funding Is Available for Field Trips! We understand that budgets are tight. That's why we're offering two great solutions to help pay for your school's field trip expenses. Both Nebraska Arts Council and Target Stores are offering financial assistance to help underwrite the cost of providing your students with experiences such as those provided by The Rose Theater. For more information, please visit www.nebraskaartscouncil.org (click "Grants" to see all categories) or www.target.com/fieldtrips.

Write To Us!

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Facebook: Rose Theater – Omaha
Twitter: @RoseTheaterCo



Performing Arts
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

STELLALUNA

& OTHER TALES



Animal Action Reports

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 20-30 MINUTES

Objective: To discover and share new information about animals of the jungle.

Discussion: “In the musical, *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, our friends in the jungle share new facts about their species! We learn that there are four types of hyenas and that snakes have jaws that unhinge, allowing them to swallow their prey whole. What can we learn about other animals in the jungle?”

Brainstorming: As a class, brainstorm different animals found in the jungle that were not featured in *Stellaluna and Other Tales*. Examples could include sloths, orangutans, and more! Discuss with the students what they know about these animals already and what they would like to discover.

Activity: Create small teams of 3-5 students to create dynamic presentations about the life of an animal species in the wild. Have each team select one jungle animal to research. Using an encyclopedia, the internet, or other resources, students should put together some Fun Facts on their animal. Reports can cover the animal’s diet, sleeping patterns, and more! Then have the teams create presentations using their bodies and voices to bring their animal species to life in front of the class. One or two students might narrate the presentation while others act out how the animals might behave in the wild.

Extension: At the end of the presentation, ask the rest of the class to ask questions about the animal species that was researched. Each team can pick a question to research further and write a short script to present the new information to the class.

We're Friends... That's A Fact!

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 15-20 MINUTES

Objective: To explore differences and similarities of characters in *Stellaluna and Other Tales* and celebrate all of our differences and similarities.

Discussion: “In the musical, *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, our friends in the jungle share what makes them different. They learn that what makes them different, makes them special. They also learn that their differences make their friendships special, too. We also have differences that make us special!”

Brainstorming: As a class, make a Venn diagram on the board comparing bats and birds. Brainstorm as a class to determine traits that both bats and birds share and qualities that are different.

Activity: Arrange students in small groups of 4-6. Ask each team to divide into “Bats” and “Birds” and create a short scene in which the two species encounter each other in the wild. How would they meet? What questions would each species have about the other? How would they learn more about what makes them alike and what makes them different? Would the animals get along after getting to know one another better or not? Share the scenes with the class.

Extension: What could we humans learn from Stellaluna and her flying friends? Take a photo of each student or have each student draw a self-portrait. Under this photo, have students write one thing that makes them special. Put all the pictures on a large sheet with the quotes from the original *Stellaluna* book by Janell Cannon, “How can we feel so different and be so much alike?” “We’re friends. And that’s a fact.”

Welcome to the Jungle Orchestra!

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 15-20 MINUTES

Objective: To explore the setting of our story, *Stellaluna and Other Tales*. Using their imaginations, students will transport to the jungle to set the scene for our characters.

Discussion: “In the musical, *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, our friends on stage were all creatures in the jungle. We are going to use our imaginations to travel to the jungle ourselves! How can we use our voices to make the sounds we would hear in a jungle?”

Brainstorming: Encourage students to brainstorm example sounds that would be heard in a jungle. Examples could include the sound of monkeys, birds chirping, waterfalls, and more. Practice all of these sounds as a whole group.

Activity: Standing in a circle or at their desks, divide the students into 4 to 5 “orchestra sections”. Each section will produce one type of jungle sound. For example, one section could be assigned to produce the sound of elephants blowing their trunks while another is responsible for the sound of a flowing waterfall. The teacher will serve as the “conductor” and cue each section to “play”. The teacher can experiment with playing different sections together. Raise your hand to have students “play” more loudly and lower it for it to be quieter. Once the orchestra is organized, select some students to “conduct” the orchestra! Enjoy making jungle music together!



Extension: Experiment with different “moods” or situations in the jungle. How would the “jungle orchestra sound different during a thunderstorm? How about on a hot, dry day with no wind? How about if some hunters invaded their jungle home? A forest fire?

Not So Scary Puppets

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 30-45 MINUTES

Objective: To explore ideas of perspective and viewing characters differently. To explore the art of puppetry and storytelling.

Discussion: “In the musical, *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, we meet several friends who may seem like scary animals, such as snakes, bats, and lions. Are you afraid of these animals? Did hearing their stories make you feel less afraid of these animals? Today we will talk about animals that are typically seen in a negative light and learn about their stories.”

Brainstorming: Encourage students to brainstorm animals that are typically seen in a negative light, such as rats and spiders.

Activity: Have each student choose a traditionally scary animal for their character. Using simple materials such as paper lunch bags, pipe cleaners, and construction paper, have the students create a hand puppet of their animal.

Extension: Divide the students into small groups. In these groups, students are to determine how these animals would interact. Empower students to devise short scenes featuring their animal puppets. You could even set up an “Animal Antics Talk Show” where these animals could be interviewed to learn more about each species.



Behind the Scenes Spotlight: Puppetry Design

Meet the Artist, Trish Place!

For this production of *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, some of the characters in the stories are represented by puppets. **Trish Place** is an Omaha-based puppetry artist who has her own puppetry company and has created puppets for numerous Omaha theater organizations including The Rose. We asked Trish to tell us a little about her work as a puppetry artist!



Thank you for sharing your work with us, Trish!

Q: Can you tell us about the basic steps involved in creating the puppets for *Stellaluna and Other Tales*? How did you decide what kinds of puppets to build?

TRISH: For the Verdi snakes I really wanted to duplicate the look of the illustrations in the book by Janelle Canon. I loved the colors of the yellow and green snakes so I decided on a tie-dyed fleece fabric for them to replicate the soft water color look of the book. I chose hand puppets for the snakes to get the most “snake like” movement for the puppets and more control of movements.

Q: How did you come to be a puppet designer? Are there any special skills you've had to develop?

TRISH: I first got involved in puppetry in high school in Lincoln, Nebraska when I joined The Lincoln Community Playhouse Puppeteers. After learning performance, I started making my own puppets for some of the productions. I had learned to sew at an early age and I attended numerous puppetry festivals and bought books on puppet design. After that, just experimenting with various materials and trying new things. Never be afraid to try when you have an idea! I'll be discovering new materials for some of the puppet parts on the snakes. I'm excited to try them out!

Q: What kinds of materials do you use to make the puppets for *Stellaluna and Other Tales*? Are there any types of materials that you prefer to work with?

TRISH: The shape of the snake heads is foam rubber under the fabric. I started by sculpting a prototype head out of a block of Styrofoam and then used fabric to get curves and angles of the head. Then I used that pattern to make a foam rubber pattern. It's many pieces glued together. The interior of the mouth is ¼" thick fun foam, and the fabric for the bodies is fleece. The eyes are a new material to me, 3D printed! I love working with foam rubber. It seems to be a very versatile and light weight material for puppets.

Q: What are some of the challenges you had to face when building puppets for the show?

TRISH: Replicating the look of the snake heads was a bit of a challenge, but since I've worked with foam rubber and making shapes, it was easier than I thought it would be. The size of the snakes was a thought process: what would be too large or too small? How will the puppeteers manipulate the puppets? Do I have the hand opening for the puppeteers in the upper back of the head or underneath? How will the puppeteers manipulate the puppets on the set when the puppeteers are seen by the audience? How are the puppets manipulated in the trees and on the set? All questions to explore when creating a puppet.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job creating puppets?

TRISH: I love to see the puppets “come alive” during the process. Every puppet is just as much an individual with unique characteristics as a person. Once a puppet is on a puppeteers hand, it's magical they way they come to life!

Q: Do you have any advice for a young artist who might be interested in designing and building puppets?

TRISH: Play, play, play!!!! Play with materials, play with your puppets, play with voices. Interact with people with your puppets on your hands.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SHARING YOUR TALENT, TIME, AND PUPPETS WITH US!

Explore More!

If you enjoyed *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, be sure to check out these other great resources!

Books by Janell Cannon You Might Enjoy!

1) *Stellaluna* by Janell Cannon

The inspiration for the musical *Stellaluna and Other Tales*, this book tells the story of a young bat named Stellaluna who finds a home with a family of birds after becoming lost.

2) *Pinduli* by Janell Cannon

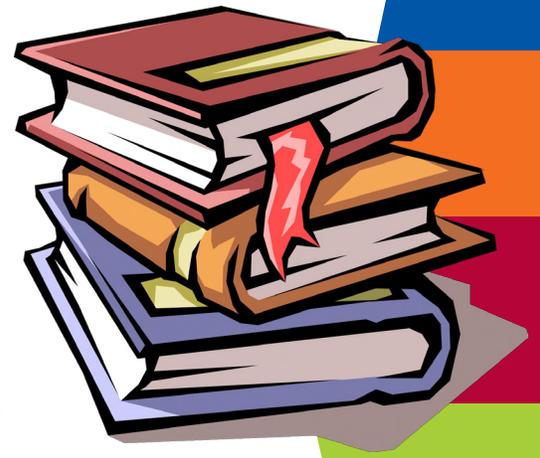
Learn more about our hyena friend, Pinduli, in this great book by Janell Cannon! This story explores self-acceptance, self-image, and treating others respectfully.

3) *Verdi* by Janell Cannon

This coming of age story about our snake friend Verdi is just as charming as Janell Cannon's award-winning tales! Join Verdi as he learns what it means to grow up and being proud of who he is!

4) *Crickwing* by Janell Cannon

Join this new cockroach character as he learns a lesson about bullying and friendship!



DVDs!

1) *Stellaluna* (2004)

This is a short musical film (differing from the stage musical) based on Janell Cannon's award-winning book. If you're a huge fan of the book or theater production, you might want to see this animated version to see a different adaptation!

2) *Disney Nature and Disney True Life Adventures Nature Documentaries*

The Walt Disney Company has always been fascinated by animals and the natural world and has created many documentaries about creatures growing up in the wild. Whether you enjoy the advanced high-tech photography of recent Disney Nature films or the good old-fashioned storytelling of the True Life Adventure specials of the 1960s, you'll find a lot of love about these child-friendly peeks into the natural world!

Websites or Apps!

1) www.readwritethink.org

The National Council of Teachers of English have put together a wonderful website packed with excellent ideas for bringing literature to life in the classroom. A quick search on the site for *Stellaluna* or author Janell Cannon yields several great resources! Check it out!

2) www.incrediblebats.com

This is a web site set up by a family that seeks to educate others about how amazing these beautiful and misunderstood creatures really are. It offers a lot of interactive info and videos about the world of bats!

3) kids.nationalgeographic.com

This very kid-friendly site by the folks who publish *National Geographic KIDS magazine* is full of wonderful info about all sorts of animals grouped by their classification. If you like learning about animals and great wildlife photography you'll definitely want to check it out!

4) www.omahazoo.com

When wondering about wildlife, don't forget about the absolutely awesome zoo and aquarium that we have right here in Omaha! It's considered one of the very best zoos in the entire country. The Henry Doorly Zoo's website offers an overview of their animal exhibits so you can plan the best visit ever. And don't forget to check out the "Kingdoms of the Night" and the "Lied Rainforest" to meet some of our furry flying friends like Stellaluna!

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