



CLASS SHOW GUIDE



Pre-Show Activities

Speed, Volume, Pitch!

CIRCLE ACTIVITY • 15-20 MINUTES

Objective: Students will use their voices and bodies to explore speed, volume, and pitch through song.

Discussion: "There are many different ways we can sing a song. We can sing very LOUD or very QUIET! We can sing really FAST or really SLOW! We can even sing a song very HIGH or very LOW. The play we are going to see is all about music, and we are going to explore different ways we can sing 'Head Shoulders Knees and Toes' [or another class favorite]!"

Activity: Sing the song several times, each time exploring the song differently. "Let's sing the song with a different speed – fast!" "Now let's sing the song as in a quiet volume – as if we were shy!"

Extension: Challenge the students by switching back and forth in the middle of the song. Sing the first part of the song FAST and the second part of the song SLOW.



Theater Etiquette

CIRCLE ACTIVITY • 15-20 MINUTES

Objective: To actively explore the differences between a movie theater and a live theater play.

Discussion: "Actors from The Rose Theater are going to come into our classroom and put on a play right here in our classroom! During some parts of the play, they may ask for our help telling the story. During other parts of the play, we will need to be very good listeners. "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 in a movie theater.

Modeling: As a class, invite students to pantomime [or act out without words] some of the brainstorms from the list. "Show me in your own space that you are eating popcorn." "Show me a frozen picture of you laughing really loudly!" "Show me a frozen picture of an audience member with their feet up on the movie theater auditorium chairs!" Next, have the class discuss why these behaviors might be inappropriate for a live theater play.

Activity: Invite two students to come to the front of the room and show frozen statues of good listeners during a live theater play. "Show me you are sitting with your body calm, eyes on who is speaking! At the end of the play, we can give the actors a round of applause!"

ENJOY THE SHOW!

Dear Educators,

Welcome to The Rose, where we strive to enrich the lives of children through live theater, dance and arts education. We're pleased you have chosen to make The Rose a part of your students' learning experience, and we will do our best to make it both meaningful and educational. This study guide has been created to help identify the themes and lessons from "Music Makers" and move them into your classroom where they can be further developed through discussions, activities and assignments. Please feel free to take the ideas we've suggested here and modify them to match your classroom's grade level and curriculum.

Sincerely,
Brian Guehring, Rose Education Director

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 Melissa Richter at (402) 502-4625 or melissar@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 Melissa Richter at (402) 502-4625 or melissar@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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Performing Arts
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

MUSIC MAKERS

Post-Show Activities

Character Exploration!

AROUND THE ROOM OR CIRCLE ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will use their bodies, voices, and imaginations to portray characters from the play.

Discussion: "We saw *The Music Makers* right here at our school! What is a play? Yes, a live performance on stage in which actors pretend to be different characters and tell a story to the audience! What do we call the people who pretend to be characters and act out a play? Yes, actors! Today, we are going to be actors, too!"

Activity: Create a big space for students to move around freely. Say "Everybody, everywhere, went to sleep, sleep, sleep. Show me how you would fall asleep." Invite the students to sleep. Then say, "Everybody everywhere woke up as _____." Invite students to wake up as the different characters from *The Music Makers*: Shy Recorder, Dance Teacher Tambourine, Kind Drums, Excited Ukulele, Snobby Kazoo. In between each character, guide the students in returning to their initial sleeping positions. As the students get the hang of moving around as the characters, invite them to share what the characters might say.

Extension: Choose a different book and facilitate this activity with those characters.

Music Response!

CIRCLE ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will move their bodies in different ways while responding to music.

Discussion: "In the play *The Music Makers*, each instrument acted differently. The Recorder was shy and quiet. The Kazoo was sophisticated and snobby. The Tambourine was loud and sassy. The Drum was kind and friendly. Today we are going to listen to different kinds of music and move our bodies as if we are different characters."

Activity: Using Youtube or a cd, play different genres of music for the students. Invite students to move and dance according to whether the music is fast, slow, loud, or quiet. Freeze the music and invite students to make a frozen statue of a character. "What kind of character might move to very slow music? How does that character feel? Show me with your body!" Repeat with fast music, classical music, rock music, and so on!

Extension: Invite students to share what they think their character might say in this moment. "If I tap you on the shoulder, tell me what your shy character might say right now." "I'm scared!"



Soundscape

CIRCLE ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will use their voices and imaginations to create the sounds of a specific location.

Discussion: “Everybody close your eyes and listen to what you hear. Even in our school, there are always sounds we can hear. Today we are going to use our voices and imaginations to create the sounds of a location.”

Brainstorming: Decide upon a location many of the students are familiar with, such as a grocery store, a playground, a school classroom, an ocean, or the freeway. Discuss all the different objects or people that make noise in the selected location. As a group, guide students in using their voices to create those sounds. For example, “Let’s use our voices to make the squeaky sound of a swing set during recess!”

Activity: Seated in a circle, encourage students to choose which objects they will be. Guide students to begin making sounds very quietly using only their voices. Guide students in slowly increasing and decreasing intensity and volume of the soundscape!

Exploring Sound with a Homemade Kazoo

(from www.buggyandbuddy.com)

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 15-30 MINUTES

Objective: Students will create a homemade kazoo and explore sound.

Materials:

- Cardboard tubes (old toilet paper roll or paper towel roll)
- Wax paper
- Rubberbands
- Sharp pencil (or other sharp object) to poke holes
- Paint or other art supplies to decorate kazoos (optional)

Preparation: Poke a hole in the side of the tubes using the sharp pencil or other sharp object.

Discussion: “We saw several different musical instruments used in the play *The Music Makers*. Dr. Kazoo played the small, but silly sounding, kazoo. Today we are going to make our own kazoos!”

Activity: Give each child a cardboard tube and guide them in covering one end of with wax paper. Secure it with a rubber band. Paint, color, or decorate the kazoos! Once dried, invite the students to put the open end of the tube up to their mouths and hum or say “do” over and over and to explore the kazoo sound!

Extension: Like Dr. Kazoo in the play, invite students to play ‘Row Row Row Your Boat’ in high and low pitches.



Behind the Scenes Spotlight: The Playwright! Meet the Artist, Ashley Lauerty!

Ashley is the Director of Early Childhood and a Teaching Artist at The Rose Theater. Her plays for young and very young audiences include *Wynken, Blynken and Nod*, and *The Music Makers* at The Rose, *The Caterpillar's Footprint*, *Nadine's Coloring Book*, *Where Our Stuff Goes*, and *Dotty Dot!*, a musical written in collaboration with Travis Kendrick, Ryan Cavanaugh and John Wascauage.



Q: Can you tell us about the job of a playwright? How did you become a playwright? Did you have to take special classes?

A: A playwright is somebody who creates the story that the actors will bring to life for audiences to see onstage! As a child, I was always interested in writing plays and I started writing stories, plays, and musicals when I was in elementary school. Often, I would turn my favorite books or tv shows into musicals. When I was in college and graduate school, I had the opportunity to take several playwriting classes and began writing full length plays.

Q: What is something you're excited for the audience to experience in *The Music Makers*?

A: I am excited for the audience to experience the music and all the different characters in the play! There are a few moments in the play when the characters speak directly to the audience, and I am excited to see what audience members will contribute!

Q: How did you come up with the idea for *The Music Makers*?

A: I knew I wanted to write a play with not very many words, but that could still tell a clear story. I taught myself how to play the ukulele in 2010, and I thought it would be an exciting challenge to use music and sound to help tell the story of two people looking for friendship.

Q: What are some other plays you have written? Do you have a favorite?

A: I have written several other plays for young people like *Nadine's Coloring Book*, *Where Our Stuff Goes*, and *Dotty Dot!* I have also written and created plays specifically for children under 5 years old, like *Wynken, Blynken, and Nod*, *The Caterpillar's Footprint*, *Nested*, and *You and Me and the Land of Peas*. Do I have a favorite? No! I like them all, because when they're produced, they're all different and very special because of the talented people who bring them to life.

Q: What is your advice for young people who would like to write plays?

A: You are never too young to begin creating your own stories! Read books, see plays, and pay attention to how stories are created. The first step is to DO IT...start writing!

Thank you for sharing your talents with us, Ashley!



Explore More!

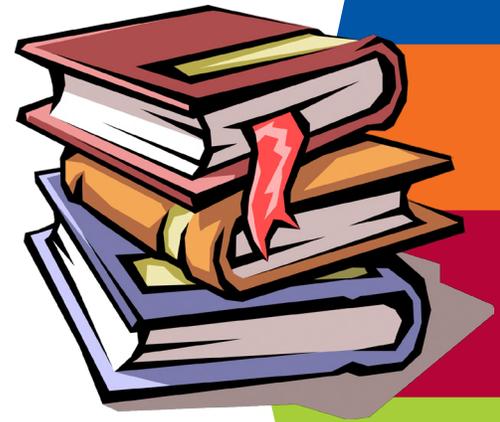
If you enjoyed *The Music Makers*, be sure to check out these other great resources!

Books to Read:

- 1.) ***You and Me: We're Opposites*** by **Harriet Ziefert**
A picture book about animals who compare themselves to each other in speech bubbles.
- 2.) ***Abiyoyo*** by **Pete Seeger**, illustrated by **Michael Hays**
Nothing can stop the terrible giant Abiyoyo....except the enchanting sound of a ukulele and the mysterious power of a magic wand.
- 3.) ***The Hueys in What's the Opposite?*** by **Oliver Jeffers**
The Hueys are quirky, bean-shaped creatures that explore opposites in a conversational style.
- 4.) ***Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*** by **Nikki Giovanni**, illustrated by a variety of artists.
Featuring more than 50 vibrant and exciting poems with a beat!
- 5.) ***Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo*** by **John Lithgow**, illustrated by **Leeza Hernandez**
A concert gets out of hand when the animals at the neighboring zoo storm the stage and play the instruments themselves in this hilarious picture book!
- 6.) ***Big Bear, Small Mouse*** by **Karma Wilson** and **Jane Chapman**
Join Bear and mouse as they spot all the opposites in their little glen!

Websites:

- 1.) <https://buggyandbuddy.com/>
A former teacher's website where she shares crafts, science, STEM and STEAM activities!



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