



Rippledink's Repertory

1 Cast & Crew! 2 Shows! 3 Weekends!

Dinosaurs Before Dark • Fancy Nancy the Musical

Casa del Prado Theatre, Balboa Park

Jan 2-18, 2015

STUDY GUIDE

A Peek Behind the Curtain

A live theatre performance requires lots of dedication and teamwork from many different people. The following is some basic information about that, as well as your duties as an audience member that will help create a fun experience for everyone.

Who's Who?

- The director is responsible for putting the show together, from a mere vision to a full production in a short amount of time.
- The cast are the actors in a show.
- It takes a team of dedicated crew members to help put on a show from backstage. They help with makeup, costumes, lights, props and ushering.
- Designers decide what kind of sounds, lights, sets and costumes effectively tell a story.
- The stage manager oversees the rehearsal schedule and performances. He or she also keeps track of where the actors need to be on stage.

Do's & Don'ts

- Arrive on time for the performance.
- Pay attention to the show. Turn off all cell phones and anything else that beeps, vibrates or lights up. This also means no texting!
- Don't take any photographs during the performance. It's distracting to the actors and your fellow audience members.
- Stay in your seat throughout the entire performance, even if something in the show excites or startles you.
- Don't talk during the performance.
- If something in the show is funny, laugh out loud. If something wonderful happens in the story, clap your hands.

What's Your Role?

Believe it or not, you – the **audience** – are the most important part of a theatre performance! Plays and musicals are created to entertain, enlighten and inspire people. The laughter, tears and applause from audiences are an integral part of the theatre experience.

What is Repertory?

“Repertory” refers to the structure of producing two or more shows in an alternating schedule, with the same cast featured in all shows.

About San Diego Junior Theatre

Every cast and crew member is enrolled in one of our classes. Ranging from 8 to 17 years old, our students learn from grown-ups who are experienced theatre arts professionals. With their guidance, young people get a taste of what it takes to work in theatre world.



DINOSAURS BEFORE DARK ACTIVITIES



About *Dinosaurs Before Dark*

When siblings Jack and Annie accidentally stumble upon a tree house time machine, they find themselves transported back to the time of the dinosaurs.

DINOSAUR WALK

Ask your students about what dinosaurs they've heard of. If you have photos of those dinosaurs, share them with your class.

Then have your students walk around in a circle or just around the room. Call out some of the dinosaurs they named and ask them to walk as those dinosaurs. Call out "Freeze!" and ask a few students why they are walking a certain way. Listen for answers that point out the differences between dinosaurs (e.g., walking on two versus four legs, having a short or long neck, etc.). CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.4

DESIGN A MAGIC TREEHOUSE!

Jack and Annie travel through time in a magical treehouse. Ask your students how they might imagine a magical tree house time machine! Would it have a door? Would it have stairs? Would it have wings like an airplane? What color would the leaves and the trunk be? Then ask your students to draw their own version of a magic treehouse. Maybe instead of leaves, the tree has feathers. Or instead of a brown trunk, the tree could have purple and white polka dots. Encourage them to let their imaginations run wild! CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.1.5

FANCY NANCY ACTIVITIES

About *Fancy Nancy*

Fancy Nancy and her friends, Bree, Rhonda, Wanda, and Lionel are going to be performing in their very first show, "Deep Sea Dances." Nancy is *positive* (that's fancy for 100 percent sure) that she and Bree will be picked to be mermaids. When another girl wins the coveted role of the mermaid, Nancy is stuck playing a dreary, dull tree. Can Nancy bring fancy flair to her role, even though it isn't the one she wanted? And will she and her friends be able to save the day when disaster strikes right before the show?



THE FANCY WORDS GAME

Nancy always chooses to use "fancy" words to express herself – which means she uses synonyms that add a layer of sophistication to each word's meaning. For example, *dog* becomes *canine*, *drink* becomes *beverage*, and *big* becomes *gigantic*. Divide your class into teams of 4-5. Then give each team a list of 10-30 words that are appropriate to your grade level. Set a time limit, like 1 or 2 minutes, for each team to come up with the "fancy" versions of each word. Start the timer. When time is up, ask each team to share their "fancy" words. The team with the most words wins! CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.1

"I WONDER WHAT I'LL BE!"

Nancy and her friends wait anxiously to find out what they will play in their dance studio's performance of "Deep Sea Dances." Ask your students: What sea animal would YOU want to play in a show set in the ocean? Ask them to strike a pose as their chosen sea animal. If you have an older group, divide them into teams of 4-5 students. Have each group create a tableau (or frozen picture) of different sea animals by using their bodies. Then have each group show their tableau to the class. Ask students in the audience to identify the different sea animals in the tableau and give their reasons for doing so. Discuss how actors can become other creatures and animals simply by using their bodies. CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.2.4