

A Doggone Musical

Enrichment Works

Our Mission

Enrichment Works creates and presents theater to inspire learning.

Classroom Connections

Synopsis

A Doggone Musical teaches children that they can play a big part in the pet's health and happiness. Frisbee a dog with a love for life is eager to practice the tricks that Barbara, her owner, has been teaching her. Unfortunately, Barbara is too busy and Frisbee feels rejected. Kool, an alley cat, convinces Frisbee that she's better off living wild and free. The cat then takes Frisbee to meet Fifi, a French poodle, and the pack dines on a tasty trash buffet. Frisbee discovers that this diet is not right for her and, after licking the wrapper of a chocolate bar, things get worse.

The Dog Catcher catches Frisbee, who no longer has her collar, and takes her to the pound! At the pound, the Groomer cleans up Frisbee and realizes that the pup is pictured on a Lost Dog Poster that Barbara has posted. When Barbara arrives to claim Frisbee, she learns an important lesson. There is more to being an owner than just having a pet around. Barbara learns the responsibilities of dog ownership and the nine things that every pet needs; **food, water, ID tags, shelter, grooming, training, exercise, vet visits, and love.**



Kelly Meyersfield,
Megan Rees, and Carla
Valina Rees

About the Artists

Murphy Cross (Director): Directed *Sunday's Children All Fall Down*; *Blinders* and *The Magic Feather* (Samuel French Short Play Festival); *Lysistrata*; *Spirit Awakening*; *Sacrifice*; *Big Tush, Little Tush*; *Pinocchio*; and *Is this America, or What?!* She conceived, with Paul Kreppel, directed and produced *Jay Johnson: The Two and Only* (Tony Award Winning) and produced *The Big Voice: God or Merman* (Off-Broadway).

Ian Patrick Williams (Playwright): *Bleacher Bums* (Emmy Winning). For Enrichment works; *Degas and the Dancer*, *Relatively Speaking: A Visit with Albert Einstein*. As librettist; *Food For Thought 1 and 2*, *A Doggone Musical*. As Director; *Food for Thought 1 and 2*, *Degas and the Dancer*, *Sor Juana*, and *Eco-Slam: Clean World Wrestling*.

Norman L. Berman (Composer): Score to *Strider* (NY Drama Desk Award), Circle Repertory Company (Composer-in-Residence), A Noise Within (Composer-in-Residence), Manhattan Theatre Club, Playwrights Horizons, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Roundabout Theatre, Arena Stage, Folger Theater Company, St. Louis Repertory Company GeVa Theater, Seattle Repertory Company, Taper Two, *By Bernstein* (Chelsea Theater Center), *Unsung Cole* (Manhattan Theatre Club). TV: Showtime, PBS, CBS and the Discovery Channel.

Abraham Tetenbaum (Lyricist): *Crazy He Calls Me* (Broadway), *Sisters* (TV), the Joy2learn Foundation (2 pilot projects). Taught; NYU, Brooklyn College, Hofstra University, GATE programs and Professional Development Workshops (public schools), World Union of Jewish Students (Italy and Croatia). American Film Institute (Editor of Publications), Lincoln Center (Educational Council), Dramatists Guild, the Writers Guild of America, West, Inc. (WGA)

Please visit www.enrichmentworks.org to see full bios for the creative team, as well as the performers.

Discussion and Writing Questions

- In what way is a Dog Catcher important for the community?
- Discuss the 5 W's for each Character. Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- Since dogs cannot talk, what are some ways that we can help a lost dog find its owner?
- Is it more important to be "Kool" or make your own choices?

Vocabulary Words

shelter
exercise
healthy
feral
survive
poisonous
veterinarian
obedience
lead (leash)

Project Ideas

- Make a Pie Chart with the 9 things pets need to live a happy healthy life. Use drawings as well as words to describe each section of the chart. (Food, Water, ID Tags, Shelter, Grooming, Training, Exercise, Vet Visits, Love)
- Get into Groups of 2 or more and improvise scenes showing both the incorrect AND correct way to handle dog related situations. (ex. Approaching an unfamiliar dog, leaving dog in the yard alone, playing with toys with your dog, returning home after an absence from your dog, trick and obedience training, approaching a sleeping or eating dog, approaching puppies with the mother around)
- Have the class create a "Healthy Pet Collage" using pictures from magazines, as well as home. (Pictures should include pets living a happy, healthy life and doing appropriate things.)
- Make a "Healthy Pet Profile": Include pet's name, owner, ID Number, Address, Phone Number, and a drawn picture of the pet.
- "Treat or Trash Game": Teacher holds up a picture, students put a thumbs up if it's safe for the pet to eat, and a thumbs down if it is not safe. Alternative: Students form groups based on their answer. Eliminate the group that is incorrect. Keep playing until you have 1 winner.

Resources

Websites:

<http://www.kindnews.org> (Responsible Pet Care)
<http://www.loveyourdog.com> (How to Love Your Dog: A Kid's Guide to Dog Care)
<http://www.petorphans.org> (Pet Orphans of Southern California)
<http://www.aspca.org> (For pet related resources)
<http://www.annenbergpetspace.org> (Pet Adoption and Education)

Booklist:

Puppy Care by Kim Dennis-Bryan, DK Publishing, Inc., NY, NY, 2004.
ASPCA Pet Care Guides for Kids – Puppy by Mark Evans, DK Publishing, NY, NY, 1992.
Dogs by Gail Gibbons, Holiday House, NY, NY, 1996
Becoming Your Dog's Best Friend by Bill Gutman, Millbrook Press, Brookfield, Conn., 1996
My Dog- How to Have a Happy Healthy Pet, Northword Press, Minnetonka, MN 2001
Junior Pet Care - Puppies by Zuza Vrbova, Chelsea House Publishers, Neptune City, NJ, 1990
Shiloh by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Aladdin Paperbacks, NY, 2000
The Pokey Little Puppy by Janette Sebring, Golden Books, NY, 1942

Contact Us

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Standards and Learning

Enrichment Works is a theater company whose productions are designed to inspire children to learn by creating an emotional connection to educational subjects. "A Doggone Musical" uses the Theater Content Standards of California to provide a positive theatrical experience. The show helps foster empathy toward animals and teaches animal safety, responsible pet ownership and careers involving animals. Using script, song, dance and interaction with the performers, students learn what every pet needs to live a happy and healthy life.

Visual and Performing Arts Connections

1.0 Artistic Perception

Students process, analyze and respond to sensory information through language and skills unique to theatre. They learn theatrical vocabulary such as actor, musical, prop, script, score, etc. They analyze the elements of "A Doggone Musical" by identifying the who, what, when, where and why of the story.

2.0 Creative Expression

Students observe the actors dramatize music, lyrics and dialogue through the medium of theater, and learn how a story can be lifted from real situations and presented on the stage. Through interaction with the actors, they get to place themselves in the shoes of a puppy, and a responsible pet owner. Post-Performance activities provide the students the opportunity to explore their creative expression through multiple mediums including discussion, drawing, and informal presentations.

3.0 Historical and Cultural Context

"A Doggone Musical" helps students understand the importance of being a responsible pet owner. They learn that not every pet owner may have the knowledge or the interest in properly taking care of their pet and this can lead to the animal becoming unhappy, unruly and potentially abandoned. Students will become aware of the many needs of a dog and what it means, from a dog's point of view, to fail to have those needs met.

4.0 Aesthetic Valuing

Students will have the chance to respond to, analyze, and derive meaning from theatre arts. "A Doggone Musical" uses audience interaction to maintain a high level of emotional connection to the story. The story is presented from the dog's point of view, in order to help foster empathy toward a dog in a non-ideal situation. Post-performance activities provide the students with an understanding of the characters and events. Students will be able to explain and show how the actors were able to portray strong emotions and feelings, while also teaching the audience a lesson in proper care and compassion for a pet are provided through Classroom Connections Guides to further emphasize the importance of proper pet care, as well as give the students more understanding about the characters and events.

5.0 Connections, Relationship, Applications

Activities will be provided through Classroom Connections guides in order to further emphasize the importance of proper pet care. Students will see how theatre arts can communicate information through song and dance. They will be given a chance to learn the role of people in pet oriented careers and find more interest in learning about keeping their pets happy.