

# Monkey King: An Adventure

## Enrichment Works

### Our Mission

Enrichment Works creates and presents theater to inspire learning.

## Classroom Connections

### Synopsis

Monkey King is the most beloved character in China and perhaps all of Asia and the Asian diaspora. He has inspired operas, circuses, TV shows, comics and more. Monkey's journey to India as the supernatural bodyguard to a Buddhist priest named Sanzang was a favorite of Chinese storytellers for decades until it was written down in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Journey to the West fills 100 chapters, each one more elegant, bizarre and action-packed than the last

In "Monkey King: An Adventure," students learn the

legend of a Monkey King who became "The Great Sage Equaling Heaven." They will follow him on his journey from ordinary monkey to King, Sage, prisoner, then bodyguard and friend. "Monkey King: An Adventure" teaches students that nobody is perfect, that everyone can learn from others, and it is important to trust your friends. For they can be the difference between life and death. The story also teaches us not to judge a book by its cover. A demon is not always a little girl and a pig is not always a demon. Sometimes friendship is the best way to truly know who someone is.



Noga Wind as Sanzang and  
Ariyan Kassam as the Monkey King

### About the Artists

**Noga Wind** (Buddha; Sanzang; King of Trolls): is a theater maker, actor, clown, drag king, and queer activist from Jerusalem. Her work focuses on merging queer activism and art. Her original show *Red And Boiling*- Real stories of queer women, has performed in multiple festivals in the U.S and abroad. She has her BFA in Acting from CalArts

**Ariyan Kassam** (Monkey; Old Woman): is an Indian Actor born in London, England and raised in Nairobi, Kenya as well as Johannesburg, South Africa. He currently holds a BFA in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts.

**Jade Robinson** (Pig; Little Girl Demon): is an award-winning Canadian actress. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), and Associate diplomas in Speech & Drama from the Royal Conservatory of Music and Trinity College London.

**Daniel Passer** (Director): creates work as a performer, writer and director. For over a decade, Daniel has been a lead Clown and Comedy Conceptor for Cirque du Soleil and Dragone Entertainment.

**Jeff Raz** (Playwright): has appeared on Broadway and in featured roles with Cirque du Soleil, the Lincoln Center Theater, Vaudeville Nouveau and the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival. He is the author of two books and several plays for young audiences.

**Johannes Mager** (Music): was born in The Hague, in the Netherlands and began playing trombone at the age of 13. A graduate of the Conservatory of Music with a Bachelors of Music, he is an active arranger of music for theatre and comedy shows.

Please visit [www.enrichmentworks.org](http://www.enrichmentworks.org) to see full bios for the creative team, as well as the performers.

## Discussion and Writing Questions

- What are some of the important lessons stories teach us?
- Discuss the 5 W's for each Character. Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- Was the Monkey King a good guy or a bad guy? Why?
- How did the use of props, puppets and costumes make the story interesting?

## Vocabulary Words

Emperor  
Sage  
Immortal  
Infamous  
Buddha  
Monk  
Demon  
Prisoner  
Monastery

## Project Ideas

- Using paper bags, markers, and other materials create your own puppet of a character from the story. (Ex: Monkey King, Pig, Sanzang, Buddha, Little Girl Demon, King of Trolls, Old Woman)
- Draw your favorite scene from "Monkey King: An Adventure."
- Separate into groups of 3 and create your own short adventure using Monkey King, Pig and Sanzang.
- In order to save the world from humans being bad and calling each other names, create a compliment box. Have all students write a kind sentence about another person (in general, not by name) and put it in the complement box. Any time the class needs a pick-me-up, have a student (or two) read a complement from the box.
- Monkey King Charades: Choose an animal for each student. Have them pretend to be that animal for 30 seconds. Then have the class guess what animal the student is being.

## Resources

### Websites:

<http://people.wku.edu/haiwang.yuan/China/tales/monkey.html> (Monkey King)  
<http://www.visiontimes.com/2016/11/02/famous-chinese-legends-the-story-of-the-monkey-king.html> (Famous Chinese Legends)  
<https://www.deviantart.com/ghostexorcist/art/10-Facts-About-Sun-Wukong-the-Monkey-King-754250104/> (Facts about The Monkey King)  
[https://www.shenyunperformingarts.org/explore/view/article/e/N80dv9qsH\\_Q/chinese-stories-history-monkey-king-came-to-be-journey-to-the-west.html](https://www.shenyunperformingarts.org/explore/view/article/e/N80dv9qsH_Q/chinese-stories-history-monkey-king-came-to-be-journey-to-the-west.html) (Shen Yun Performing Arts)

### Booklist:

The Monkey King A Superhero Tale of China by Aaron Shepard, Skyhook Press, 2005  
The Monkey King: A Classic Chinese Tale for Children by David Seow, Tuttle Publishing, 2017.  
Monkey King : Three Trials by Wei Dong Chen, JR Comics, 2012  
Chinese Myths and Legends: The Monkey King and Other Adventures by Shelley Fu, Tuttle, 2018

## Contact Us

### Enrichment Works

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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.

“Monkey King: An Adventure” uses the Theater Content Standards of California to provide a positive theatrical experience. The show helps students learn important life lessons through the tale of a Monkey King and his companions. Using script, song, dance and interaction with the performers, students learn how to find connection with a culture that may or may not be their own.

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## 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 "Monkey King: An Adventure" 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 variety of different people, and creatures. 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

“Monkey King: An Adventure” helps students understand several universal life lessons. They learn about a story that has been passed on throughout history in the Chinese culture. Students also learn that you must trust those friends sent to be of help to you. They also learn how being greedy can hurt a person or animal in the long run.

### 4.0 Aesthetic Valuing

Students will have the chance to respond to, analyze, and derive meaning from theatre arts. “Monkey King: An Adventure” uses audience interaction to maintain a high level of emotional connection to the story. The story is presented from a prominent Chinese cultural figure in Buddha, in order to bring the audience on a journey and give them a personal connection to each story. 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 lessons about being better human beings. Classroom Connections Guides to further emphasize the importance of storytelling and group connection, 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 the human connection. Students will see how theatre arts can communicate information through song and dance, as well as mask work and Clowning. They will be given a chance to learn the history and folklore of China.