

## TEACHER'S GUIDE: JACK AND THE GIANT

Teacher's Guides are developed by members of the Nine O'Clock Players, an auxiliary of Assistance League of Los Angeles.

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Guides are distributed to facilitate learning and discussion and to provide an enhanced theatre experience for our audience. These pages have been written with young students in mind so that they will have a better understanding of the production they will be seeing. Seat assignments are predetermined based on age levels of classes. Ushers will ask adults to sit toward the aisles.

## THE STORY OF THE MAKING OF A PLAY

### ACT 1: GETTING STARTED

First, a play is chosen, one that is appropriate for young audiences. The Production Chairman then selects the following individuals who will help to tell the play's story:

The Director, who plans how to tell the story by using actors who learn dialogue, songs, and dances

The Musical Director, who teaches the actors musical numbers and orchestrates the music throughout the entire play

The Costume Designer, who creates costumes based on the characters in the play

The Scenic Designer, who builds sets to make the different scenes in the play appear on stage

The Prop Designer, who fills the stage with objects (such as tables and chairs) to help the actors tell their stories

The Lighting Director, who chooses colored lights to make the sets and stage look like real places

The Sound Engineer, who teaches the actors how to use microphones they will wear during the play

The Stage Manager and Technical Director, who help to make all the elements of the play come together

### Act 2: THE PLAY COMES ALIVE

Actors audition for parts in the play. They sing a song, read lines from the script and are given a role to play

Beginning with rehearsals, the actors learn their lines, songs and dances, have costumes fitted, learn to use props and move scenery

Act 3: ON WITH THE PLAY. . . .

The members of the audience arrive and are ushered into the theatre. They take their seats and an announcer says that the show is about to begin and asks the audience to practice theatre etiquette by remaining quiet while the actors are speaking and to clap for the parts that they like.

#### SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

In our story, a giant lives in a castle way up in the clouds above Jack's village. The giant sends his troll down in a bucket to scare the villagers into paying taxes. If they do not pay their taxes, they will be evicted from their homes. The giant has also kidnapped the Queen of the village and is asking for payment of a ransom to have her returned.

Jack and his family have no money, so his mother tells him to sell the family's beloved cow. On market day, Jack sets out to sell their cow, but a mysterious stranger enters the scene and convinces Jack that he should trade the cow for five magic beans. Jack thinks that is a fantastic deal, but when his mother finds out about it, she thinks Jack has been swindled by the stranger and angrily throws the beans away.

But guess what happens to those beans: they sprout into a beanstalk that grows and grows, right up to the giant's castle in the sky. And brave Jack climbs the magic beanstalk to rescue the Queen from the mean giant.

How does he do that? How does one small boy go up against a towering giant? You'll find out when you see our play.

## BEFORE ATTENDING THE PLAY: THEATER ETIQUETTE

Students often need guidance in how to behave while watching live theatre. Some pointers you can share with your students are:

How the audience acts is important. Students must not walk in the aisles while actors are present or try to touch the actor or the props. They can applaud when appropriate, but no talking or clapping when actors are singing.

Audience members may not use any photographic devices during the play.

Please explain to the students the differences between watching live theatre, movies and television.

## BEFORE THE PLAY: VOCABULARY

Beanstalk: a vine grown from a bean planted in the ground

Catastrophe: a sudden great disaster

Evicted: to be removed from a home because of financial difficulties

Self-reliant: not needing the help of others

Taxes: money paid to the government to help run the country

Ransom: a demand for money to free a person

## BACK AT SCHOOL, AFTER THE PLAY: DISCUSSION, WRITING, SPEAKING

Think of stories or movies that have giants in them. Would you like to meet a giant? Write a dialogue you might have with your giant. Draw a picture of your giant.

Jack showed his bravery by taking the chance of climbing up the beanstalk to rescue the Queen. What is another example of bravery? An example might be from the newspaper, another story, a novel or your own life. Describe your example in detail, covering the who, what, where, when, and why.

Write a letter to a friend describing your experience of going to the Nine O'Clock Players theatre to see a play. Try pre writing, drafting, revising, editing and post writing.

Jack sings about "possibilities." He says, "There's a star inside of you trying to break free." What star is inside of you trying to break free? In other words, what are some of your talents?