



Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

Touring production For PreK



Written and Illustrated
by Elisa Kleven

Adapted for the Stage
by Nicole B. Adkins

Themes explored

friendship, art, the
beauty of nature

Summary of *The Lion and the Little Red Bird*

This delightful play tells the story of an inquisitive bird and a compassionate lion, an unlikely friendship to say the least. Why does Lion's tail keep changing colors? Little Red Bird's curiosity is piqued, and she sets out to unravel the mystery! Preschoolers will love this charming story, told with a mix of actors and puppets -- perfect for this young age.

Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can't turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently, so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

- Respect others audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
- Food and drinks are not permitted in the space.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. Do you have a special friend? What makes them special? What games do you like to play with your special friend?
2. What is an artist? How does an artist create their art? Have you ever created art? Are you an artist?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings.

If you enjoyed the show, travel to **ImaginOn** or your local **Charlotte Mecklenburg library branch** and check out these books. Check availability at cmlibrary.org.

Recommended for emergent readers

Birds

by Kevin Henkes

Fascinated by the colors, shapes, sounds, and movements of the many different birds she sees through her window, a little girl discovers they both have something in common.

Early Bird

by Toni Yuly

Early Bird wakes up before the sun. She is hungry. What will she have for breakfast?

The Happy Lion

by Louise Fatio

When the door to his house at the zoo is left open, a lion decides to visit his friends. He quickly learns that people are not nearly as polite or friendly in town as when they visit him at the zoo.

Recommended for early readers

Welcome Home, Mouse

by Elisa Kleven

Stanley, who is very clumsy, accidentally smashes Mouse's house, then promises to try to make a new one.

The Wishing Ball

by Elisa Kleven

A conniving crow convinces Nellie, a little cat, that his glittery rubber ball is a magical star which she can use to wish for a warm house, food, and a friend.

Horrible Bear!

by Ame Dyckman

When Bear breaks a little girl's kite, she thinks he is a "HORRIBLE BEAR!" Until she makes a mistake of her own and learns the power of saying "I'm sorry."

The Lion Inside

by Rachel Bright

A little mouse decides to seek lessons in roaring from the mighty lion, who happens to be afraid of mice. And the two become good friends!

THEATRE CORNER

Every play Children's Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?
5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.

Want more activities and content?

Access our Pinterest board for all kinds of fun crafts, inspirations, and more.



Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte
300 E 7th St.
Charlotte, NC 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Meet the Actors



BRANDON JOHNS (Narrator)

Brandon J Johns is so delighted to be back at Children's Theatre of Charlotte after the opportunities to grace the stage as Warbucks in *Annie*, Noodler in *Peter Pan*, White Dragon in *Dragons Love Tacos*, and Big Bad Wolf in *Shrek the Musical*. Originally from Virginia, Brandon is no stranger to children's theatre. He has done several national tours with Virginia Repertory Theatre, performing in many shows including *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, *I Have A Dream*, and *The Shoemaker and the Christmas Elves*. Some favorite

roles include Tonton Julian in *Once on This Island* at Swift Creek Mill Theatre, Monsieur D'Arque in *Beauty and the Beast* at Virginia Repertory Theatre, and Jim in *Big River* at Fort Lee Playhouse. Brandon is also a musician, arranger, and composer. Some of his original music and arrangements have been featured at Firehouse Theatre and Cedar Fair's theme park, King's Dominion. Brandon sends endless thanks to his mother and brother for their constant support and love. For DLJ.



ISABEL GONZALEZ (Lion)

Isabel Gonzalez (Nicola/Cecille) is a graduate from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and is ecstatic to be back at Children's Theatre Of Charlotte. You may have seen her grace our stages in *Annie* (Nicola, Cecille, Ensemble), *Shrek the Musical* (Dragon), *Dragons Love Tacos* (Blue Dragon), *Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees In Cuba* (Paloma), *GRIMMZ Fairy Tales* (Gretel/Cinderella), and *The Invisible Boy* (Sophie). You also may

have seen her in local productions of *Madagascar: A Musical Adventure* at the Levine Jewish Community Center, *Spoon River Anthology* with The Charlotte Symphony, and *Migrant X* at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She would like to thank everybody for their constant support thus far!



KAYLA PISCATELLI (Red Bird)

Kayla is thrilled to be returning to Children's Theatre of Charlotte this season. Previous shows with Children's Theatre of Charlotte include *Pete The Cat* (Olive), *Junie B. Jones is Not a Crook* (Junie B. Jones), *Go, Dog, Go!* (Hattie), and more. She has also performed with Actor's Theatre of Charlotte, CPCC Summer Theatre, Matthews Playhouse, Theatre Charlotte, Sigmon Theatrical and additional companies beyond North Carolina. When

not on stage, Kayla spends her time choreographing (*The Invisible Boy* - 2019), directing, and teaching artists of all ages through the Charlotte area. A big believer in magic, Kayla is beyond grateful for the tiny humans in her life who inspire her to keep questioning, growing and playing, as well as her partner, Susan, for helping her feel both held and free.