



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.(3rd-8th).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts. (3rd-8th).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

**Touring production
Recommended for
3rd - 8th grade**

This smartly-written drama explores the dynamics of friendships formed, lost and regained.



By
Y York

Director
Nicia Carla

Produced by special arrangement
with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING,
Woodstock, Illinois

Themes explored
acceptance, inclusion, influence
and friendship

Summary of *Accidental Friends*

Jonathan Small is a twelve-year-old student who is recovering from a head injury. He sits alone in his hospital room temporarily blinded by his head bandages. He has nothing to do but contemplate why his popular best friends have not come to see him. Enter Hilda Meisberg, a geek and overachiever, who pays Jonathan a surprise visit to find out why he hasn't replied to the witty letter she was made to write in class. She challenges Jonathan to get out of his chair and join her on a sightless adventure around the room. With her persistent encouragement, Jonathan discovers that he can function quite well using his sense of touch. He realizes that although Hilda may be unusual, she is also interesting and funny. However, when Jonathan finally gets out of the hospital, his actions are anything but friendly, and he may lose the one true yet accidental friend he ever had.

Audience expectations

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, nor can they 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 other 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.



NCES-TheaArts.(3rd-8th).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. Jonathan's injury takes away his sight because of his bandages. What are some ways he learns to use his other senses?
2. What does it mean to be a friend? What are some ways that Hilda was a better friend to Jonathan than his other friends at school?
3. What are some ways Jonathan isn't a very good friend to Hilda when he gets back to school? Why do you think he acts that way? What would you have done in his shoes and why?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(3rd-8th).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-HealthEd.4.ICR.1.1: Explain the importance of showing respect for self and respect and empathy for others.

Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

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. 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.(3rd-8th).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.



Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte
300 E. Seventh St.
Charlotte, N.C. 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(3rd-8th).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children's Theatre of Charlotte's Pinterest boards.



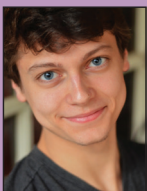
Meet the Resident Touring Company



ALEX AGUILAR could not be happier returning to perform *Accidental Friends* (Jonathan) and *The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs* (Pig #3 and various roles) at Children's Theatre of Charlotte's Resident Touring Company. Since obtaining his Bachelor of Arts degrees in Dance and Biology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, he has been working with Children's Theatre of Charlotte as a Resident Actor and Teaching Artist. Aguilar has performed professionally in Charlotte since 2004. He has trained in dance at UNC Charlotte, various ballroom studios, as well as Debbie Allen Dance Academy where he received recognition. Previous theater credits include: *Spelling 2-5-5* (Simon), *Rapunzel* (Rafi), *Disney's Aladdin Jr.* (Aladdin), and *Shrek: The Musical* (Donkey). He would like to recognize the people in his life that continue to push him to follow his dreams and motivate his unique ambitions. "You are unique, and if that is not fulfilled, then something is lost."



RASHEEDA MOORE is excited to work with Children's Theatre of Charlotte's Resident Touring Company for a third year. While touring she's enjoyed such roles as Diane in *Spelling 2-5-5*, Nanny in *The Velveteen Rabbit*, and Violet in *Beauty and the Beast*. Rasheeda also enjoys working with Queen City Comedy on their various sketch comedy and improvisation projects. She earned her BA from Greensboro College, and her MFA from The University of Southern Mississippi.



WILL BURTON-EDWARDS is delighted to continue his work with the Resident Touring Company of Children's Theatre of Charlotte. Last year he played Jake in Jennifer Overton's *Spelling 2-5-5* and The Musician in Mike Kenney's *Rapunzel*. Will loves children, and earnestly believes in the importance of exposing children to theater arts opportunities at a young age. He completed his undergraduate work at Sewanee: The University of the South in Tennessee, double majoring in Physics and Theater Arts. He's so excited to share our work with all of you throughout this school year!



COURTNEY REASONER has her BA in Music with focus in vocal performance. She worked for three seasons with Columbia Children's Theatre in Columbia, SC where favorite productions included: *James and the Giant Peach* (Spider); *Miss Nelson is Missing* (Allison); *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (Goldilocks); and *Peter Pan and Wendy* (Peter Pan). Courtney has also worked as a soprano soloist at Church of the Apostles in Columbia and has music directed with Columbia Children's Theatre. Other credits include: *Beth March* (*Little Women*); *Sally* (*You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*); *Ariel* (*The Little Mermaid*); and *Belle* (*Beauty and the Beast*).

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