

# TEACHER GUIDE

**SPECIAL FEATURE:**

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP GUIDE 2008

What are your students doing this summer? Make them the stars of the show! Use the special Internship Guide featured in this issue of *Play by Play* to land a once-in-a-lifetime internship opportunity at one of New York City's best theatre companies!



The Spring issue of *Play by Play* will soon be at your school, giving you and your students the best of New York City theatre. Please distribute it right away!

This guide is designed to familiarize you with the upcoming issue of *Play by Play*, and to suggest ways it can be used in a variety of classroom settings and curricular contexts.

### How to Introduce *Play by Play*

Using *Play by Play* as a classroom resource supports New York City and State learning standards in Drama and English Language Arts, as well as the New York City **Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts**. In this issue, you can:

✓ **EXPLORE CAREERS AND LIFELONG LEARNING** as your students apply for internships listed in the *Play by Play* Internship Guide!

✓ **MAKE CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS** through current Broadway and Off Broadway shows (listed in this guide) which relate to subjects you may be studying.

✓ **DEVELOP THEATRE LITERACY** with an activity inspired by *How Does the Show Go On?*, the new 'behind-the-scenes' book by Thomas Schumacher and Jeff Kurtti.

#### Other features in this guide:

✓ **EXERCISE: Family Matters** Explore students family history and their connection to current events with an exercise inspired by April Yvette Thompson's *Liberty City*.

✓ **WORKSHEET:** Reproduce and distribute the *Play by Play* A to Z worksheet on the back page of this guide along with the current issue of *Play by Play*.

✓ **PUZZLE:** Use the puzzle found in *Play by Play* as a quick, fun and easy way to familiarize your students with the content of the issue. (Answers inside this guide.)

## SPRING INTO... Big Theatre Discounts!

Many of you are already TDF members and enjoy **great theatre at deeply discounted prices** through our mailings and Web site. Why not remind your fellow full-time educators and your students that they're also eligible to join TDF and get the best ticket deals in town for Broadway, Off Broadway, music and dance?

**[www.tdf.org/application](http://www.tdf.org/application)**

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### Reviews:

■ ***Cat on a Hot Tin Roof***, the Broadway revival of Tennessee Williams' classic, features an all-star cast including James Earl Jones, and Phylicia Rashad. Don't miss the show that gave *Play by Play* reviewer Donjhannae Harris "chills" and "a newfound perspective."

■ ***Liberty City*** reveals the story of writer/performer April Yvette Thompson's childhood amidst racial tensions in 1980's Miami. *Play by Play* reviewer Julia Keimach considers it "a moving, real-life commentary on the perseverance of black Americans...and on what it means to survive."

■ ***Passing Strange*** is a sensational rock n' roll, spoken-word performance by poet-musician Stew. According to *Play by Play* reviewer Joseph Kopyt, it's "unlike anything else you'll find playing right now on Broadway."

■ ***Rent***, Jonathan Larson's hip rock n' roll musical about love, art and AIDS in the East Village, is finally closing after twelve years on Broadway. Don't miss what *Play by Play* reviewer Iliana Ortega calls "an emotional rollercoaster of a show"!

### Other Shows Highlighted in this Issue:

■ ***Uncensored*** is the yearly performance of MCC Theatre's Youth Company. Written by and for teens, its honesty and raw personal edge make it a must-see.

### Other Features:

■ ***How Does the Show Go On?*** Read *Play by Play* writer Sarah Adballa's review of the new "behind the scenes" book by Thomas Schumacher and Jeff Kurtti.

■ **The Public Theatre's Public LAB:** For just \$10, playgoers can get a "sneak peek" of plays in development through June 30...don't miss out!

■ **Spotlight on Neighborhood Theatre:** read about *Play by Play* writer Michael Ramirez' experience at the energetic PIT (Peoples Improv Theater) in Manhattan.

### Using the Back Page: *Play by Play A to Z*

The worksheet provided on the back page of this guide is designed to help students navigate through the issue and discover the opportunities it contains. Reproduce the worksheet and assign it as homework, or put students into groups and encourage them to complete it together in class. Try setting a time limit, and see which group can find the most correct answers.

**Answers:** April Yvette Thompson, *Beauty and the Brut*, *Crimes of the Heart*, Drop Six, East Village, *From Up Here*, Gallery Players, Heidi Rodewald, Internship Guide, Johnny Salinas, Jeff Kurtti, Lafayette, Miami, Nederlander Theater, Oklahoma, Peoples Improv Theater, Queens, Anika Noni Rose, Sociedad Educativa de las Artes, Tennessee Williams, Upright Citizens Brigade, Vivian Beaumont Theater, Wednesdays, Xerox, Youth, Zipper Factory Theater

## EXERCISE:

### Family Matters

#### *Liberty City* @ New York Theatre Workshop

In her multi-character solo show, *Liberty City*, writer/performer April Yvette Thompson weaves together the events of her childhood and her family's past from her ancestors' slavery in Barbados to her parents' divorce, and her childhood recollections of the Miami race riots in the early 1980's. Every family, like Thompson's, is deeply affected both by intimate occasions—births, deaths, moves, celebrations—and by major world events that affect family members' decisions, opinions, attitudes and points of view.

Historians often use a **timeline** to tell the story of a person or of a culture. On a single horizontal line that shows the passage of time—months, years, or decades—major events are listed relative to when they happened. What is your family's timeline? What are the events that tell the story of where your ancestors have been, and what your family has experienced in your lifetime? What are the major events, in your family and out in the world, that have defined your family's journey together?

#### **Exercise: Create a timeline capturing the important events of your family history.**

**1.** As a class, **name** five world events that have affected your family, or families that you know: Hurricane Katrina, 9/11, the Iraq War, and so on. Write them on the board.

**2.** On your own, **list** the major personal events that have happened in your family: births and deaths, weddings and divorces, or moving to another country, for example.

**3. Create** a timeline that illustrates your family's history: draw a horizontal line on a piece of paper to represent a certain number of years or decades, and mark along the line the major events that have affected your family's journey.

**4. Illustrate** or represent the most important events with drawings, cut out images from magazines, etc.

**5. Reflect** on the world events and the personal events on your family's timeline. Do they intersect? Did world events affect the outcome of personal family situations? How?

#### **Optional next steps:**

**Re-read** the review of *Liberty City* in *Play by Play* magazine. Read how director Jessica Blank taped interviews with April Yvette Thompson about Thompson's childhood, and used transcripts of their conversation to help Thompson create *Liberty City*.

**Trade** timelines with a classmate. Study their timeline, and interview them about one or more of the events they've listed. What do they remember about the event? Where were they? How old were they? How were their personal experiences affected by world events? Let your classmate interview you. When you're done, share some of your stories with the class.

## CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

Many Broadway and Off Broadway productions can support the curriculum you teach. The list below includes shows featured in *Play by Play*, as well as other productions that may or may not offer a specially priced student ticket.

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, tickets can be purchased for the following shows by calling Ticketmaster at **(212) 239-6200**.

### Literature:

■ **Les Liaisons Dangereuses** Christopher Hampton's definitive battle of the sexes is filled with seduction, betrayal, and passion (the original *Cruel Intentions*). April 11-July 6. American Airlines Theatre, 227 W. 42 St. (212) 719-1300. [www.roundabouttheatre.org](http://www.roundabouttheatre.org) or [www.hiptix.com](http://www.hiptix.com)

■ **The Fifth Column** The world premiere of Ernest Hemingway's 1937 drama about a spy in Madrid during the Spanish Civil War. Through May 4. Mint Theater, 311 W. 43 St. (212) 315-0231. [www.minttheater.org](http://www.minttheater.org)

■ **Wicked** The hit musical based on Gregory Maguire's bestselling novel. Gershwin Theatre, 222 W. 51 St. [www.wickedthemusical.com](http://www.wickedthemusical.com)

### History:

■ **Emancipation** by Ty Jones. This new piece examines slavery and racial conflict in America through a reflection on Nat Turner's 1831 slave rebellion. April 10-May 4. The Duke Theatre, 229 W. 42 St. (212) 868-4444. [www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org](http://www.classicaltheatreofharlem.org)

■ **South Pacific** U.S. service personnel and natives interact in the South Pacific during World War II in this Rodgers & Hammerstein classic. Through June 15. Vivian Beaumont Theater, 150 W. 65 St. [www.lct.org](http://www.lct.org) or [www.lctstudenttix.org](http://www.lctstudenttix.org)

### Ethnicity/Multicultural:

■ **In the Heights** (Featured in this issue)

■ **Liberty City** (Featured in this issue)

■ **Passing Strange** (Featured in this issue)

■ **Two Thousand Years** by Mike Leigh. The cultural orientation of a middle-class Jewish family in England is challenged by a series of events. Acorn Theatre, 410 W. 42 St. (212) 279-4100. [www.thenewgroup.org](http://www.thenewgroup.org)

■ **Momma's Boyz (Los Nenes de Mamá)** by Cándido Tirado. The story of three inner city friends who make a questionable choice to sell drugs in their need for quick money. Gramercy Arts Theatre, 138 E. 27 St. (212) 225-9940. [www.repertorio.org](http://www.repertorio.org)

### Current Events/Ethics:

■ **Betrayed** by George Packer. Offers an intimate view of the lives of Iraqi interpreters, employed by the U.S. government and left unprotected amidst violence in Baghdad. Through April 13. The Culture Project, 55 Mercer St. (212) 352-3101. [www.cultureproject.org](http://www.cultureproject.org)

■ **Lower Ninth** by Beau Willimon. This Hurricane Katrina drama imagines the wretched hours passed by two men stranded on a New Orleans rooftop awaiting help that may or may not come. Through April 5. The Flea Theatre, 41 White St. (212) 352-3101. [www.theflea.org](http://www.theflea.org)

### Shakespeare and the Classics:

■ **Antony & Cleopatra** March 22-May 2. Theatre for a New Audience presents the classic tale of love, jealousy, politics and war. March 22-May 2. The Duke Theatre, 229 W. 42 St. (212) 229-2819. [www.tfana.org](http://www.tfana.org)

■ **Romeo & Juliet** Theatre Breaking Through Barriers (formerly Theatre by the Blind) performs the classic romance with a four-person cast. Through April 6. Kirk Theatre, 410 W. 42 St. (212) 279-4200. [www.tbib.org](http://www.tbib.org)

■ **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** (Featured in this issue)

## ACTIVITY

### All the World's a Stage!

Thomas Schumacher & Jeff Kurti's book, *How Does the Show Go On?*, offers a behind-the-scenes look at what it really takes to put on a show. The actors on stage often get all the glory and attention...but there are countless theatre careers that don't involve setting foot on stage! What happens before the curtain rises? Is your 'off-stage' knowledge 'on target'?

■ Can you match each job title in the left column with the correct definition from the right column?

<b>Publicist</b>	Shows theatergoers to their seats
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Creates advertising opportunities for the show
<b>Choreographer</b>	In charge of everything that happens on stage
<b>Director</b>	Helps tell the story by deciding what the actor will wear
<b>Usher</b>	In charge of the dancing for a play or musical

■ What happens 'behind the scenes' at your school, to make a school day 'sing'? From the principal to the janitor...how many different jobs can you name in your school building alone?

## Using the *Play by Play* Puzzle

Pass out *Play by Play* to your class. Give students ten minutes to read through the issue, and fill in the word scramble on page 3.

**Answer Key:** Thomas Schumacher, Phylicia Rashad, Flushing Meadows, *Passing Strange*

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# Play by Play **A to Z**

Use this issue to find answers which start with the following letters.



**A**

Pictured left, she wrote *Liberty City*

**B**

Get \$15 student rush tix for this performance at the Joyce Theatre

**C**

\$20 student tix are available for this play at Roundabout Theatre

**D**

You might see this acclaimed group at the Peoples Improv Theatre

**E**

The starving artists of *Rent* live here

**F**

Buy \$25 student tix for this play at Manhattan Theatre Club

**G**

Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* is playing at this neighborhood theatre in Brooklyn

**H**

She co-wrote *Passing Strange* with Stew

**I**

Plan your summer with this *Play by Play* feature!

**J**

Contact him for an internship at Atlantic Theatre Company

**K**

He co-wrote the book pictured left with Thomas Schumacher

**L**

Tickets to the Public LAB, at The Public Theatre on this street, are only \$10

**M**

Part of *Liberty City* is set in this Florida city

**N**

See *Rent* at this theatre before it closes!

**O**

You can get \$26.50 tix to *August: Osage County*, set in this U.S. state

**P**

*Play by Play* reviewer Michael Ramirez says this theatre will "improv your life"

**Q**

Head to this neighborhood borough to see a show at the Chocolate Factory

**R**

Pictured right, she stars in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

**S**

Contact Annette Cortés for an internship here

**T**

He wrote *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

**U**

You can see improv and sketch comedy for \$8 here

**V**

\$20 student tix are available for *South Pacific* at this Lincoln Center venue

**W**

Shows at the Peoples Improv Theatre are free on this weeknight!

**X**

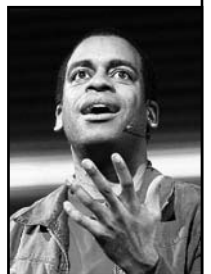
Corporation that supports *Play by Play*

**Y**

Shown right, he's the fictional boy played by Daniel Breaker in *Passing Strange*

**Z**

Catch MCC Theater's *Uncensored* here



**Think about it/Talk about it: Which of the shows featured in the issue most interests you, and why?**