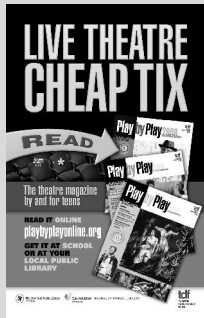


TEACHER GUIDE

Get your *Play by Play* poster now!

Just e-mail Playbyplay@tdf.org with your name, school, address and how many posters you would like and they will be sent right off to you!



SPECIAL FEATURE:

Summer Internship Guide '07!

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!

***Play by Play* is now available at public libraries throughout New York City. Look in the teen/young adult section for your copy!**

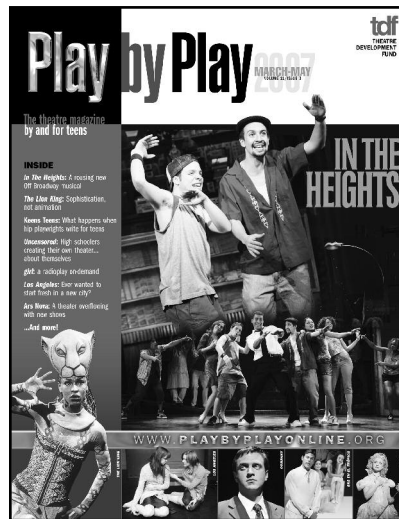
The Spring issue of *Play by Play* will soon be at your school, giving you and your students the best of New York City theatre. Please distribute it right away!

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:

- ✓ **DEVELOP THEATRE LITERACY** with a neighborhood-friendly writing exercise.
- ✓ **MAKE CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS** with current Broadway and Off Broadway shows (listed in this guide) which relate to subjects you may be studying.
- ✓ **EXPLORE CAREERS AND LIFELONG LEARNING** with the Internship Guide featured in this issue!



Other options featured in this guide:

- ✓ **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.)
- ✓ **PROJECT:** Create a 'radio play' right in your classroom, inspired by the podcast play *girl*, featured in this issue!

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

IN THIS ISSUE:

Reviews:

■ **girl** by Megan Mostyn-Brown is an innovative podcast play following three young women as they navigate the mysteries of adulthood. “Listen to it,” suggests *Play by Play* reviewer Laura Phung, “and you might just learn something that you never knew.”

■ **The Lion King**, Disney’s long-running Broadway hit, brings the classic animated film to life with Julie Taymor’s set, costume and puppet designs inspired by the natural beauty of Africa. *Play by Play* reviewer Joseph Kopyt says it’s “an experience you’ll never forget, no matter what your age.”

■ **In The Heights** is an Off Broadway musical tribute to Washington Heights. *Play by Play* reviewer Trevor Kaplan-Newman reports: “*In the Heights* teaches us that when we are in times of need, the place to go is ‘home.’”

■ **Los Angeles** tells the tale of one girl’s struggle to find her way in a new city amidst a jungle of temptation and addiction. “This story,” affirms *Play by Play* reviewer Elina Kats, “is about survival and the human need for companionship and love.”

Other Shows Highlighted in this Issue:

■ **Conspicuous** and **Circumvention** are two new plays by Winter Miller and Anton Dudley (respectively) created in collaboration with the Keen Teens project, which partners contemporary playwrights with teen actors to develop teen-friendly dramas.

■ **Gutenberg! The Musical!** tells the story of two friends’ ill-fated attempt to write a musical. Full of hilarity and laughter, *Gutenberg! The Musical!* features some of the best ‘worst’ musical comedy you’ve seen in a long time!

■ **Edward Scissorhands** is a staged ballet rendition of the classic Tim Burton movie. Don’t miss this imaginative tour-de-force!

Other Features:

■ **Uncensored:** Read *Play by Play* writer Charlie Pepper, Jr.’s firsthand account of MCC Youth Theatre’s annual teen performance event!

■ **Spotlight on a Neighborhood Theatre:** *Play by Play* writer Rachel Achs gives an inside look at Manhattan’s Ars Nova.

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: Apollo Theatre, Bedford Park, *Company*, Anton Dudley, Gail Elberg, Front Street, *Gutenberg! The Musical!*, Hell’s Kitchen, *In The Heights*, Julie Taymor, Anna Kull, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Minskoff Theatre, New Victory Theatre, *Our Leading Lady*, Charlie Peppers, Queens Theatre in the Park, Rattlestick Theatre, Sarah Schacter, *transFigures*, Usnavi, “Vaudeville To-day,” Katherine Waterson, Xerox Corporation, York Theatre Company, *Altar BoyZ*

WRITING EXERCISE

In The Heights @ 37 Arts Theatre

Neighbor Flavor!

Who are the people in your neighborhood?

In the Heights is composer Lin-Manuel Miranda’s upbeat valentine to his Washington Heights neighborhood, celebrating the Latino community and its diverse characters. But it’s not just the salsa and meringue music that lovingly reflect the neighborhood’s distinct flavor. The play’s dialogue reflects the dreams and struggles that take place every day on Usnavi’s esquina.



Dialogue is the conversation that happens on stage between two or more characters, revealing the characters’ personalities as well as the conflict between those characters.

Conflict, a necessary ingredient of drama, is an irresolvable problem between two people. People don’t have to be angry at each other to be in conflict; little conflicts happen around us in our neighborhoods everyday! When our needs clash with someone else, conflict arises. The results are often comic, sometimes tragic, always completely human and real!

Exercise: With a partner, write one page of dialogue based on an everyday conflict in your neighborhood.

Have students...

- 1. Brainstorm** and write on the board the neighborhoods represented in your classroom, from Spanish Harlem and Hell’s Kitchen in Manhattan to Bedford-Stuyvesant and Bushwick in Brooklyn! What makes these communities similar? What makes them different?
- 2. List** all the characters that can be found in any of these neighborhoods—students, grandmothers, bodega owners, MTA workers, hairstylists, street vendors, homeless people, etc.
- 3. Partner up** with another student in the room. Each pair should have one piece of paper and two pencils, and should choose a neighborhood from the board.
- 4.** In pairs, **imagine** an everyday situation where two characters in their neighborhood might be in conflict with each other.
- 5. Write** a one-page dialogue between these two characters. One student in the pair writes a line of dialogue expressing something that their character needs. Their partner responds (also “in character”) with a second line of dialogue. Remember: you won’t resolve your characters’ conflict in one page...but you will create a colorful picture of your neighborhood. Be sure to include words, phrases and references that reflect the flavor of your neighborhood.
- 6. Read** some of the dialogues aloud. Do they accurately reflect the personality of each community?
- 7. Discuss** what else you would see and hear on stage: what would the set, music and costumes be like? Where would these characters be? What music would be playing? What clothing would the characters wear?

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:

■ **Oliver Twist** A new adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic novel. March 29-April 15. Gerald W. Lynch Theatre at John Jay College, 899 Tenth Ave. www.tfana.org

■ **King Hedley II** This August Wilson revival depicts a struggling Pittsburgh neighborhood in the 1980's. Signature Theatre Co., 555 W. 42 St. (212) 244-PLAY. www.signaturesignaturetheatre.org

■ **The Color Purple** The hit musical based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Broadway Theatre, 1681 Broadway. www.colorpurple.com

History/Government:

■ **Blind Lemon Blues** A musical celebration of Blind Lemon Jefferson, who rose to fame as a blues singer in the 1920's. York Theatre Company, 619 Lexington Ave. (212) 935-5820. www.yorktheatre.org

■ **Journey's End** A revival of R.C. Sherriff's 1928 drama, based on his experiences in the trenches of the First World War. Belasco Theatre, 111 W. 44 St.

■ **Our Leading Lady** The story of Laura Keane, the popular 19th century actress who was performing at Ford's Theatre on the night of Lincoln's assassination. City Center, 131 W. 55th St. (212) 581-1212. www.nycitycenter.org

Ethnicity/Multicultural:

■ **The Attic** Yoji Sakate's play is based on the Japanese social phenomenon of hikikomori, in which adolescents choose to live in extreme isolation. 59E59 Theaters, 59 E. 59 St. (212) 279-4200. www.59e59.org

Current Events/Ethics:

■ **Dying City** A woman is visited by the twin brother of her late husband, who died in Iraq. Lincoln Center Theater, 150 W. 65 St. www.lct.org or www.lctstudentix.org

■ **No Child** Nilaja Sun's one-woman tour-de-force about the current state of arts education in New York Public Schools. Barrow Street Theatre, 27 Barrow St.

Shakespeare and the Classics:

■ **King Lear** Shakespeare's classic drama, starring Kevin Kline. Begins Feb. 9. The Public Theatre, 425 Lafayette St. www.publictheatre.org

THE SWEET SOUNDS OF SUCCESS

...Create your own Radio Play!

This issue of *Play by Play* features *girl* by Megan Mostyn-Brown. This podcast play is an innovative collaboration between actors, directors and sound designers to create an engaging auditory experience for the listener. It's not unlike the "radio plays" of the early 20th century that were popular before the age of television.

A sound designer's job is important in the theatre, and even more important in the radio play or podcast. They help create mood and story through sound; they also make sure that the words are enhanced, not buried, by the extra sound!

Create a short radio play in your classroom!

Choose a piece of literature that you have recently studied in class, or consider "Juke Box Love Song" by Langston Hughes:

*I could take the Harlem night
And wrap around you,
Take the neon lights and make a crown,
Take the Lenox Avenue busses,
Taxis, subways,
And for your love song tone their rumble down.
Take Harlem's heartbeat,
Make a drumbeat,
Put it on a record, let it whirl,
And while we listen to it play,
Dance with you till day—
Dance with you, my sweet brown Harlem girl.*

■ What sounds come to mind as you read this poem? What sounds suggest the world described here? How can you create those sounds in the classroom? What music would you play underneath the spoken poem?

■ What if certain words or phrases were spoken louder or softer, faster or slower? Which words are spoken by one person, and which ones might be spoken by multiple people—even the whole class?

■ When are sounds and words heard together?

■ Is there ever a moment of silence?

After rehearsing your a few times, record your "radio play" and play it back for other students! Tell them to close their eyes and enjoy the show!

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 the bottom of page 5.

Answer Key: 1: Inter-racial adoption, teenagers; 2: chapters; 3: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; Solution: Audrey, Los Angeles

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Play by Play **A to Z**

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

A

Go to Amateur Night every Wednesday at this historic Harlem theatre

B

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, in the Bronx, is on this boulevard

C

\$25 tix are available for this Stephen Sondheim musical

D

He wrote *Circumvention* (last name)

E

Contact her for an internship at the All-Stars Project (last name)

F

The South Street Seaport TKTS booth is on the corner of John Street and this street



G

It's the musical pictured left

H

Ars Nova is located in this Manhattan neighborhood

I

This neighborhood musical is playing at 37 Arts Theatre

J

She's the director and costume designer of *The Lion King*

K

Contact her for an internship at Lark Play Development Center



L

Pictured left, he composed *In The Heights*

M

The Lion King is playing at this theatre

N

Contact Lindsey Buller for an internship here

O

\$25 rush tix are available for this play at Manhattan Theatre Club

P

Pictured right, he's part of MCC's *Uncensored*

Q

Contact Gail Koelln for an internship here

R

\$20 student tix are available for *Stay* at this theatre

S

Contact her for an internship at Signature Theatre

T

\$10 rush tix are available for this play by Lear deBessonet

U

He's the bodega owner of *In The Heights*

V

It's the sign hanging in Ars Nova

W

She plays Audrey in *Los Angeles* (last name)

X

Corporation that supports *Play by Play*

Y

Contact Brian Blythe for an internship here

Z

\$20 rush tix are available for this long-running show at Dodgers Stages



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