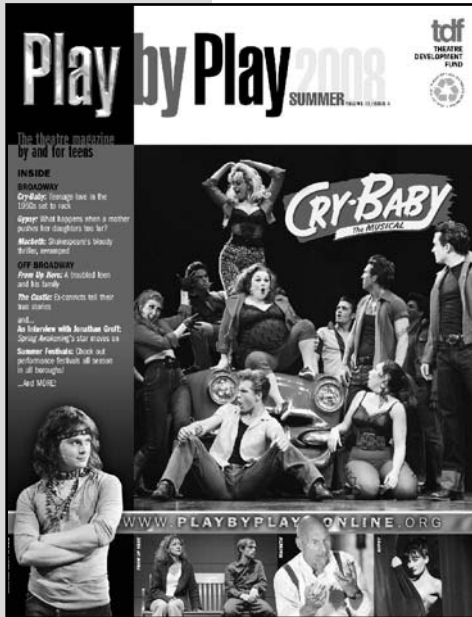


TEACHER GUIDE

SPECIAL FEATURE:

SUMMER
FESTIVALS
2008

Spend the hot summer days seeing the coolest shows in town! From Jonathan Groff in Central Park to Coney Island side shows, *Play by Play* gives you the lowdown on the summer's wildest fare.



The Summer 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:

- ✓ **WORK WITH COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL RESOURCES** by visiting theatres and productions listed in the *Play by Play* Summer Festival Guide.
- ✓ **MAKE CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS** through current Broadway and Off Broadway shows (listed in this guide) which relate to subjects you may be studying.

- ✓ **EXPLORE ARTMAKING AND DESIGN** with a costume design exercise inspired by *Cry-Baby* and *The Castle*!

Other features in this guide:

- ✓ **ACTIVITY: Great Debate** Get a start on an art-themed debate in your classroom, inspired by the *Play by Play* debate/review of Patrick Stewart's *Macbeth*!

- ✓ **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.)

SUMMER SAVINGS... And 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:

- ***Cry-Baby***, inspired by the John Waters movie of the same name, is a Broadway spoof of high school misfits, 1950's music...and true love. Don't miss this high-energy show that, according to *Play by Play* reviewer Annelisa Purdie, will "leave the audience feeling good!"
- ***From Up Here*** offers a dark, comic glimpse into the life of a suburban teen and his family. *Play by Play* reviewer Jeremy Friedman considers it a "unique family comedy...that also deals with some pretty deep issues."
- ***The Castle*** presents a series of first-hand testimonies from ex-convicts about life in and after prison. Read *Play by Play* reviewer Michael Ramirez' account of the play's "breathtaking reality."
- ***Macbeth*** is given a contemporary twist on Broadway, with Patrick Stewart in the title role. Read the debate between *Play by Play* reviewers Nicolas Munoz and Iliana Ortega on the 'vaulting ambition' of this production of Shakespeare's bloody masterpiece.

Other Shows Highlighted in this Issue:

- ***Gypsy***, in its latest Broadway revival, stars Patti LuPone as the quintessential overbearing stage mom. (Go to www.playbyplayonline.org/plog to read a full dia"plog" on the show by Hannah Perri and Christa Tandana!)
- ***Thurgood*** stars Laurence Fishburne as the country's first black Supreme Court Justice, in this Broadway solo tour-de-force.
- ***Glory Days*** is the hip new musical about four high school friends who reunite after graduation...only to discover that not everything stands the test of time.
- ***Saved*** translates the satirical movie of the same name to the stage, in a tongue-in-cheek musical farce about Christian high school social life.

Other Features:

- **Interview with Jonathan Groff:** Read *Play by Play* writer Marianna Quinn Makwaia's interview with the Broadway heartthrob, who leaves his Tony-nominated performance in *Spring Awakening* for *Hair* in Central Park this summer.

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: American Eagle Christian High School, Booth Theatre, Claude, Delacorte Theatre, Elevator Repair Service, Lawrence Fishburne, James Gardiner, Brian Hutchison, *In the Heights*, Jonathan Groff, Kenny, Lynne Shankel, Mariott Theatre, Nederlander Theater, Oscar Wilde, Patti LuPone, Queens Theatre in the Park, Rumsey Playfield, Patrick Stewart, Thompson Hill Park, Upright Citizens Brigade, Vilma, www.playbyplayonline.org/plog, *Xanadu*, Y. York, *Altar BoyZ*

EXERCISE: Clothes Line

***Cry-Baby* @ Marquis Theatre**
***The Castle* @ New World Stages**

"The clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society."—Mark Twain, Author

"Costumes are the first impression that you have of the character before they open their mouth—it really does establish who they are."
—Colleen Atwood, Costume Designer

A costume designer makes choices about the clothing that every character wears on stage. The design, color, texture, and fit of a costume is all part of a visual vocabulary that communicates a character's identity, and how they fit into the world of the play.

Cry-Baby is a work of fiction; *The Castle* is a blend of true life stories. Check out the pictures in the *Play by Play* reviews: in both cases, you see different characters with distinctive styles of clothing and dress.

If you were telling your real-life story...what would you wear? What 'first impressions' would you try to make?

EXERCISE: You're about to go on stage to tell your real-life story. Create the shopping list for your ideal costume, and explain how it expresses your identity.

1. **Read** the *Play by Play* reviews of *Cry-Baby* and *The Castle*. What facts and descriptive words are used to describe the characters in the two shows?
2. **Study** one of the accompanying pictures (try the cover picture of *Cry-Baby*), and brainstorm a list of adjectives and descriptive words that fit the characters you see.
3. **Imagine** you're going to perform a show at your school tomorrow—your real-life story! List the words you would want an audience to use to describe you.
4. **Draw or describe** the ideal costume for your 'true life' story performance:
 - a. What designers & fashion lines would you choose from?
 - b. What colors, textures, and layers would you use?
 - c. Would you wear different clothing or accessories to represent different times or events in your life?

5. **Make a shopping list.** Write down all the clothing and accessories you'd need to buy for your performance!

6. **Write an artists' statement.** In a paragraph, describe how the clothing you've chosen is a reflection your background, personality, and values.

7. **Re-read** the reviews of *Cry-Baby* and *The Castle*. Do you think the pictures accurately reflect the descriptions of the characters in the reviews? Why or why not? Which costumes would you change? Why?

Suggested Follow-up:

Use online pictures and old magazines to create a catalog or collage of your personal costume/clothing line!

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**.

Shakespeare and the Classics:

- **Macbeth** (Featured in this issue)
- **Cat on a Hot Tin Roof** by Tennessee Williams. Terrence Howard leads an all-star revival of the classic about the demise of a southern plantation family. Broadhurst Theatre, 235 W. 44 St. www.cat2008onbroadway.com
- **The Importance of Being Earnest** by Oscar Wilde. The Pearl presents the classic comedy of manners about love, identity, and cucumber sandwiches. Through June 8. The Pearl Theatre, 80 St. Marks Place. (212) 598-9802. www.pearltheatre.org

History:

- **Thurgood** (Featured in this issue)

Ethnicity/Multicultural:

- **In the Heights** by Lin-Manuel Miranda. A present-day community grows and lives together in the heat of July in Washington Heights. Richard Rodgers Theatre, 226 W. 46 St. www.intheheightsthemusical.com
- **Passing Strange** by Stew, Heidi Rodewald, and Annie Dorsen. The moving and hilarious tale of a young black bohemian on a journey of escape and exploration. Belasco Theatre, 111 W. 44 St. www.passingstrangeonbroadway.com
- **Rafta, Rafta** by Ayub Khan-Din. A comedy about a newlywed British-Indian couple living in the groom's parents' house. Through June 21. Acorn Theatre, 410 W. 42 St. (212) 279-4200.

Current Events/Ethics:

- **The Castle** (Featured in this issue)
- **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
- **Good Boys and True** by Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa. The New York premiere of a new play, revolving around a prep-school scandal. Through June 1. Second Stage, 307 W. 43 St. (212) 246-4422. www.2st.com

Literature:

- **The Sound and the Fury April Seventh, 1928** by Elevator Repair Service. Based on the Faulkner novel, Benjy and Luster relive memories from their youth. Apr. 15-May 18. New York Theatre Workshop, 79 E. 4 St. www.nytwo.org
- **The Fifth Column** by Ernest Hemingway. The Mint Theater presents the world premiere of 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

ACTIVITY

Great Debate

Macbeth @ The Lyceum Theatre

Traditional debates (such as presidential candidate debates) feature opposing sides with arsenals of facts and examples to back up their arguments. Debating a work of art is different, though, because art is subjective: there is no right or wrong; only different likes, dislikes, and points of view.

Use the Macbeth debate between *Play by Play* reviewers Nicolas Munoz and Iliana Ortega as a model to stimulate class discussions on any work of art you've studied recently—from *Macbeth* to the Mona Lisa, from *Cry Baby* to *Cry the Beloved Country*.

- Read the *Macbeth* debate out loud. What elements of the production do they discuss?
- Visit images of the *Macbeth* production online. (You can view a slideshow by visiting BAM's website: <http://www.bam.org/events/08MACB/08MACB.aspx>) Based on the description and debate of the play, and the online images, how successful do you think the elements of the play would be? Are you swayed by comments in the *Play by Play* debate?
- Debate a play or movie you've studied as a class. What makes it successful, in your opinion? Which elements are more successful than others?

Consider debating other art-related issues, such as:

- Should classic plays and stories be modernized for today's audiences? Or should the setting reflecting the time period the play was written in?
- Should Shakespeare's plays be 'translated' into more contemporary speech?
- Should art be censored? Should explicit lyrics or images be banned, or should artists be allowed to express themselves fully? Why or why not?

Re-read the *Play by Play* debate of *Macbeth*. Does the debate make you want to see the full production? Why or why not?

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:

Stripper, Larene Fishburne, sold a watch, Dupree (and) Lenora

Play by Play/TDF
1501 Broadway, 21st Fl.
New York, NY 10036
(212) 221-0885, ext.252
playbyplay@tdf.org
www.playbyplayonline.org
www.tdf.org

Play by Play Teacher Guide
written by Krista Apple
A Theatre Development
Fund publication
©2008 TDF

Play by Play **A to Z**

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

A

It's the fictional high school of *Saved*

B

Catch *Thurgood* at this Broadway theatre

C

Jonathan Groff's role in *Hair* in Central Park this summer

D

You'll see *Hair* and *Hamlet* if you go to this Central Park outdoor locale

E

They wrote *The Sound and the Fury*, which you can see at New York Theatre Workshop with a \$20 student rush ticket



F

Pictured left, he's playing a Supreme Court Judge on Broadway

G

He co-wrote *Glory Days* with Nick Blaemire (last name)

H

He plays the nice-guy stepdad in *From Up Here* (last name)

I

\$26.50 lottery tix are available for this hit musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda



J

He's the *Spring Awakening* star, pictured left

K

He's the frustrated teen played by Tobias Segal in *From Up Here*

L

The musical conductor for *Cry-Baby*

M

The theatre where you'll find *Cry-Baby*

N

See *Rent* at this theatre before it closes!

O

\$10 rush tix are available on Thursdays for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by this writer

P

Pictured right, she's the star of *Gypsy*

Q

A variety of music, dance and theatre pieces awaits you in this Corona Park neighborhood venue

R

It's the site of Central Park Summerstage

S

He plays the title role in *Macbeth* (last name)

T

Catch the Thalia Al Aire summer festival here

U

You can see improv and sketch comedy for \$8 at this theatre

V

Pictured right, she's one of the ex-convicts in *The Castle*

W

Browse here to read the online dia“plog” on *Gypsy*

X

\$26.50 student rush tickets are available for this long-running show at the Helen Hayes Theatre

Y

The writer of *Eggs*, playing this summer in NYU's New Plays for Young Audiences festival

Z

\$20 student tix are available for this long-running show at New World Stages



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