

If You Give a Cat a Cupcake



Thursday, January 20, 2011

10am – 11am
12pm – 1pm

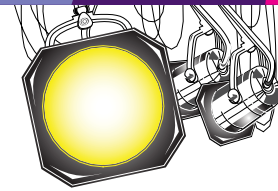


EDUCATION
takes center stage

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about the
SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



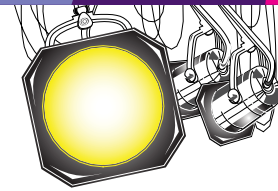
At the heart of every great city are its arts institutions – the centers of culture where residents and visitors can share great works of music, dance and theatre from the classics to the cutting edge. Now in its fourth season, the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts at Town Center provides these arts experiences to the students in Virginia Beach and beyond.

Expansive yet intimate, with not a bad seat in the house, the Sandler Center is the perfect setting for every kind of performance, from classical recitals and symphony concerts to modern dance and ballet, theatre and more. And while audiences of every kind are welcome, the Sandler Center offers a special invitation to the region’s young people. With the ultimate goal of “every child, every grade, every year,” the Sandler Center, in partnership with the Virginia Arts Festival’s WorldClass® Education Department, presents specially priced student matinees and public performances making world-class artists accessible to school children in Virginia Beach. And the excitement reaches beyond the stage as well, as the Sandler Center brings these renowned artists into area schools for performances and master classes. For teachers, the opportunities are immeasurable, offering exciting new ways to inspire and enhance their classroom teaching as they weave the arts into their lessons on history, language arts, math and science.

Thank you for joining us this season as we spark your students’ imaginations with the joy and power of the performing arts.



the omaha theater company
IF YOU GIVE A CAT A CUPCAKE



Omaha Theater Company brings Laura Numeroff's beloved children's book to life in this staged production with original music, following the antics of a Cat, his human friend, and oh yes - cupcakes! Filled with audience participation, this show pushes the boundaries of the book's wonderful silliness.

HE'LL ASK FOR SOME SPRINKLES TO GO WITH IT...

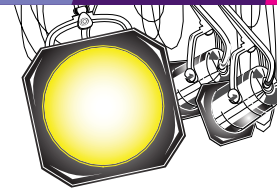
The Omaha Theater Company is the third largest professional children's theater in the nation, reaching over 700,000 people each year in Omaha and on National Tour. The Omaha Theater Company's National Tour is one of the largest in the country, with productions touring to more than 65 venues in 25 states each year.

WHEN YOU GIVE HIM THE SPRINKLES,



HE MIGHT SPILL SOME ON THE FLOOR...

BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER



before you go:

Read *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*. Talk about your reaction to the book. Notice the illustrations. How does the artist show the little girl's response to the cat's antics? On page three, the cat is drawn much larger than the little girl...why? What are some of the things the cat finds on the beach? In what ways does the artist make the cat appear human? Imagine what the play will be like. How do you think the performers will tell the story? How do you think the stage settings will look? The illustrator kept her pictures simple, with very little detail and lots of white space. How do you think the show will look?

while you're there:

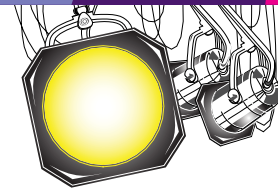
Notice the differences and similarities between the book and the play. What could the author put in the book that the performers can't put into a play? What did the show add to the story? What was your favorite part of the book? Was it in the play? Was it also your favorite part of the play?

after you've been:

Talk about the differences and similarities you noticed. Changing one work of art into another is called adaptation. The book *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake* was adapted into a play. Sometimes artists turn books into movies, like *Harry Potter* or *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*. Sometimes a painter makes a picture after hearing a particular piece of music, or a songwriter writes a song about a photograph.

- 📅 **Kindergarten - Second Grade Activity:** Read a story or have one read to you. Now, draw a picture of something that might happen after the story ended. What might the main character have done next?
- 📅 **Second Grade and Up Activity:** Create a work of art in response to another work of art. Look at a photograph or a painting. Can you make up a story about what's happening in the picture? What does the picture make you feel? Happy? Sad? Write a poem about your feelings.

BEHIND THE SCENES



The **writer** is where it all begins. The writer has an idea for a performance and writes many drafts, getting closer and closer to putting on the page what, so far, only exists in the imagination. But the writer has a story to tell, so the writer keeps working until he or she gets it just right.

Then the writer finds a **producer**. This job can be many things. The producer is the one in charge, the one who says 'yes' or 'no' to things like buying costumes and choosing performers. It's usually the producer's money that is being spent getting things ready. The producer hires someone who has experience in the theater, someone who will work closely with the people on stage and backstage, and this is the **director**. The Director reads the script, imagines the action on stage, and asks herself, "How should the final production look?" The director chooses all the performers.

There are lots of other very important people you might not have thought of. The **choreographer** designs the performers' movements, plans the dance moves, and works with the dancers, through many rehearsals, until they are prepared to perform the show.

Behind the dancers is, of course, music, which requires a **musical director**. This person determines the appropriate music and brings together the necessary musicians. He or she works with the musicians, again through many

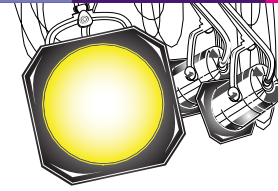
rehearsals, until everyone is ready for the performance.

In order for all of this to look its best, and often to add drama to the show, the performance may require a **lighting designer** who determines how the stage should be lit - when the lights should be bright and when they can dim for effect, who to focus on, and how to control the mood. The goal of the lighting director is to make you feel things about what's happening onstage without you even realizing that the lights had something to do with it. Bright, colorful lights? Happy feelings. Dim, dark lighting? Sad or scared feelings.

A **costume designer** is someone who understands the power of what we wear. Clothes can tell us a lot about a character, create interest for the audience, bring color and excitement to the production, and help tell the story.

- Which one of these jobs do you think you would like to do? Watch the performance and look for evidence of work that went on behind the scenes. How did the lighting and costumes add to the performance? What you see happening on stage is only one part of the whole production. Enjoy the show, and remember that even if you're not a singer, actor, or dancer, there could still be a place for you in the world of theater.

how did that happen? CAUSE AND EFFECT



The *If You Give a...* series of books all explore a question of “what happens if,” or **cause and effect**. If you give a cat a cupcake, he’ll ask for sprinkles? Well, maybe not in real life. But in real life we do know that if you jump in a lake, you’re going to get wet. Cause: Jumping in the lake. Effect: Getting wet. Below are some simple cause and effect combinations. Identify which is which.

We planted pumpkin seeds in our garden, and now we have lots of pumpkins.

cause:

effect:

Sam forgot to eat breakfast, and now he’s hungry.

cause:

effect:

I can hear the birds singing; I opened the windows.

cause:

effect:

Dylan has a sunburn; he forgot to wear sunscreen on the beach.

cause:

effect:

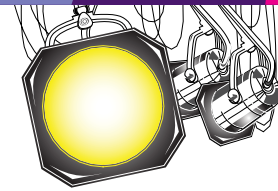
Josie and Lincoln are good swimmers. They took swimming lessons.

cause:

effect:

- 📅 More C & E: Working in pairs, choose one of these “causes” as first links for a chain of events. Discuss the effects that might follow the first act, and keep going! See how long you can make your chain in the time allotted.

all the way from omaha
WORKING WITH A MAP



The performers in this program travelled all the way from Omaha, Nebraska to perform for you. That's pretty far. Take a look at a map of the United States. Nebraska is located toward the middle. Find it? OK, now find Omaha; it's very close to the state border, or edge. Now, see if you can answer these questions:

In what direction (north, south, east or west) would the Omaha Theater Company be travelling to get to Virginia?

How many states would the Omaha Theatre Company have to pass through to get to Virginia?

Can you name some rivers they would have to cross?

What mountain range lies between Omaha and the Atlantic Ocean?

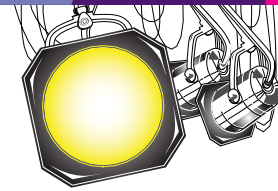
extra credit:

If Omaha is 1,350 miles from Virginia Beach, and the Omaha Theatre Company drove 300 miles on their first day, 400 miles on their 2nd day, and 200 miles on their 3rd day (pew!) how many miles would they have left to travel on their fourth day?

And how many cupcakes would they eat on the way?



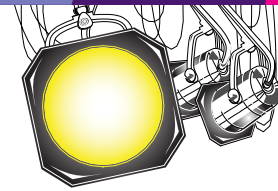
FAMOUS CATS OF LITERATURE



People have found cats interesting for centuries, and many writers have created cat characters for their stories. Puss in Boots, for instance, is a cat in a French fairy tale. He puts on fancy clothes (including boots) and plays tricks and tells lies to gain power, money, and the hand of a princess in marriage for his poor master. The story was written in the late 1600's and is still popular today. You probably know Puss in Boots from the movie, *Shrek*. Another famous cat is the Cheshire Cat from *Alice in Wonderland*. He talks to Alice from the branches of a tree, and can appear and disappear whenever he wants to. He's very chatty, and talks in puzzles and riddles. And of course, everyone's familiar with the trouble-making *Cat in the Hat* by Dr. Seuss. He makes a complete mess of the house when the mother is away, then cleans it up just in time.

- 📅 Can you come up with a cat character for a story of your own? What kind of characteristics would your cat have? Physical characteristics have to do with our bodies and how we look. Personality traits are how we think and act. Make a list of five physical characteristics and five personality traits for your cat character, and don't forget to give him a name! Then draw a picture of him to share.

getting from here to there A SEQUENCING WORKSHEET



In a story, things happen in an order of events or a sequence. Words like, first, second, next, finally, after, or then can give you clues to what comes next. Read the story below carefully and number the events in the correct sequence.

Joe and his mom wanted to plant a garden in their back yard. First, they planted the seeds. They planted green bean, tomato, and squash seeds. Then they watered the whole garden. After a few weeks, the plants began to grow. Joe cleared the garden of weeds and watered the plants regularly. Next, the plants began to blossom. Joe and his mom knew that the fruits and vegetables would be coming soon. Finally, the green beans, tomatoes, and squash began to appear on the plants. After that, Joe and his mom were able to eat the fresh produce right from their garden.

____ Joe cleared the garden of weeds.

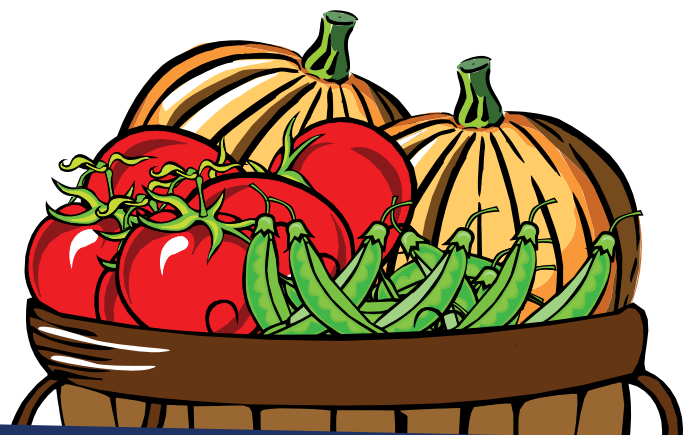
____ The plants began to grow.

____ They watered the garden.

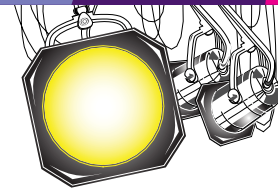
____ Joe and his mom ate the fruits and vegetables.

____ The plants began to blossom.

____ They planted the seeds.



ray's scrambled day
A SEQUENCING EXERCISE



In *If You Give a Cat a Cupcake*, one crazy event follows another, with the cat asking for more things and the little girl giving them to him. When one thing follows another, it's called a sequence. Something is wrong with the story below. It is out of sequence. Can you arrange these sentences in the proper order so the story makes sense? Ask yourself, which came first? Then what happened? Then what?

In the afternoon, Ray studied spelling and math. He rushed to eat his breakfast. At school, he studied science in the morning. He got to the bus just in time. Ray had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch. He took the bus home after school. His mom met him at the door and asked, "How was your day?" Ray woke up late this morning.



FEEDBACK FORM

We need your feedback to make our Education Programs even better! Please take a moment to complete this form and either return it to the **Sandler Center Education Department at 440 Bank Street Norfolk, VA 23510**, fax it to **(757) 282-2787** or e-mail your answers to **education@sandlercenter.org**.

1. Complete form
2. Attach or include student work (optional)
3. Return both to Sandler Center Education Department by mail, fax, or e-mail.

Education Event: _____
(please check) Matinee In-School Performance/Master Class

How did your students respond to the performance?

How did you prepare your students for this performance? Did you use the Education Guide? Which activities did you use? Were they helpful? Did students enjoy the materials?

How did this performance contribute to experiential learning in your classroom?

What role do the arts play in your school community? In your classroom?

If you could change one thing about your experience, what would it be?

Please include student work with this form, including letters, artwork, activity responses, and anything inspired by the performance.

(Optional)

Name: _____

School: _____

City: _____

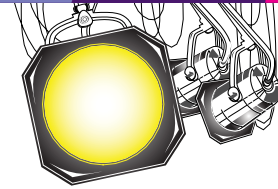
Would you like to be part of our database? Yes No



WWW.SANDLERCENTER.ORG

student matinees

SANDLER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Patchwork

Thursday, November 18, 2011

10:30am – 11:30am

Mad Science Presents Star Trek Live

Friday, February 18, 2011

10:30am – 12pm

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place
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Sandler Center for the Performing Arts
Education Department
440 Bank Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

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EDUCATION
takes center stage

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