



Childsplay's Student Activity Guide
for:
The Yellow Boat

Today you saw a production of *The Yellow Boat* performed by Childsplay. Here are some things to talk about and some activities to do now that you've seen the show!

Talk to your family, friends and/or classmates about the play you just saw. Talk about the following:

- ☀ Tell them about the story and the characters: How many characters can you remember? Which character was your favorite and why? What was your favorite part of the play?
- ☀ Tell them about the emotions you felt while watching the show: How did you feel when Benjamin first contracted the HIV virus? How did you feel when no one came to his birthday party? When Eddy visited him in the hospital?
- ☀ Tell them about the costumes, scenery, props and sound that were used in the production. Draw pictures to help describe the different costumes and scenery.
- ☀ Tell them about Benjamin's art that you saw in the theatre and in the lobby. There are a number of self-portraits in the collection. What do those show about how he felt about himself, his illness, his treatment? How did he use color to show how he felt?

The Yellow Boat

By **David Saar**

Directed by **Graham Whitehead**

Scenic Design by
Kimb Williamson

Costume Design by
Katherina Hantke

Lighting Design by
Paul Black

Musical Direction by
Alan Plado

Music Composition by
Alan Ruch

Stage Manager
Lisa Leonhardt

THE CAST

Benjamin. Gordon Waggoner
Mother. Cathy Dresbach*
Father. Dwayne Hartford
Joy. Debra K. Stevens
Eddy. D. Scott Withers
Chorus. Angelica Frost
Chorus. Kyle Sorrell

*appears through the courtesy of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States

Tempe Performing Arts Center
February, 2003

Arizona Commission on the Arts
Phoenix Arts Commission
Tempe Municipal Arts Commission
Tucson/Pima Arts Council
The National Endowment for the Arts
Wells Fargo
Phoenix Suns Charities

About Childsplay...

Childsplay is Arizona's professional theatre company for young audiences. We love to hear from our audience members! You can write to us at:



Childsplay
PO Box 517
Tempe, AZ 85280
480-350-8101 or
1-800-583-7831 (in AZ only)

Email us at: info@childsplayaz.org
Our Web Site is: www.childsplayaz.org

About HIV/AIDS...

● **AIDS** stands for **A**cquired **I**mmuno**D**eficiency **S**yndrome. It is a disease caused by the **H**uman **I**mmunodeficiency **V**irus (HIV). **HIV** may live in the human body for years and can be spread to others before symptoms appear. HIV makes you unable to fight other diseases that invade your body. These diseases can be fatal.

● There is currently no cure for HIV. There are medications available now that help to control the HIV in the body and help reduce the risk of infections and prolong the onset of AIDS.

● Who you are has nothing to do with whether you are in danger of being infected with the virus. AIDS can strike any age, race or gender.

● Giving blood does not put you at risk for HIV. The equipment that is used for blood donations is always brand new – used only once, then thrown away. To give blood you must be at least 17 years old, 110 pounds or more, and you can't have donated blood in the past 56 days.

● Receiving a blood transfusion no longer presents a risk for HIV. Some people (like Benjamin) were infected with HIV by getting blood prior to 1985. Today, all donated blood in the U.S. is tested to make it safe for transfusions. The risk of HIV transmission from a blood transfusion is less than 2%.

You cannot get HIV/AIDS from:

- ▶ playing with other children
- ▶ coughing
- ▶ spitting
- ▶ a hug
- ▶ tears
- ▶ touching other children
- ▶ sneezing
- ▶ drinking fountains
- ▶ sweat
- ▶ mosquito bites

or from using

- ▶ toilets
- ▶ forks, knives, spoons
- ▶ desks
- ▶ swimming pools
- ▶ showers
- ▶ cups
- ▶ playground equipment
- ▶ chairs

About Hemophilia...

Hemophilia is a hereditary blood clotting disorder that affects males almost exclusively. In many cases there is a known family history of hemophilia. However, up to one third of newly discovered cases occur in families without a history of this disorder.

● A hemophiliac does not bleed faster than anyone else, but he may bleed for a longer time. The major problem for the hemophiliac is not external cuts and bruises but uncontrolled internal bleeding, which can begin spontaneously, and without apparent cause. Over time, bleeding into joints and muscles can cause crippling and pain.

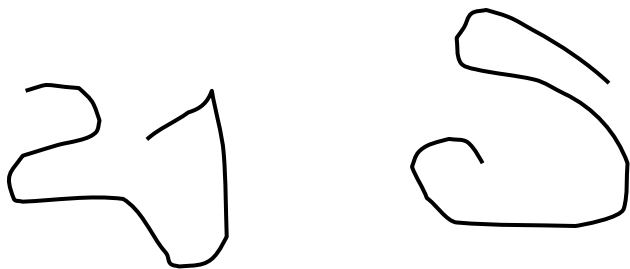
● 80% of hemophiliacs have **Type A hemophilia**, which indicates the absence of a protein carried in the blood that is necessary for clotting. **Factor 8** is the name of the missing protein, and it is mentioned frequently in the play.

● The hemophiliac is treated with **blood transfusions** (a procedure in which the blood or blood components from one person, called a donor, is given to another, called a recipient) by infusing a clotting factor, derived from human blood, which remains active in his blood for a short period of time. It is important to administer clotting factor with most internal bleeds in order to reduce the chances of permanent damage.

● Although there are effective controls, there is no cure for hemophilia. A child born with the disorder will have it all his life.

● The cost of treatment now averages \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year per patient.

Squiggle Start: The first bit of color or line an artist makes begins a whole world of possibility. Start with a squiggly line on a blank piece of paper. Now, trade with a friend. What could the line become? Complete the picture! Use these squiggles to get started...



What Can You Do To Help??



Red Ribbon Campaign:

Have your own Red Ribbon Campaign to raise money for AIDS research or to send a child to camp! Set a financial goal and a time limit for raising the money. Go to a craft store and buy red ribbon and safety or stickpins. Cut the ribbon into 5 or 6-inch sections and use a pin to hold it together. Offer the ribbons to people in exchange for a donation. Let people know what you're doing and where the money will go. Advertise your campaign in school and/or in the community. Check out the "How to Help" section at www.campheartland.com for more ideas!



A Scandinavian folk song tells of three little boats. "one was blue, one was red, and one was as yellow as the sun. They sailed far out to sea. The blue one returned to the harbor. The red one sailed home, too. But the yellow boat sailed up to the sun." Benjamin always concluded his bedtime ritual by saying, "Mom, you can be the red boat, or the blue boat, but I am the yellow boat."

Which boat would you want to be?

Use crayons, markers, colored pencils or paint to create your boat!

