

**Preview Guide for Parents and Teachers to
Childsplay's Production of**

Go, Dog. Go!

We hope you find this guide helpful in preparing your children for an enjoyable and educational theatrical experience. Included you'll find things to talk about before and after seeing the performance, classroom activities that deal with curriculum connections and education standards, and resource materials.

The Story: The cast of this beloved preschool favorite has gone to the dogs: with rollicking results! No one is safe -- not even the strolling accordionist -- as they bound onto the scene. There's cars, hats, audience participation, even a wild game of ball as this laugh-a-minute visual spectacle manages to sneak in some important lessons about life between innings. Based on the beloved book by P.D. Eastman, *Go, Dog. Go!* is a musical romp full of surprises. The result is a production full of color, clowning, vaudeville, singing/barking, and of course, six lovable dogs!

*The performance runs approximately 60 minutes. The actors will conduct a short question/answer session following the performance, if time permits.

A Note from the Playwrights:

This play is adapted from a book renowned for its ability to generate fun, learning, adventure and surprise with a minimum of text. P.D. Eastman's timeless work honors the joyous simplicity of the world around us. Therefore in crafting a stage version of *Go, Dog. Go!*, it is not our intention to "fill out" or "open up" the story in the style of many traditional adaptations. We have, in fact, added virtually no words of our own. "Expanding" the book in this way would, we believe, rob it of its essential wondrous and loopy anarchy. Instead, we hope to celebrate and explore the existing words and pictures; to look not "outside the book", but more closely "within it" -- in the same way that a child (and parent) can read through Mr. Eastman's book night after night and find something new and remarkable with every turn of the page.

-Allison Gregory and Steven Dietz

A Bit About Theater Etiquette...

Whether going to the theater or having theater come to you, there are a few important things to communicate to your students before seeing a play. Since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students, please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance.

- ◆ Stay seated during the performance.
- ◆ Remember that the performers can hear and see the audience just like the audience can hear and see the performers. Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance.
- ◆ Appropriate responses such as clapping or laughter are always welcome!
- ◆ Please, please, please turn off all cell phones and remember photography of any kind is not permitted during the performance!

Published by Random House Children Books, a division of Random House, Inc. © 1961 by P.D. Eastman. © renewed 1989 by Mary L. Eastman. All rights reserved.

Go, Dog. Go!

**By Allison Gregory and Steven Dietz
Based on the book by P.D. Eastman
Music by Michael Koerner**

Directed by **David Saar**

Musical Direction by **Alan Ruch**

Choreography by **Frances Cohen**

Costume Design by **Kish Finnegan**

Scenic Design by **Kimb Williamson**

Lighting Design by **Paul Black**

Stage Manager: **Samantha Ries**

MC Dog. Jon Gentry
Red Dog. D. Scott Withers
Blue Dog. Dwayne Hartford
Yellow Dog. Jenn Taber
Green Dog. Debra K. Stevens
Hattie/Spotted Dog. Katie McFadzen
Musician. Rob Witmer

January/February, 2005, Tempe Performing Arts Center
March, 2005, Pima Community College Center for the Arts

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National Endowment for the Arts
Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture
Tucson/Pima Arts Council

Things to Talk About Before Seeing the Play...

Talk About P.D. Eastman...

Are Dr. Seuss and P. D. Eastman the same person? No! Philip Dey Eastman (1909-1986) was born in Amherst, MA and earned a B.A. from Amherst College in 1933. He worked in production design and story at Walt Disney's studio. While at Disney, he met Mary Louise Whitman who was working in the ink and paint department. They married and Phil went on to work at Warner Brother's Cartoons. By 1942, he had joined the army and been assigned to the Signal Corps film unit. While there he did picture planning for animated sequences in orientation and training films, and was a writer and storyboard artist on the "Private Snafu" series for Army-Navy Screen Magazine. Ted Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss) was the head of his unit. In 1945, Phil was working at United Productions of America (UPA). While there he helped create the character Mr. Magoo. In 1954, Ted Geisel approached him to write for his new Beginner Book series at Random House. By 1958, Random House had published P. D. Eastman's first children's book, *Sam and the Firefly*.

P. D. Eastman's Books

He wrote and illustrated:

Sam and the Firefly ('58)

Are You My Mother ('60)

Go, Dog. Go! ('61)

The Beginner Book Dictionary ('64)

Everything Happens to Aaron! ('67)

The Best Nest ('68)

Flap Your Wings ('69)

Big Dog... Little Dog ('73)

The Alphabet Book ('74)

What Time Is It? ('78)

He wrote:

Snow ('62)

He illustrated:

Fish Out Of Water ('61)

Robert the Rose Horse ('62)

I'll Teach My Dog 100 Words ('73)

Read the Book! Read *Go, Dog. Go!* as a class. Talk about the characters and what's happening in the pictures. How can a book like this be adapted for the stage? How can you make a play out of a book with very few words? What do you think the play will be like?

Talk About Dogs...

Paleontologists believe that the first true dogs, called canids, appeared about 30 to 40 million years ago. The descendants of this animal are in two branches, one in Africa, and the other in Eurasia. The Eurasian group is called Tomarctus, and from this animal are descended dogs, foxes, and wolves. About 12,000 years ago there was a gray wolf that inhabited India, and is likely the ancestor of most modern dogs. The native African breeds are probably descended from the jackal.

Dogs are mammals. They have hair, live births, and feed their young with milk from the female. They walk on their toes.

Illustrations of dogs have been found on walls and in tombs from Europe, Middle East, and North America. Often the dogs are shown helping with hunting. Man's original alliance with dogs was for the work they could do. Eventually different types of dogs were bred for certain kinds of work. The ancient Egyptians worshipped dogs for the godlike powers they were thought to have. The Egyptians took care of their dogs in great style, giving them servants, their own gold, and only the choicest diet. Rulers were often buried with their favorite dog, to give protection in the next life. The Europeans preferred to developed powerful breeds of dogs, such as the mastiff. These dogs were valued for protection. In the Middle East, fast dogs such as sight hounds were favored. Farmers developed the herding and guarding breeds of dogs. The Chinese bred toy dogs to be lap

dogs for nobility. Some breeds of dogs are very new, having only been developed in the 1800's. Today most dogs are owned as pets and companions though there are still dogs in the work force. Assistance dogs, police dogs, rescue dogs and herding dogs all earn their keep. And let us not forget about the "actor" dogs like Lassie and Benji.

The old rule-of-thumb that one dog year equals seven years of a human life is not exact. The ratio is higher with youth and decreases a bit as the dog ages. Depending on breed, a dog experiences the raging hormones of adolescence anywhere from eight months to two years or more. Generally, a dog of six has aged about as much as a 45-year-old human. At 10, she's like a human of 65; at 12, a human of 75; and at 15, a human of 90.

**"To err is human,
to forgive, canine."**

-Anonymous

Talk About Physical Comedy and Music...

Physical comedy is comedic performance relying mostly on the use of the body to convey humor. Whether a pratfall, a silly face or walking into walls, physical comedy is very rarely subtle. Clowns perform physical comedy incorporating juggling, tricks, tumbling or props. Physical comedy is often performed without words but can be accompanied by music. In this production, the accordion player provides music. Watch for physical comedy bits throughout the performance.

Things to Talk About After the Performance...

How was the play like the book? Different from the book? What part of the play did you like the best? Which character was your favorite and why? What physical comedy bits do you remember?

Things to Do After the Show...

The Arts

Theater/Creative Drama:

● Choose a picture book (like *Go, Dog. Go!*) that you can dramatize! Talk about the characters and what happens in the beginning, middle and end. Talk about ways in which you can bring the story to life. Assign the characters and start to play! Try the scenes different ways until you come up with the way that works the best. Share your story with an audience!

Music:

● Collect objects that you can use as instruments (like a spoon to clank on a coffee cup, or two pieces of wood to knock together) and create a Rhythm Orchestra! Figure out what kind of sound and rhythm pattern each instrument makes. Now, add the instruments to the orchestra one at a time until everyone is playing. Take turns being the conductor and explore pace and volume.

Dance:

● Make a list of verbs and adjectives (from the book or elsewhere) that you can use to explore movement. For example, what would a blue, crooked, or jumping movement look like? Then, using 4 or 5 of the words, create a dance pattern with a partner (or group). Share your dance with the class.

Visual Art:

● The spotted dog (Hattie) wears several unique hats in the play. Create your own crazy hat! Use a real hat as a base or make one out of fabric or cardboard. Add all sorts of objects to your hat. Use the pictures in the books for inspiration. Wear your hats and have a hat fashion show for an audience!

Social Studies:

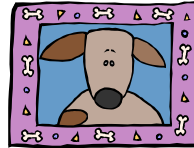
● There are several non-profit organizations in Arizona (like arts organizations and animal rescues) who rely on donations for their survival. CHILDSPLAY is a

perfect example! Help out one of them by organizing a bake sale or dog bone sale in your school!

First, choose an organization and get information from them about what they do. Next, schedule a time and place for your sale. Make signs and flyers to promote your fundraiser. Lastly, send your donation to the organization and feel good!

Basic Doggie Biscuits

3/4 cup hot water
1/3 cup margarine
1/2 cup powdered milk
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 egg – beaten
1 teaspoon honey
3 cups whole-wheat flour



In large bowl pour hot water over the margarine. Stir in powdered milk, salt, honey and egg. Add flour, 1/2 cup at a time. Knead for a few minutes to form stiff dough. Pat or roll to 1/2 inch thickness. Cut with cookie cutters. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool. They will be quite hard.

Language Arts:

● Divide into groups of 3 or 4 and assign each group several pages from *Go, Dog. Go!*. As a team, list the adjectives, verbs and prepositions on your assigned pages. Talk through the book as a class with each team identifying the parts of speech on their assigned pages.

● Create a story based on a picture! Choose a photo or picture from a magazine, newspaper or book. What is happening in the picture? Write a story about the picture.

Science:

● Explore the anatomy of a dog! How are the parts of a dog's body different than ours? How is a dog's skeleton different from that of a human? Compare and contrast!

Workplace Skills:

This is a great game to teach teamwork. Sit in a circle on the floor. As a group, count to ten by having one person at a time call out a number. The goal is to give

and take, and to not speak at the same time as someone else. If two people call out a number at the same time, you must start again from one. Try it with your eyes closed or with your backs to each other for an extra challenge!

Health/P.E.:

● For your health and safety (and for that of the dog) it is important to know about Dog Safety. Using several different resources (internet, veterinarian, books, etc.) come up with a list of tips for dog safety. Include tips that you should follow when around dogs you don't know as well as tips that will insure the dog's safety. Post the tips at home or school.

Technology/Computers:

● Using the internet, research dog breeds! Choose a breed of dog (the AKC web site is a good source) and prepare a report to share with the class. Find a photo of the breed on the internet that you can print out. Create a dog "Howl of Fame" in a hallway at school displaying your research! You can also use photos of your pet dogs or famous dogs!

Foreign Language:

● Read the Spanish version of *Go, Dog. Go!* (*Ve, Perro. Ve!*) See how many words you can understand! What is the Spanish word for dog? Go? Car? Tree? Bicycle? Party?

Math:

● Using the *Go, Dog. Go!* book as a resource, count the dog pictures! Find totals for: the entire book, each page, pages 6-7; pages 44-45; page 58 (or whichever pages you choose). Compare your answers.
● There are 24 hours in a day. How do you manage your time? How many of those hours do you sleep? Eat? Play? Go to school? Do homework? Map out the 24 hours of your day by listing each activity and the amount of time you do it. Now, display your results in a pie chart!

Go, Dog. Go! Booklist

Once you've seen *Go Dog Go* you should read the other books by P. D. Eastman (list on page 2)



Curriculum Keys:

Dogs

Art Dog by Thacher Hurd

Pinkerton, Behave, A Rose for Pinkerton, Tallyho, Pinkerton!, Prehistoric Pinkerton

and *A Penguin Pup for Pinkerton* by Steven Kellogg

Martha Speaks, Martha Calling, Martha Blah Blah, Martha Walks the Dog, Martha

and Skits and *Perfectly Martha* by Susan Meddaugh

Mo the Dog in Tropical Paradise by Diane Stanley

Colors

Frieght Train by Donald Crews

Lunch by Denise Fleming

Color Zoo, Color Farm and Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

Color Dance by Ann Jonas

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr.

My Many Colored Days by Dr. Seuss

Mouse Paint by Ellen Stoll Walsh

I Went Walking by Sue Williams

Physical Comedy

Bears on Wheels by Stan and Jan Berenstain

Prepositions/Adjectives/Verbs

Grammar Rock (video)

Elephants Aloft by Kathi Appelt (prepositions)

All About Where by Tana Hoban (prepositions)

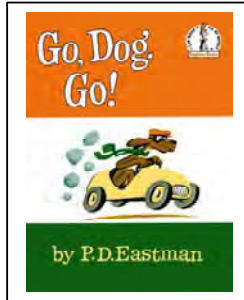
Where's Jenna? by Maragaet Miller (prepositions)

How Loud is a Lion by Clare Beaton (adjectives)

Many Lucious Lollypops by Ruth Heller (adjectives)

Super, Super, Superwords by Bruce McMillan (adjectives)

Kites Sail High: A Book About Verbs by Ruth Heller (verbs)

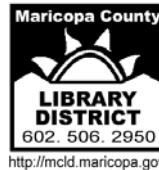


Accordion Music

Hector, the Accordion-Nosed Dog by John Stadler

Music, Music for Everyone by Vera B. Williams

Prepared with help from Tim Wadham, Youth Services
Coordinator for the Maricopa County Library District



Interesting Internet Sites:



www.thepetprofessor.com

-all sorts of great pet info!

www.americankennelclub.com

-find background on dog breeds here

www.barkbytes.com/b4ubuy/kiddog.htm

-great dog safety tips for kids

<http://marilee.us/authors.html>

-great picture book site with links

<http://picturingbooks.imaginarylands.org/>

-another site about picture books

www.maricopa.gov/pets/adoptions.asp

-animal rescue for Maricopa county with lots of info on pets

www.azrescue.org

-one of the many rescue organizations in AZ; I adopted one of my dogs from AZ rescue!

www.abc.net.au/creaturefeatures/draw/draw_a_dog.htm

-learn how to draw a dog!

www.dogquotes.com/index.htm

-a great site with dog quotes, facts, proverbs, etc.



**"I myself have known some profoundly thoughtful dogs."
- James Thurber**

Arizona Academic Standards:

Your visit to the theater as well as the preparation and follow up activities can involve many content areas from the Arizona Department of Education K-12 Academic Standards. Many of the suggested discussion topics and activities can be tied to several standards. For example, a Math activity on creating Story Problems can fulfill standards in the areas of math, language arts and the arts (theater).

To access the K-12 standards go to: www.ade.state.az.us/standards/contentstandards.asp

We are always looking for ways to help you prepare your students for the theatre experience and at the same time fulfill curriculum and standards requirements. If you have any suggestions as to how we might improve in this area, please email Katie McFadzen at kmcfadzen@childsplayaz.org

About Childsplay:



Childsplay is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families. Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood, which are the keys to the future. We love to hear from our audience members!

Send letters, drawings or reviews to:

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