



# WALNUT STREET THEATRE



## TOURING OUTREACH COMPANY STUDY GUIDE

### “A Philly Phairy Tale”

Written By Tom Quinn

#### SHOW SYNOPSIS

Once upon a time in the city of brotherly love... There was a girl named Cindy who was kind to all, but did not receive the same treatment in return. Throughout her life, she went through many difficulties, but always remained kind. One day, while doing her chores, Cindy heard that the Prince was having a ball. Cindy wanted to go, but her evil Stepmother was determined to keep her away. With a little bit of help from the Philly Phanatic, Rocky Balboa, and a BIG talking cockroach, Cindy takes a chance on herself and attends the ball. Will she find her happily ever after?



#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

##### BEFORE THE SHOW

- Have you ever been in a hard situation and you felt really overcome by anger? Did you take your anger out on those around you?
- Have you ever wanted to ask for help with something, but were too embarrassed to admit that you could not do it on your own?
- Have you ever heard the saying, “fight fire with fire?” Do you think that this is a good saying? If you do not know what that means, do you think when someone is mean to you that you should be mean back?
- What is hope? Why is it important to have hope?
- Why is your opinion of yourself the most important? What does it mean to have confidence and believe in yourself?
- What does it mean to make the most of a bad situation?
- Is it worth it, to you, to be kind?



##### AFTER THE SHOW

- What did Cindy teach you about how to act in hard situations?
- Would Cindy have found her happily ever after if she had not accepted help from those around her?
- If Cindy had taken her anger out on her Stepmother & Stepsisters, would that have made the situation better?
- Throughout the story, did Cindy ever lose hope? Why was it important that she didn't give up?
- Do you think Cindy had confidence at the end of the story?
- How did Cindy make the most of her bad situation?
- Was it a good idea for Cindy to remain kind and hopeful throughout the story?

#### LIKE THE SHOW? LET US KNOW!

Send letters or drawings to:  
Walnut Street Theatre  
ATTN: Education Department  
825 Walnut St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

# "I'm at my first play, what do I do?!"

**If you have  
a cellphone,  
turn it OFF!**

Use the  
bathroom  
before the  
show

*Laugh and  
clap for the  
actors*

**Don't talk  
during the  
show!**

*Stay in your  
seat unless  
you're asked to  
move*

**Enjoy the  
show &  
have fun!!**



## "What do I need to know about this play?"

### *A Philly Philly Tale*

#### Character Sheet

**Cindy** — A very kind girl with very bad luck. Always stays true to herself. She may remind you a little bit of Cinderella!

**Philly Phanatic** — Your favorite local mascot! In this play, the Phanatic is not only bringing you smiles, but advice too.

**Rocky Balboa** — A boxer, known for the *Rocky* movies that your parents used to love! He's come back to Philadelphia to read this tale.

**Besty Ross** — A very famous lady born in Philadelphia a very long time ago. She created the first American flag in history.

**The Fresh Prince/Jazzy Jeff** — You may know the Prince's theme song that describes his journey to Bel-Air. These fellows are back to make you laugh and bust some rhymes.

**Cindy's Mom & Dad** — Very sweet parents who taught their daughter to always believe in herself.

**Evil Stepmother & Stepsisters** — Cindy's family. The word evil says it all...

**Mummers** — You may not have seen these guys since New Year's Day, but they're back and determined to find what they're looking for.

**Huge Cheesesteak, Pretzel, and Cockroach** — They were once tiny, but now they're supersized and ready to help the show go on!



# Theatre 101

## Ever wondered how to put on a play?

There are many different elements that go into putting what's written on the page up on its feet. Please review the following terms with your students:

**PLAYWRIGHT** The playwright writes the script.

**DIRECTOR** The director is in charge of orchestrating the entirety of the production. They lead the actors, designers, and production crew to put the show on its feet.

**COSTUME** What the actors wear during the show.

**SCENERY** Everything on stage (*except props*) used to represent the setting, or place in which the story takes place.

**PROPS** All physical items on stage with the exception of the scenery. This includes lamps, chairs, pens, paper, books and more!

**LIGHTS** Stage lights illuminate the actors so that they look their best. The colors used, focus of the light, and amount of lighting can really set the mood and environment of a scene.

**SOUND** Everything that you hear during a performance that does not come from the actors.

**ACTORS** The actors are the people that perform the show onstage.

**AUDIENCE** The lucky people that get to watch the show.



## Start With A Warm-Up: "Me too!"

### DIRECTIONS

- ◆ Have students form a circle with chairs.
- ◆ For this activity, you must have one less chair than participants.
- ◆ There will always be one person standing in the center.
- ◆ Have a volunteer or assign a student to be the first person in the center.

#### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Speaking  
Critical Listening  
Focus  
Collaboration



- ◆ They then say something about themselves that may be true of certain classmates as well (i.e. "*anyone with a summer birthday*" "*anyone who is wearing blue*" "*Anyone that was born in Philadelphia*", etc.)
- ◆ Students are to move and find a different seat if the characteristic announced also pertains to them.
- ◆ The person unable to find a new seat will now be the person in the center and announce a new characteristic.
- ◆ *The object of the game is to give students a chance to learn and celebrate the commonalities and differences between their classmates that they may not ordinarily know.*

## TRY IT YOURSELF!

### DIRECTIONS

Give students a chance to act out our sample scene from *A Philly Phairy Tale*. Before jumping into the performance, think about all of the elements that go into a play. Are there any props that we can use to help improve the scene? Where are the characters when this scene is taking place? What might the scenery look like?

### CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Interpretation	Design
Collaboration	Direct
Script/Text	Focus

### VARIATIONS

- **Write it down!** Before putting this scene up on its feet, have students read through the scene and write down how they would “direct” the scene. Can you find any clues in the script that indicate specific staging or designs?
- **Rehearse it!** Break into groups and assign a director, designers, & actors. Give groups enough time to rehearse & prepare.

### “A Philly Phairy Tale” Sample Scene:



*Mom falls with stuffed cow on top of her.*

**Rocky:** I did not see that coming.

**Mom:** Well this is based on a Disney story. And everyone knows for a Disney movie to work a parent has to die.

**Dad:** Or parents! This is Cinderella and I’ll probably be getting hit by a cow soon.

**Rocky:** That seems unlikely. One flying bovine seems pretty rare.

**Mom:** I guess this thing was jumping over the moon and took me out on its landing. Why is the dumb cow jumping over the moon anyway? Doesn’t it have better things to do like chewing on grass?

**Rocky:** Excuse me Miss victim of a cow attack are you guys supposed to talk? I thought you were just supposed to do what it says in this here book.

**Mom:** We’re from Philly. We’re gonna talk.

**Rocky:** Aren’t you supposed to be dead by cow?

**Mom:** Whatever. Just keep reading.

**Rocky:** Alright. You don’t need to be rude. “And so Cindy’s Mom was no more. And her Dad met a woman at the grocery store.”

*End*



## STUDENT HAND-OUT: WHAT WOULD YOUR SHOE SAY ABOUT YOU?

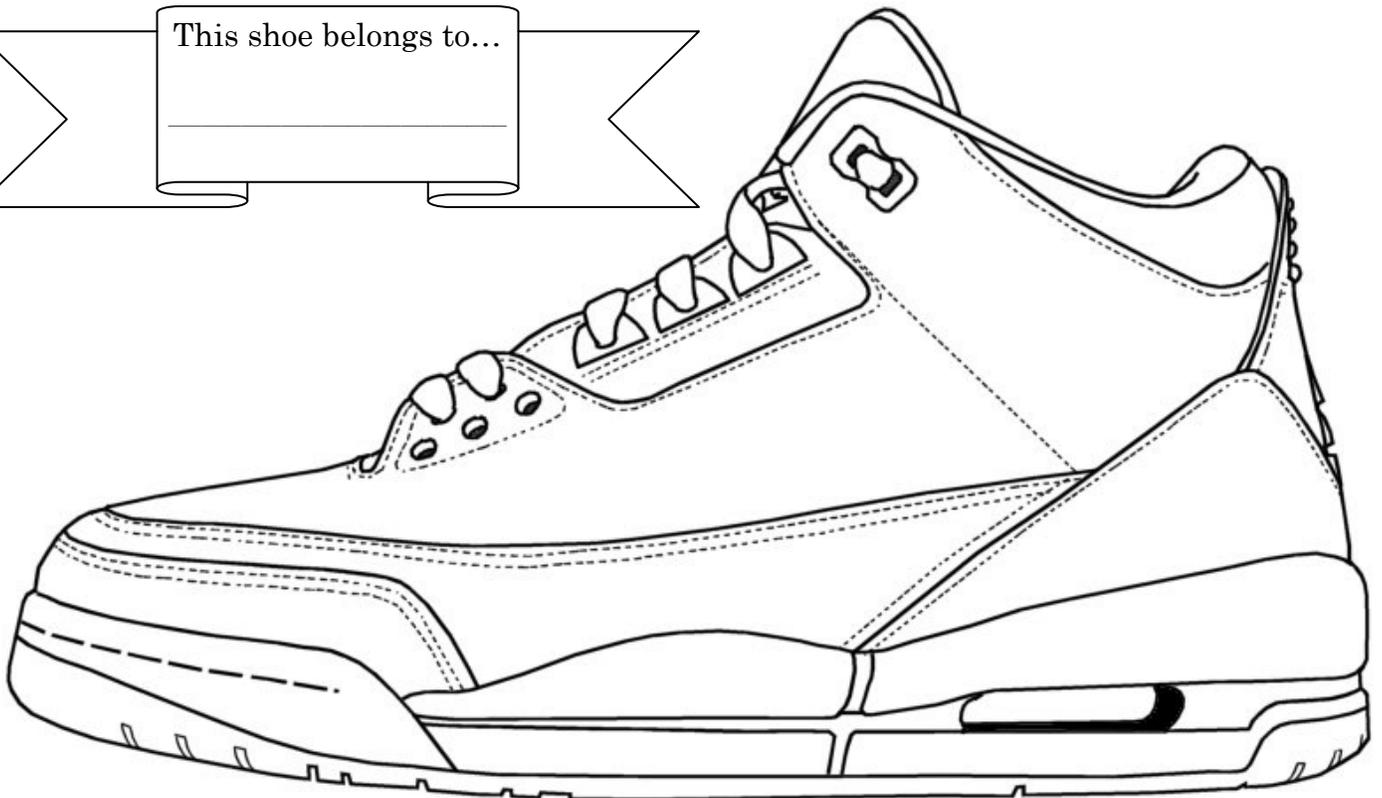
### DIRECTIONS

- Have students design what they think their shoes would look like if they were in *A Philly Phairy Tale*.
- Below the shoe, ask students to answer the question prompts.

*Materials: something to color with & imagination!*

This shoe belongs to...

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### FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Why did you design the shoe the way that you did? Why did you choose the specific colors and designs?  

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2. If you were wearing these shoes to your own personal ball, where would the ball be? (Ex. Your favorite restaurant, a family member's home, your favorite place to play, etc.)  

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3. Who would be your fairy godmother? Is it someone you look up to, like one of your parents or a professional sports player? Why do you look up to this person?  

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# WALNUT STREET THEATRE

## BIOGRAPHY



Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 200 years!

Today, under the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre is in its 34th season as a self-producing, non-profit theatre company. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most subscribed theatre company in the world!

Each season, Walnut Street Theatre holds a nation-wide search to recruit accomplished young professionals for Acting Apprenticeships. These actors form our Touring Outreach Company. Nearly 500

candidates are considered each year for these four positions. Last season, **172,000** children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs: including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools and our artist in residency programs.

### WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

#### **DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

Thomas Quinn

#### **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

Ashley Kerns

#### **EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE**

Patrick Shane

#### **EDUCATION PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE**

Angie Confredo

#### **RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST**

Jasmine Hammond

#### **EDUCATION APPRENTICE**

Amanda Pasquini

#### **ACTING APPRENTICES**

Anne Bragg

Alexa Cepeda

Dana Orange

Austin Turner

#### **WEB**

- Educational Drama Activities For Students

<http://plays.about.com/od/activities/>

- Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company

<https://walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>



### *A Philly Phairy Tale Creative Team*

#### **PLAYWRIGHT**

Thomas Quinn

#### **DIRECTOR**

Damon Bonetti

#### **ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT**

**Tom Quinn** is the author of *The Berenstain Bears Hospital Friends*, *The Return of Nick Nutrition and His Dog Fiber*, *Only 13*, *No Easy Road to Freedom*, *The Boy Who Cried Bully*, *The Bully Buster Rides Again*, and *Mean Girls R Bullies 2*. Quinn also serves as the Director of Education at Walnut Street Theatre overseeing a program that reaches over 172,000 students each year. Quinn was a recipient of the Dorothy Haas Acting Fellowship from Walnut Street Theatre in 1991-92. Tom also performed in regional theatre across the country before obtaining a teaching degree and Masters in Education from West Chester University, along with a Masters in Educational Administration from Gwynedd-Mercy College. A former high school teacher and school administrator Quinn has also worked as a grant reviewer for the US Department of Education.

### THANK YOU

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Anonymous (2) \* Aqua America \* Louis N. Cassett Foundation \* Connelly Foundation \* The Peter & Audrey Denton Fund \* Dow Chemical Company \* William Goldman Foundation \* Hamilton Family Foundation \* Hassel Foundation \* Haverford Trust Company \* Hellendall Family Foundation \* Herman Goldner Company \* Syde Hurdus Foundation \* William Penn Foundation \* Mutual Fire Foundation \* Lincoln Financial Group Foundation \* National Corporate Theatre Fund \* PECO \* TD Charitable Foundation \* Theatre Forward \* United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey \* Vulcan Spring & Mfg. Co.