

2012–2013 Season

CATCO IS
KIDS!

PLAYGUIDE



BEAUTY and the BEAST (ISABELLA E LA BESTIA)

January 18–27, 2013

Studio One, Riffe Center

By Steven C. Anderson

Produced in association
with Columbus State
Community College

♥ The Story

In Venice, Italy, true love is brewing—along with a healthy dose of trickery. When the miserly Pantalone promises his daughter Isabella's hand in marriage to the boastful Il Capitano, it's up to the clever Arlecchino to save the day and unite the beautiful Isabella with her true love, Leandro. All that's needed is a fake kidnapping, an imaginary monster with a ransom note, and a few not-so-clever Zannis to spice up the action. In the end, true love will always win!

♥ About the Story

The story of *Beauty and the Beast* is one of the most well-known folk tales in the world, and one of the most told and retold. The story was originally a part of oral tradition—that is, it was passed from generation to generation for many years but never written down. In 1740, a French woman named Madame Gabrielle de Villeneuve wrote and published her own version. Other versions quickly began to appear in print, and the rest is history.

In our version of the story, which is set in Venice, Italy, things are quite different from the original. There are no jealous sisters, Beauty's father is a stingy old man, Beauty herself isn't very bright, and the Beast does not really exist, much less live in a magical castle filled with roses. It is, however, still the timeless love story of a beautiful girl and her unlikely suitor, and it still carries the message that things are not always what they seem—in fact, they rarely are.

♥ About the Playwright



Steven C. Anderson has created plays for and with central Ohio children for the past 29 years, first at the Leo Yassenoff Jewish Center, then at Players Theatre Columbus, and most recently, at The Phoenix Theatre for Children which he founded 16 years ago. He is the recipient of the Ohio Theatre Alliance Lifetime Achievement Award, the Southside Settlement Arts Freedom Award, a Certificate of Achievement from the Community Center for the Deaf, and a Central Ohio Critics Circle Award for “a decade of respectful and exhilarating theatrical adaptations of works of literature from around the world and for using a diverse array of theatrical styles to challenge and delight children.” His work has been nominated five times for the prestigious Greater Columbus Arts Council’s Excellence in the Arts Award. His work as a director includes *Candide* and *Hair* at The Ohio State University Theatre Department; *Love! Valour! Compassion!* and *The Taste of Sunrise* at CATCO; *Big River* and *Pippin* for Actors Theatre; *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* at New Harmony Theatre; and *Greater Tuna*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Assassins* for the former Players Theatre Columbus where he served as Associate Producing Director. He is particularly proud of the 2006 collaboration with BalletMet of *Alice in Wonderland*, the 2007 collaboration with CAPA and Opera Columbus on *The Secret Garden* that paired deaf and hearing actors on stage together, and the 2009 Phoenix production of *The Miracle Worker* that incorporated the talents of deaf and blind actors.

♥ Cast of Characters



Il Capitano

PANTALONE—(pant-ah-LONE-ay) A miserly old man who is more concerned with keeping his money than making friends.

ISABELLA—(ee-sah-BELL-ah) Pantalone’s beautiful daughter. She and Leandro are the only characters who do not wear masks, and she is oblivious to everything except love.

LEANDRO—(lee-AN-dro) Isabella’s true love. He has eyes only for Isabella.

IL CAPITANO—(eel cah-pee-TAH-no) A military “hero” who is not as brave as he pretends to be. In fact, although he boasts about his adventures, he’s really afraid of nearly everything.

IL DOTTORE—(eel dah-TOR-ay) An old scholar who is not as wise as he thinks he is.

ARLECCHINO—(ahr-leh-KEE-no) Pantalone’s servant. He always has a trick up his sleeve, and the zanni are always ready to join in his adventures.

ZANNI—(ZAH-nee) A name for the group of lowliest and most witless of all the characters. They’ll do any job if they get food or money out of it, but they can’t promise the job will be done right!

♥ Curriculum Connections

You can use this Playguide and your visit to CATCO is Kids to help your students meet the curriculum standards required in schools by the Ohio Department of Education. Look throughout our Playguide for the icon

[Curriculum Connection](#)

and you will find academic standards that correspond with the different activities listed.

♥ Vocabulary Section

Here are some words and phrases from *Beauty and the Beast*. How many of these words do you know? Look up any words you don't know, and think of a way to use them in a sentence of your own.



"I am Arlecchino, the trickster, the **CHANGELING**, the transformer."

"My papa is **SHREWD**."

"By now the Zanni has delivered the **RANSOM** note."

"Why, I ought to **THROTTLE** you!"

"My bravery and **VALOR** are known throughout the wide world."

"It is **SLANDER** of the worst sort."

"I shall tear all my old **TUNICS** into shreds, just to show my deepest **ANGUISH**."

"My precious daughter has hair that **SHIMMERS** like gold."

"A **VILE** and **PUTRID** smelling smoke would surround him that was so **FOUL**, it can only compare with your breath, Pantalone."

"He did not follow your directions and went to find her and to **SERENADE** her with sweet love songs."

"There you are, you **SCOUNDREL!**"

"I shall be **ABDUCTED**."

"What **BLISS!**"

Curriculum
Connection

Reading Standards for
Literature K-5: Craft and
Structure

Grade K: Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.

Grade 3: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, distinguishing literal from nonliteral language.

♥ What's wrong with this line?

Il Datore, the would-be scholar, likes to use big words, but he doesn't always use them correctly. Can you figure out what he's trying to say?

"My vocabulary is considered to be **INFINITESIMAL**. I was only trying to assist you to your **DETRIMENT**."

"I will be right here... should you be in need of my **MISGUIDANCE**."

"You will do your love scene in Italian and I—because I am a learned man of letters—I will **COMPLICATE** it so that the audience can understand you."

"Again, with the Italian. Do you need my incredible, **INEPT**, **INEXPERT**, **INCOMPETENT** skills again?"

Il Datore



"The nose... is the means by which the human... also known as **HOMO SAFETY-PINS**, detects scents."

"I have a brilliant idea of great **INCONSEQUENCE**."

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT AND DO

Before the Show

1. Our play takes place in Venice, Italy, which is considered to be one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Do some research on Italy and the city of Venice. What can you find out about these places? Research the climate, population, culture, or anything else that interests you. Compare your findings to where you live. What is the same? What is different? Share what you learned with your classmates and family.

Curriculum
Connection

Social Studies: Regions and People of the Eastern Hemisphere—Places and Regions

Grade 6: Regions can be determined, classified, and compared using various criteria (eg. landform, climate, population, cultural, or economic.)

2. The Commedia dell'Arte style was originally based on improvisation—that means the actors made up their own lines as they went along. Try doing some improv yourself. Select a few people to be actors and have someone in the audience call out a familiar story. Give the actors a minute to figure out all the roles, and then act out the story. Sometimes the best performances are the ones that take no planning!

Curriculum
Connection

Drama: Producing/Performing

Grade 1: Work cooperatively to present a tableau, improvisation, or pantomime.

After the Show

1. How was CATCO's *Beauty and the Beast* different from or similar to other versions of the story? What did you think of the play? Did you like watching the commedia style? Pick one of your favorite fairy tales. Can you create your own commedia version? Share with family and friends.

Curriculum
Connection

Drama: Producing/Performing

Grade 8: Adapt the production styles of a dramatic or theatrical work from one cultural perspective to another.

2. Make up your own version of *Beauty and the Beast*. Will you set your story in the present day or long ago? In what country or town does it take place? Whom, besides Beauty and the Beast, will you put in as supporting characters? Will your Beast be imaginary or real? Does your story have a happy ending?

Curriculum
Connection

Drama: Producing/Performing

Grade 1: Retell or dramatize stories, myths, and fairy tales from various time periods and cultures.

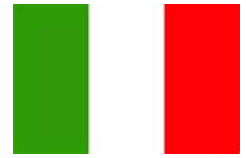
3. The short "silly bits" that the Zanni do in the play are called lazzis (lath-zees) and are mostly created through improvisation. Try making up a few of your own lazzis. If you need inspiration, try watching a few episodes of *The Three Stooges*. Larry, Curly, and Moe's antics are great examples of lazzis.

Curriculum
Connection

Drama: Producing/Performing

Grade 3: Create a variety of improvisations based on a dramatic theme.

Next Stop, Italy!



Here are some basic facts about the country of Italy. What else can you find out about it?

Population: Italy has a population of approximately 61,261,254 people. The capital city of Rome has a population of approximately 3.357 million people.

Language: Italian.

Capitol: Rome.

Currency: Until recently, Italy's currency was the lire (LEE-rah). However, Italy is now part of the European Union, and shares a currency called the euro (YUR-oh) with many other European countries. One euro is equal to about \$1.27 U.S. dollars.

Geographic Location: Italy is a peninsula bordered on the east by the Mediterranean and Tyrrhenian Seas, on the south by the Ionian sea, on the west by the Adriatic Sea, and on the north by the Alps mountains. France lies just on the other side of the Alps. Italy is also home to a volcano, Mt. Etna, which was last active in July, 2012.

Climate: The climate of Italy is diverse, with extremes ranging from frigid in the mountains, to semitropical along the coast. The average annual temperature, however, ranges from about 52° to 66° F.

Culture and History: Like many European countries, Italy has a very old and rich culture. About 2,000 years ago, the area that is now Italy was the center of the Roman Empire, the most powerful kingdom in the world. The Romans ruled most of Europe as well as part of Africa and the Middle East. Eventually, the Roman Empire lost its power, but Italy's culture continued to flourish. Many famous artists, scientists, and inventors came from Italy, including Galileo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo. Italy is now home to many great works of art and architecture.

...And, oh, the Food!

Italians love to eat, and people from other cultures love to eat Italian food. Spaghetti, ravioli, cannelloni, rigatoni—and some people say that Italian ice cream is the best in the world. What's your favorite Italian food?

Browse the web sites below to learn more about Italy. Can you locate other informative web sites to add to the list?

<http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/italy-facts.html>

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/places/find/italy/>



Learn to Speak Italian

Try out these Italian words and phrases. Do you know any other words in Italian?

TIP:

If you can, roll the tip of your tongue against the top of your mouth when pronouncing the "r".

Benvenuto (ben-ven-00-toh)
"Welcome"

Non/Parlo italiano.
(Noh / PAHR-loh it-ah-lee-AH-noh)
"I don't/ I do speak Italian."

Arrevederci (ah-ree-vih-DEHR-chi)
"Goodbye"

Ciao (chow)
"Hello" or "Goodbye"

Buona giorno! (bon JORE-noh)
"Good morning!"

Buona sera! (bon-ah SEHR-ah)
"Good evening!"

Mi chiamo... (mee kee-AH-moh)
"My name is..."

Curriculum
Connection

World Languages: Grades K-5: Interact with others using culturally appropriate language and gestures on familiar topics. Engage in greetings, introductions, and leave-taking
Interpersonal Communication

Pantalone's Pasta Corner

Create a delicious pasta dish with the help of a grown up!

MEATBALLS

2/3 lb. good quality pork sausages
(about 4 large or 8 chipolatas)
1 lb. lean ground beef
1 small onion, coarsely grated
1 carrot, finely grated
1 tbsp dried oregano
1/2 c Parmesan, finely grated,
plus extra to serve
1 medium egg
1 tbsp olive oil

TOMATO SAUCE

1 tbsp olive oil
3 garlic cloves- finely grated
1 tbsp tomato purée
a pinch of sugar
2 tins chopped tomatoes



TIP FOR COOKING WITH KIDS

Before you start, tie back any long hair, put on your apron, and wash your hands. Make sure your child is stable where they are cooking and comfortable with the angle at which they are cooking. As you cook, explain what the different ingredients are and where they come from.

Children: Squeeze all the sausage

meat out of the sausage skins into a large bowl and add the beef. Add all the rest of the meatball ingredients, except the olive oil, into the bowl and season with black pepper then squish everything together through your hands until completely mixed. Keep an eye on younger children to make sure they don't taste any of the raw mix.

Roll the meatball mix into walnut-sized balls and place them on a plate—this is a job children as young as two can help with and a great job to help teach older children basic division.

Grown-ups: While the children are rolling the meatballs, make the sauce. Heat the oil in a large saucepan. Add the garlic and cook for five minutes until soft and mushy. Stir in the tomato puree, sugar, and vinegar. Leave for one minute then add the tomatoes and simmer for five minutes. Continue to simmer sauce gently while you cook the meatballs. If your child is confident with heat, from 7+ they can cook the sauce with supervision.

Heat the oil in a large frying pan and, working in batches, brown the meatballs on all sides then pop them into the sauce—continue to simmer the sauce for 15 minutes, stirring very gently until the meatballs are cooked through. Serve with cooked spaghetti, extra grated Parmesan, and a few torn basil leaves your child has picked.

Recipe from: <http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/2451637/cooking-with-kids-spaghetti-and-meatballs-with-hid>

♥ About the style of Commedia dell'Arte

(come-AY-dee-ah del art)

THE HISTORY Commedia dell'Arte is a comedic theatre style that developed in Italy in the 16th century. Troupes of about ten people (usually seven men and three women) traveled from city to city performing in town squares, courtyards, abandoned theatres, or in people's houses. The plays they performed were improvised—that is, the actors did not work from scripts, but from a very basic plot line that they filled in with their own words and actions. Commedia actors gradually accumulated many different plots, and could perform any of them at the request of an audience member. Some troupes became very famous and often performed at the Italian royal court, and even traveled to other parts of Europe—they were particularly popular in France. Commedia influenced many later theatre styles, including some entertainers you might recognize—The Three Stooges, Abbot and Costello, Charlie Chaplin, and Buster Keaton are all modern-day examples of the Commedia dell'Arte style.



Pantalone

THE COMEDY The comic style of Commedia is very physical and rowdy. The term slapstick, which is used to describe this type of humor, is in fact named as a stick that Arlecchino often carries. It is made of two thin strips of wood that make a loud noise when used to thwack another character. Commedia plays are full of silly noises, characters with funny ways of walking and standing, people falling over each other, and other physical humor. The actors who perform slapstick comedy go through extensive training so that no one actually gets hurt—don't try this at home without lots of padding and supervision!



Arlecchino

THE CHARACTERS Although Commedia troupes had many different stories to act out, they used the same "stock" characters in each story. Audiences came to know and love each of the characters who were recognizable by their costumes, by the unique masks they wore, and by their individual mannerisms. Pantalone, for example, stoops over like an old man, has a large hooked nose, and is very greedy and protective of his money. Arlecchino, Pantalone's servant, is recognizable by his patched clothing—patched because his master is too cheap to buy him new clothes. The patches on Arlecchino's costume eventually became diamond shapes, a design that carried over into the French version of the character, the clown Harlequin.

THE MASKS One of the most distinctive features of the Commedia style is the masks worn by most of the characters. The masks were originally made out of leather and covered the entire face. Because having a full-face mask made it difficult for the actors to talk, Commedia troupes adopted a half mask style that covered only the top half of the face. Today, while some Commedia masks are still made from leather, most are made from man-made materials that look like leather. The only characters who do not wear masks are Isabella and Leonardo, who are known as the innamorato, or lovers. All the other characters' masks have distinguishing features like a bushy mustache or a very long nose. The characters with the longest noses are the Zanni, or servants—note that the longer the nose, the less intelligent the character is!



Zanni