

Creativity Camp at Home

Dear children's theater families,

I am extremely disappointed that we cannot be together for Creativity Camp or the Children's Musical at the Jones this summer, but I am happy to do what it takes to ensure your safety. In lieu of gathering, there are many ways to bring theater into your homes. Below is a list of creative challenges, games, streaming, and resources that I encourage you and your kids to make use of this summer. These are things that we would have been doing in the camp as well as things that I think might keep your kids engaged in and excited about the performing arts. Many are activities that require parent supervision and involvement. It is not an exhaustive list and I encourage you to do some more research and get creative on your own. I would love to see what your kids are up to and how they manage to incorporate their loves of performing into life in these unusual times. If you feel so inclined, please send me a video of their creative endeavors. I miss all my camp and show kiddos and I wish that I could be their intern and director again! Much love and support to you all. We at the Jones cannot wait to see you again.

Best wishes,

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Creative Challenges:

- Family Fairy Tales
Choose one your favorite fairy tales: Jack and the Bean Stalk, Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Three Billy Goats Gruff, The Elves and the Shoemaker, Hansel and Gretel, etc. Once you have picked one, reread it with your family.

Your task: create a board of four to six tableau scenes that tell the whole story, using your family members.

The kiddos should instruct, or "direct", the rest of the family on what to wear, how to pose, and what to show on their faces. Take a picture of the scene you've created. Print them out and create your own family fairy tale!

(Inspiration taken from bbbpress.com/2020/03/remote-drama-activity-family-fairy-tale/)
- Short Plays. Get the family involved and put on your own show!
<https://www.freedrama.net/childsm.html>
- Monologues. Work on your memorization skills and keep on acting:
<http://www.bbbpress.com/2020/03/remote-drama-activity-virtual-monologues-2/>

Theater Games:

- One Word Stories
Have the whole family sit in a circle. One person will start the story with a single word. Then go around the circle, each only adding one word to the story. Try to create an interesting and fun plot with a beginning, middle and end.
- Intonation. Pick a tongue twister or phrase. Have the kids recite the phrase with different emotions. Read it sad, joyful, angry. Then, expand each of those into disappointed/miserable,

excited/surprised, annoyed/furious. Encourage them to get out side of the stereotype emotions, such as portraying CREATIVITY CAMP angry as simply very loud.

- Tongue Twisters! Here is a great list. If you want more, just google “tongue twisters for young actors.” <http://www.bbbpress.com/2013/02/drama-games-tongue-twisters-the-ultimate-list/>
- Acting and Reacting
Get into pairs. Person A strikes a dramatic pose, such as on one knee as if to propose. Person B then reacts in a complimentary manner, such as putting their hands up in excitement. Person A then reacts to Person B as if their pose is totally new, not related to the proposal pose, such as pretending to play pat-a-cake with their partner.
Make it more complex by throwing status into the mix. Alternate who plays “high status” and who plays “low”. Respond accordingly to your partner to always make it seem like either you or they have the power in the situation.
- Ghost In the Graveyard
Practice dramatic tension! Perfect for big families. One person is the “watchman” while the rest are ghosts, spread out in a room with the lights dimmed. After a count to ten, the watchman begins circling the room. The ghosts then must try and move about without being seen. If they are spotted by the watchman, they are out. It is a perfect opportunity to get creative with movement, striking creative and often funny poses. Last ghost standing wins!

Theater from Home:

- View master classes, prerecorded performances, and see how others are staying creative while at home: <https://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanTheatreWing/videos>
- Get a look at what professional theaters look like around the world: <https://artsandculture.google.com/story/1gJiszMqItReJA?hl=en&fbclid=IwAR221bBJCBI-eJmE-wyn1bDUTcdHO16oOrvKLiXnallilQSMsh3KOkDYkFw>
- Watch professional productions of Peter Pan, Newsies, Billy Elliot and more from Play Bill. Note that not every production on this site is age appropriate. I encourage parents reading about shows they are not familiar with before watching them with kids.: <https://www.playbill.com/article/15-broadway-plays-and-musicals-you-can-watch-on-stage-from-home>

Other Resources:

- <https://www.playbill.com/article/21-theatre-related-online-resources-for-kids-and-families-to-get-you-through-covid-19>
- <http://www.bbbpress.com/teaching-drama-online/>
- <https://broadwaymusicalhome.com/shows/kid-friendly.htm>
- <https://takelessons.com/blog/kids-acting-games/>
- <https://icebreakerideas.com/drama-games-for-kids/>
- <https://www.fortetheatrecompany.org/daily-theatre-games>
- <https://dramaresource.com/drama-games/>