

# Thalian Association Children's Theater

2014-2015 SEASON

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## Teacher Resource Guide and Lesson Plan Activities



Featuring general information about our production along with some creative activities to help you make connections to your classroom curriculum & community service, before and after the show.



The production and accompanying activities address **North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts**, Goal A.1: Analyze literary texts & performances. Look for this symbol for other curriculum connections.



### About the Musical

The Emmy Award - winning 1970's pop culture phenomenon comes to the Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center, Second Street Stage! SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LIVE! follows Tom, a nerve-wracked school teacher who is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination & music, through such songs as "Just A Bill," "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly," and "Conjunction Junction." This multimedia treat shows a whole new generation of young people that learning can be as fun as you choose to make it.

### Inspiration for the Musical

Schoolhouse Rock Live! is based on the original Schoolhouse Rock television series. This series was the brainchild of an advertising executive who noticed his son could remember all the words to popular songs on the radio, but could not remember the multiplication tables. He reasoned that if important educational information was coupled with exciting animation and catchy music, children would be able to learn and remember it. From this simple idea, Schoolhouse Rock was born and quickly adopted by ABC-TV, which broadcast the series on Saturday mornings from 1973 to 1985. It returned due to popular demand in 1992 as part of the ABC Bugs Bunny Hour, and many new songs were added to the repertoire.

### Trivia

Forty years, 41 songs, and four Emmy Awards later, those of us who grew up with "Multiplication Rock", "America Rock", "Science Rock" and "Grammar Rock" can still sing the "Preamble to the U.S. Constitution" and know that "and," "but," and "or" all belong in "Conjunction Junction".

**February 20th -March 1st**

**Hannah Block Historic USO/  
Community Arts Center**

**Second Street Stage**  
120 South 2nd Street (Corner of Orange)

**7:00 PM Friday - Saturday**  
**3:00PM Sunday**

**Tickets:**  
**thalian.org**  
**(910) 251-1788**

**Free Tickets for Teachers on**  
**7PM Thursday Feb. 19th**  
**Reservations required**  
**Contact:**  
**[davidtloudermilk@thalian.org](mailto:davidtloudermilk@thalian.org)**

## About Thalian Association & TACT

Thalian Association was founded in 1788, to provide arts education & bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North Carolina & produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall. In fact, Thalian Hall was proudly named for our organization in 1858. Our mission is to present quality live theater that illuminates the human experience for the citizens of Wilmington, New Hanover County and beyond. We teach life skills through theater education & provide an outlet for artists and technicians to develop and exercise their crafts. Established over 34 years ago Thalian Association Children's Theater (TACT) is an extension of Thalian Association Community Theater non-profit organization & is dedicated to the enrichment of arts education for our community's youth. We offer academy classes (in drama, voice, playwriting, story telling & theatrical makeup) that are aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education. Through generous support from: PPD, Cape Fear Rotary, Wilmington East Rotary an affiliate of the North Carolina Community Foundation, Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, Landfall Foundation, and the Dan Cameron Family Foundation, we provide Community Outreach Scholarship Classes to over 300 at risk students, every week. We want to turn out great theater artists as well as great doctors, lawyers, teachers and bankers. Thalian Children's Theater is about developing collaborative & thoughtful members of our community.





## The Setting

Tom Mizer's apartment at 6:00 a.m.  
on his first day of teaching.



## The Characters

### Tom Mizer:

A young teacher who has just received his degree, has a good heart and is excited about the future, but still unsure & nervous.

### Dina:

Tom's thoughtful, mature & grounded, voice of reason.

### Dori:

Tom's goofy side. Endearing, cute & very playful.

### George:

Tom's romantic side. Typically sweet and caring.

### Joe:

Tom's cool side. Very slick & laid back, but also fun loving.

### Shulie:

Tom's sweet side. An earnest & sweet ingenue who plays guitar.



## The Songs

Noun Is A Person, Place or Thing

Three Is A Magic Number

Unpack Your Adjectives

Just A Bill

The Preamble

Do the Circulation

Conjunction Junction

Great American Melting Pot

Elbow Room

Interplanet Janet

Interjections

"Lolly Lolly Lolly, get your adverbs here!"

Ask students to give you five verbs and write them on the board. Then ask the students to give you six adverbs and write them on index cards.

One at a time, have students choose a verb from the board to "mime" (act out, without words) according to the "adverb card" they choose from a random drawing.

Have students perform the activity until the class guesses the adverb. It is not necessary that the verbs match. For example, skipping nervously.



## Get Creative!

Group together students who choose the same character. Then direct each group member to think of adjectives describing the character and record them on paper.

Next, instruct each child to circle seven to ten words that he thinks best describe the character. Then give them three half sheets of light-colored construction paper.

On one sheet, have students illustrate and cut out the character's head and arms. On the second sheet, instruct them to draw and cut out the character's feet.

Then have students accordion-fold the last sheet six to nine times to make the body. Ask students to label each fold with a circled word from their list. After the students staple the head and feet to the body, display the project in the hallway.

## History Rocks!

Have your students pick one of the historical figures or inventions listed below that are mentioned in the show, and write a four sentence explanation of who they are and why they were important to our country.

### Historical Figures / Inventions

Cotton Gin

Samuel Morse

Henry Ford

The Monkees

Julia Howe

Susan B. Anthony

Marconi

Wright Brothers

Thomas Edison

Sewing Machine

The Beatles

Chubby Checker

Lucretia Mott

Robert Fultob

Betsy Ross



N.C. Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy L1.4a: Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

# Vocabulary Enrichment

**Founding Fathers:** The political leaders who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776 or otherwise took part in the American Revolution, or who participated in writing and adopting the United States Constitution in 1787-1788, or in putting the new government under the Constitution into effect.

**Constitution:** (as defined in the song, "The Preamble") A list of principles for keeping people free Preamble – A statement attached to the beginning of the U.S. Constitution that introduces the purposes & principles of the document.

**We the People:** Reflects a republican government in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who are entitled to vote for officers and representatives responsible to them.

**Union:** An alliance of people, parties, or political groups for their mutual benefit.

**Justice:** Upholding that which is just, especially in fair treatment according to the law.

**Domestic:** Of or relating to a country's own internal affairs.

**Defense:** The act of defending against attack, danger, or injury.

**Welfare:** Health, happiness, and good fortune; well-being

**Liberty:** A right or immunity to engage in certain actions without control or interference Posterity – Future generations; all of a person's descendants.

## Preamble Activity:

Documents written a long time ago, sometimes contain language that has become outdated & can be difficult to understand the meaning behind the words. One of these documents is set to music in Schoolhouse Rock Live!, the Preamble of the United States constitution. While the message of the Preamble is something all Americans stand behind, it can be challenging to get the full meaning just by reading it.

Ask your students to take a good look at the language of the preamble and the meaning associated with it. After discussing the vocabulary words listed above, read the Preamble together with your students. Either individually or as a group, have students re-write the Preamble in simpler, more modern language and read the final product together.

| Actual words of the Preamble              | Rewrite the words of the Preamble in your own words |
|---|---|
| We the People of the United States        |   |
| in Order to form a more perfect Union     |   |
| establish Justice,                        |   |
| insure domestic Tranquility,              |   |
| provide for the common defense,           |   |
| promote the general Welfare,              |   |
| and secure the Blessings of Liberty       |   |
| to ourselves and our Posterity,           |   |
| do ordain and establish this Constitution |   |
| for the United States of America          |   |



North Carolina Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: R.L.1.2: Retail stories, including key details & demonstrate understanding of their central message and lesson. N.C. Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy L.1.4a: Use sentence-lever context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase. N.C. Essential Standards 5.C&G.1.3 Analyze historical documents that shaped the foundation of the United States government.

# Theater Corner

Plays produced by **Thalian Association Children's Theater (TACT)** are created in the city of Wilmington, by a talented team of artists such as designers, carpenters, lighting & sound technicians, props masters, musicians, seamstresses, directors and actors, with the help of numerous parents and community volunteers.

A play is very different from a movie or television show, because it is presented live. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you went to the theater and how you felt afterwards.

1. What was the first thing you noticed on the stage?
2. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed? How could you have used recycled materials?
3. What did you like about the costumes? Did they fit the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed? Can costumes be everyday clothing?
4. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
5. Describe the actors. Were there moments you were so engaged in the story that you forgot you were watching a live play? What characters remind you of someone you know in real life?
6. Is there a movie version of the play you saw today? Have you read the book? What made your experience of seeing the live play unique?
7. Were there any actors who played more than one character? When could you tell that it was the same person? What are some ways that you can be the same person but play different characters?
8. If you could adapt a story into a play, which story would you choose? Describe how you would use special effects, lighting, costumes, characters, sets and music to create your play.



North Carolina Essential Standards in Social Studies 2.C & G.2 Understanding the roles and responsibilities of citizens. 2.C&G.2.2 Explain why it is important for citizens to participate in their community. North Carolina Essential Standards in Theatre Arts 3.A.1.2: Evaluate formal or informal theatre productions.

Thalian Children's Theater offers 5 productions annually with auditions open to performers ages seven through high school seniors.

***Would you like to be in a show?***

Auditions for our next production are

February 21st

***Like us on Facebook to stay informed!***

# Creative Contest

Now it is your turn to be creative and help produce something for your theater community. Each year Thalian Association Children's Theater, create, produce and perform a special Musical Revue as part of our regular season. Past Musical Revues were: *Totally 80's*, *TACT Radio*, *On Broadway*, *Hollywood Dreams & Broadway Now*, to name a few...

New this year, we invite **you** to be part of the Creative Team! Come up with a name and idea for a musical revue that you would like to see onstage for next year's season! Make sure to explain why you think it is a good idea, what type of music you would like to hear and what type of dancing you would enjoy seeing performed onstage.

If you have even more to add, please keep going! Other elements of the show include, costumes, sets and advertising. Describe, draw or cut and paste photos of clothing or costumes, set ideas (decorating the stage) and what you would use on the show posters and advertisements used to promote the musical revue.

Send your creative work to:

**Email:** [davidtloudermilk@thalian.org](mailto:davidtloudermilk@thalian.org)

**Mail:** Thalian Association Children's Theater  
PO BOX 1111 Wilmington NC 28402

**Deadline for entry is April 15th**

All Musical Revue ideas will be entered for a chance to have your work published on our website for the entire year & a free theater workshop for your entire classroom!

Make sure you check out this year's Musical Revue, *TACT Music Around the World!*  
See below for details.

**Next Onstage for Thalian Children's Theater**

**"TACT Music Around the World"**

**April Thursday 2nd -Sunday April 4th**

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center

**Free Tickets for Teachers Wednesday April 1st!!**

**Make your reservations NOW**


[davidtloudermilk@thalian.org](mailto:davidtloudermilk@thalian.org)

Study Guide References: MTI, Wikipedia, ncpublicschools.org, playbill.com, commoncore.org, NC Highway Historical Marker Program, NC Department of Cultural Resources, Song Writers Hall of Fame, stlyrics.com, Chicago theater, www.stagesproductions.com, PBS, Webweaver, Booth Tarkington Theater, Center Place Brandon, St Catherine University Department of Music and Theater, Theater Bam, Disney Wikia

# Write a Review!

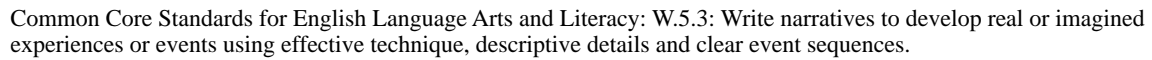
Write a Review of the show *Schoolhouse Rock Live, Jr*  
For a chance to win: Free tickets to our next show & have your work published on our website for the entire year! Don't forget to describe what parts of the show made you laugh or made you think of something or someone that made a difference in your life.

**Email:** [davidtloudermilk@thalian.org](mailto:davidtloudermilk@thalian.org)  
**Mail:** Thalian Association Children's Theater  
PO BOX 1111 Wilmington NC 28402  
**Deadline for Entry is March 15th**

 Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy: W.5.3: Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.

For a chance to win: Free tickets to our next show & have your work published on our website for the entire year! Don't forget to describe what parts of the show made you laugh or made you think of something or someone that made a difference in your life.

**Deadline for Entry is March 15th**



## This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signing authorizes to send this letter.