

WORLD PREMIERE

W.O. Mitchell's

JAKE & THE KID

By Conni Massing

It's 1944 and drought threatens to destroy crops near the small prairie town of Crocus. Folks are getting a "might tetchy," so when hired-hand Jake claims he can make it rain, it's not just the Kid who's caught in his tale. Will he make true on his promise and save the day, or is Jake just full of hot prairie air? Based on W.O. Mitchell's beloved stories, *Jake and the Kid* pays tribute to the kid inside all of us and shows that sometimes hope is bigger than the Alberta sky.

We begin our season with a new adaptation from one of our favourite storytellers. I adore the language, the mischief, and the pure beauty of the words from W.O. Mitchell. This play is a gigantic slice of optimism – something the world can't possibly get enough of. – Dennis Garnhum

Jake & the Kid has been developed through Theatre Calgary's FUSE Play Development program.

Recommended for Grades: 6-12

Curriculum connections:

ELA: Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5

Drama: Goals I, II, III

CALM: General objective 1: p.4, 7, 8, 9 10, 14

Psychology: Theme 2 Personality, Theme 3 Behaviour, Theme 4, Intelligence

General Psychology: Theme 2, Principles of Learning

Social Studies: The Depression, WW II, valuing diversity, the relationship between history and contemporary realities, multiculturalism, power and authority, civic responsibility, economics and resources

Related Themes:

- Learning through stories
- Human nature
- What is truth?
- The interdependence among people in a community
- The Depression years
- The affects of war on family and communities
- What is family?
- The nature of community
- Using storytelling to teach
- What's good about "the good old days"?
- Hyperbole as an effective literary tool
- Characters vs. caricatures

20TH ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION

7 STORIES

By Morris Panych

On the 7th storey ledge of an apartment building, a man is about to jump. Before he steps off, a parade of zany inhabitants interrupt his train of thought. From the same whimsical playwright behind *Vigil* and *The Overcoat*, this wonderfully oddball comedy shows us that the line between sanity and insanity might be right behind the next window. Fast paced and full of energy, a leap of faith never had more surprising results.

This play premiered 20 years ago in Vancouver. Since then it has been seen all over the world. Our new production stars Peter Anderson who returns to us after his unforgettable silent performance in THE OVERCOAT. This time he speaks! A hilarious tale from one of Canada's most imaginative writers. – Dennis Garnhum

Recommended for Grades: 10-12

Curriculum connections:

ELA: Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5

Drama: Goals I, II, III

CALM: General Objective 1 Personal Choices p 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14

Psychology: Theme 1 What is psychology? Theme 2 Personality, Theme 3 Behaviour

General Psychology: Theme 5 Facing frustration and conflict

Related Themes:

- Philosophical implications of suicide
- “Everyman” undergoes an existential crisis
- The disparate nature of human elements
- Religious fervour
- The wisdom of age
- Paranoia
- Duplicity
- The nature of fraud
- Truth/fiction
- Black humour
- Hearing vs. listening
- Making choices

CALGARY'S HOLIDAY TREAT

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

by Charles Dickens

Adapted by Jerry Patch

Strikingly imaginative and hauntingly beautiful...breathes fresh life and heart into an old familiar tale. - Calgary Herald

Playing to sold-out houses last season, our production surprises and delights both audiences and critics alike. We invite you to celebrate the holidays with Scrooge and the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

Our annual production is a much anticipated tradition that reminds us of the importance of generosity and kindness. We invite you to share with us the true magic of the season. - Dennis

Book early – every Student Matinee of *A Christmas Carol* has sold out the past 5 years.

Recommended for Grades: Division II and up

Curriculum Connections:

Drama Goals I, II, III

ELA: Outcomes 1, 2 and 4

CALM: General Objective 1: p1, 4, 7, 10,

Social Studies: Grades 9 and 11

Related Themes:

- Classic Dickens's world portrayed through social stratification, and poverty which will be apparent in costume and lighting effects
- There is significant class struggle.
- It is presented in industrial England.
- This adaptation has fuller character development due to the fact that it scene rather than narrative driven.
- Color is used to portray Scrooge's awakening, taking him from darkness into the light of self-awareness.
- There is a shift in focus from Scrooge as an individual to the family of which he is a member.

Notes: Division I students may find the special effects startling and the theme of ghosts frightening.

WORLD PREMIERE - MUSICAL

BEYOND EDEN

by Bruce Ruddell

Hidden along the remote shores of the Queen Charlotte Islands, mysterious totem poles stand silent and forgotten. When a team of museum anthropologists embark on a controversial mission to remove the poles in the 1950's, one man's obsession leads him on a personal journey to where the Spirit lives. Based on actual events, this rock-inspired musical mixes ancient Haida tradition with modern theatricality to create a breathtaking story of loss and discovery.

We are proud to be premiering this musical as part of the Olympic celebrations. Starring John Mann, of Spirit of the West fame, this is a magical celebration of Haida culture. Combining modern sounds with traditional Haida songs, this original musical is the heart of our season. – Dennis Garnhum

This production is a co-production with the Playhouse Theatre (Vancouver) and will be presented as part of the Vancouver 2010 Cultural Olympiad.

Beyond Eden was developed as part of Theatre Calgary's FUSE Play Development Program.

Recommended for Grades: 9-12

Curriculum connections:

ELA: General Outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5

Drama: Goal I, III

CALM: General Objective I Personal Choice p.1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10

Science: Refer to Aboriginal perspectives

Division 4 ITC Outcomes: Communicating, Inquiring, Decision Making and Problem Solving

Music: Music as a means to express human feelings and values, history and culture of music, aural recognition and the elements of structures

Art: Interpret and make sense of visual literacy, art reflects and affects cultural character

Aboriginal Studies: Theme I-Origin and Settlement Policies Specific objectives 1, 2

Theme II-Aboriginal Worldviews Specific objectives 1, 2, 3

Anthropology: Theme 5

Geography: The interdependence among peoples, respect for similarities and differences among people

History: Understanding of Canadian history

Religious Studies: Concept and meaning of religious ethics and the need to search for meaning

MODERN CLASSIC

BETRAYAL

By Harold Pinter

Emma has had a seven year affair with Jerry, her husband Robert's best friend. Ingeniously unfolding in reverse, the nine scenes in the play begin at the end of the affair and move backwards to the moment the lovers first share an adulterous kiss. This love triangle reveals that everyone has something to hide and betrayal has more than one price. Poignant, and often bitterly comic, this play highlights the genius one of the world's greatest modern playwrights.

Beloved British playwright Harold Pinter died in 2008. We salute his genius with this special presentation of his evocative play. By telling the story backwards, he unveils deeper truths and contradictions hidden inside the betrayal. – Dennis Garnhum

Recommended for Grades: 10-12

Curriculum connections:

ELA: G.O. 1, 2, 4, 5

Drama: Goals I, II, III

CALM: General Objectives: p. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 19

Social Studies: Responsible citizenship—respecting the dignity and worth of self and others; Attitude—positive and realistic attitudes about one's self

Psychology: Theme 1 What is psychology?, Theme 2 Personality, Theme 3 Behaviour

General Psychology 20: Theme 5 Facing frustration and conflict

Related Themes:

- The nature of dark comedy
- Silence as profound sound
- Denial
- Infidelity (who does it hurt?)
- Acceptance of reality
- Complacency-the need to maintain the status quo/fear of change
- Friendship/ power and control
- Love/hate relationships
- Struggle for territorial dominance
- The search for meaning
- Disguises
- Self betrayal
- Hopes and dreams
- The language of infidelity
- Dissembling as a diversionary tactic

“H-I-L-A-R-I-O-U-S” MUSICAL COMEDY

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE

Music & Lyrics by William Finn, Book by Rachel Sheinkin

When a group of young spellers compete for top prize at the annual spelling bee, the tension mounts as the contestants cope with fanatical parents, dastardly sabotage attempts, teenage crushes and the horrors of puberty! The *New York Times* called this musical “irresistible and entirely lovable and riotously funny.” You’ll be “cachinnating” all the way down to your “sesamoids.” Each performance features special guest spellers, so the madness is different every time.

Our theatre will be transformed into a school gym for this new Broadway musical. It’s a hysterical premise with some delicious music. What a terrific opportunity to remember our youth, while treating our adult selves to some naughtiness. – Dennis Garnhum

Please note: This production is not suitable for young children.

Recommended for Grades: 9-12

Curriculum connections:

ELA: G.O. 1, 2, 4, 5

Drama: Goals I, II, III

CALM: General Objective 1: p.4,7,8,10,14

Social Studies: Elements of self esteem, maintaining individuality within a group, power, authority and decision making

Psychology: Theme 1 What is psychology?, Theme 2 Personality, Theme 4 Intelligence

General Psychology 20: Theme 2 Principles of learning, Theme 5 Facing frustration and conflict

Music: Developing insight into human feelings, value the uniqueness of music as a communication skill, elements of structures, aural recognition

Related Themes:

- Satire/spoof
- Improvisation
- Nature and effects of competition
- Healthy/unhealthy competition
- What do we mean by intelligence?
- Parenting
- The need to excel
- The need to be accepted in a group
- Identity
- Self esteem
- Healthy attitudes about winning and losing

Sociology: Theme 2 Culture

Social Studies: Response to the legacies of history, impact of history and geography, cooperation and conflict resolution, identity, understanding ideologies, respect for the rights of others, humanitarianism, empathy for others affected by change, the complexity of social issues, power, authority and decision making, culture and community, the Aboriginal experience, diversity and cohesion, individual and collective rights, the personal and emotional aspects of identity.

Related Themes:

- “Should we be taking artifacts out of a community for preservation?”
- Every choice we make has consequences
- Who owns art and knowledge?
- The historical and cultural implications of power
- The nature of power and control
- Man vs nature
- The dichotomy of good and bad; right and wrong
- The metaphysical, mystical, and spiritual world of various civilizations
- Uses of light and dark to create mood