

BELLA UNDER THE BULLYING BIGTOP

BRIGHT STAR TOURING THEATRE A NATIONALLY TOURING PROFESSIONAL THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

About our Production!

We knew we wanted to create an anti-bullying show for the spring and still make it as fun as possible for even the youngest grades...so we struck upon the idea of an anti-bullying play with a circus theme. Voila! We've created what we think will be a super fun experience for your young audience while empowering them with valuable lessons to protect themselves from bullies and in various bullying situations.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES...

Our anti-bullying productions have been a part of our work since our first season. It's an issue that is very important to us, having been long time bully victims throughout our middle and high school years. While we strive to empower your young audience with the tools they need to stop a bully, ultimately it's your care and work that continues creating a safe environment long after we've left. On behalf of bullied young people, thank you for taking their concerns seriously and helping to ensure a safe place for learning!



Circuses! A brief history...

Since the 19th century audiences have been enjoying circuses from under the 'big top' or tent. But gathering together to see acts of amazement, wild animals and more dates back to before Roman times. Ironically, the word circus itself is derived from the Greek and Latin words for circle or ring. The first modern circus was opened on

January 9, 1768 in London by Philip Astley--his first act was standing up on a galloping horse in a ring. Before long he was hiring clowns, other equestrians, musicians and constructing a roof overhead. By 1782 a second circus was opened just down the street by a competitor, and before long the modern day circus was thriving!



Here's a Cool Fact!: The Circus Maximus in Rome was built to seat as many as 250,000 people. This giant arena was designed to house wild animal hunts, athletic competitions, recitals, etc. It was a kind of early model for the modern circus.



DID YOU KNOW THIS?: A traditional circus ring is 42 feet in diameter, a measurement chosen because it allows a rider to stand upright on a horse and perform acrobatic maneuvers while easily maintaining their balance.



FUN CIRCUS FACTS: In the wild, tigers secure areas that range 75-2000 square miles! An elephant typically walks 25 miles a day! PT Barnum opened up his circus in 1871, calling it 'The Greatest Show on Earth!' In 1907, he was bought out by the Ringling Brothers.

Awesome Activities!

...
It's a circus show! So have fun with these circus themed activities!

...
Break off into small groups and have each group develop a circus-style skit or sketch that revolves around one of the anti-bullying techniques taught in today's show.

...
Draw pictures or write reviews on your favorite moments in the show--our actors love to get mail if you wanna mail them to us!

...
Organize classes in a particular grade to come up with a circus type performance that centers on anti-bullying themes and present them to the rest of the school.

...
As an acting game, find a wide open area--like a field or gymnasium--and have your students practice walking around like circus animals and interacting with one another accordingly. With the teacher as a

ABOUT US!



* Packed into a mini van, our actors are carrying on a legacy that began long ago of traveling theatre performers.



Our actors travel the country doing performances in every imaginable venue and space...sometimes performing up to 22 shows a week!

ringmaster, have your students practice other circus skills: imaginary walking on a tightrope, juggling with pieces of fabric, etc.

...
Make circus masks or masks of animals using paper plates, yarn and crayons.

Pull out a map of the world and figure out where different circus animals come from.

...
Learn a circus skill as a class--like juggling handkerchiefs or balancing balls on your face, etc.

...
Come to school as a Clown Day!

ABOUT CIRCUS PERFORMERS AND ANIMALS



It takes trained experts to care for circus animals! Can you list five things animal keepers have to do each day to make sure circus animals are taken care of?



Monkeys have been performers in the circus for many years. They are very smart, and can do many tricks. Have you ever trained a pet to do tricks? What are some good/kind ways to train animals?

FUN CLOWN FACTS

The earliest clowns came from Ancient Egypt!

Ringling Brothers Circus has a special clown college!

In the circus, each clown has a special name and costume. No two clowns are exactly alike!

Some clowns tell jokes and talk to the audience, but some clowns never speak at all. They use physical humor.

IDEAS FOR



YOU!

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP STOP BULLYING!

Box It Up! Place a box in an accessible location that allows students to anonymously report bullying incidents

Zero In! Create a zero-tolerance zone around the school.

Empower Them: It's a brave act to acknowledge to an adult there's a bullying problem. If someone reports it to you, please follow through to ensure the issue is handled.

Keep It Up! Assemblies, school activities and other things that reinforce the message are very helpful.

Share It! Share your own experiences with students--it's important to know that while all people deal with bullying, it's still not OK.

Celebrate Diversity
Bullying often results from people not understanding or being uncomfortable around people who are different. Work to celebrate diversity and embrace each person's uniqueness.

Effective Anti-bullying Techniques



HOW TO DEAL WITH BULLIES...HERE ARE SOME OF THE KEY METHODS!

- * Tell an adult. It's certainly not tattling to let an adult know that someone is picking on you.
- * Walk away from the bully. Surround yourself with friends and stay away from people who are bullies.
- * If you see someone being bullied, help them by telling an adult or standing up for them.
- * Write down everything that happens and turn it over to an adult so they'll know where, when, why, how and what happened...
- * Don't fight back. Fighting back only escalates the situation, it's better to remove yourself from the area or situation if possible. It's helpful to be and look confident and assertive though.
- * Remember NObody deserves to be picked on.
- * Remember you will feel all kinds of emotions if you're being bullied, those feelings are okay to have, just learn to deal with them in effective ways.
- * If you're in danger, run!
- * Remember everyone has to deal with bullies every now and then, it's important that you realize this is only a temporary situation and that lots of people love and support you.
- * Take time to have fun with people that make you feel great about yourself!

Facts!

8-11 year olds said that bullying was a problem at their school

74%

Percent of 8th graders who stay home each month because of bullies

7%

Students identified as bullies by 8th grade with criminal charges by the time they're 24

60%

Attending the Theatre!



Is it your first time with LIVE THEATRE?

Attending the theatre is very different than going to the movies or watching television. For one thing, the actors are real people who can hear and see everything that's happening in the audience. It's important to know a few rules before seeing a play:

1. Please be quiet and respectful during the performance so that those around

you can hear what is happening.

2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh.
3. If the actors ask you a question, respond! Volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!

PROPS/COSTUMES!

Did you know the things that actors carry with them on stage are called props? What are some of the props from the show?

Costumes are the clothing that the actors wear during a show. What were some of your favorite costumes from the production?

GOOD THEATRE TERMS TO KNOW!

Actors: The people on-stage performing for you today!

Director: The person who made the show come to life working with the actors and the script.

Script: Everything the actors said today was written down in a script!

Backdrops: The setting painted on the fabric that created the background.

Backstage: The area behind the set, where the actors can change costumes, etc.

Audience: The most important part of the play. You!

FUN ACTIVITY!

Create a circus of compliments! Have every student place a sheet of paper and a pencil on their desk. Then, students should rotate around the room, writing compliments to their classmates on their papers. At the end, let everyone return to their desks and read what their friends and fellow students think is great about them!

ABOUT US!

This is just one of the more than 20 productions that Bright Star tours each season. We invite you to visit our website for information on all of our literary, curriculum and character education based programs. Our company serves nearly 1000 audiences annually with professional theatre. Please connect with us anytime about your experience: david@brightstartheatre.com

WE THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for making the arts part of your young person's experience!

WE LOVE MAIL!

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This production made its debut in January 2013

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