Yuki and the Elephant

Presented by
The Graduate Program in Educational Theatre
at The City College of New York
Dear Teacher,

Friendship! Mystery! Intrigue! All words that can be used to describe *Yuki and the Elephant*. When an elephant revered in a town in Japan goes missing, animals and humans alike come together to help solve the mystery.

*Yuki and the Elephant* finds its roots in the traditional Japanese theatre style known as Kabuki. Along the way we meet zoo and town inhabitants who all have one thing in common: they want to know what happened to the elephant.

In this curriculum guide you will find activities to help your students familiarize themselves with elements of this performance including Kabuki Theatre and the animals and occupations that are represented in this production.

We hope you and your students find the activities fun, informative, and unique.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING US TO YOUR SCHOOL AND ENJOY THE SHOW!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email educationaltheatre@ccny.cuny.edu.
Learning About Kabuki Theatre - Activity

- Students should stand in a circle.
- The Teacher will introduce the traditional Japanese greeting: Konnichiwa (“hello”), students should repeat.
- The students will draw a fact about Kabuki Theatre from a hat.
- The Teacher will instruct the students to find a partner.
- Students should greet each other in Japanese and share their fact.

Some Kabuki Facts to get started:

- Each character wears elaborate, colorful costumes and thick make-up.
- At major climactic moments or the end of a scene, actors cross their eyes!
- Kabuki plays open and close with the sound of a wood clap.
- Kabuki theatre incorporates the music of a shamisen which enhances the sound and spectacle - making the actors seem to move more like dancing and speak more like singing.
- Kabuki theatre is usually based on a legend or tradition.
- The color red on an actor’s face signifies that they are “good” and blue on an actor’s face signifies that they are “bad.”
- Kabuki Theatre began in the early 1600’s.

- About 10,000 stories have been written since Kabuki began but most have disappeared, leaving only 200 that are still performed.
- Plots are usually based on historical events.
Animals from the Play

Snow Monkey
Live in large groups called Troops.

Lion
Can run up to 50mph in short bursts

Koala
Marsupials which means their young pouch.

Pheasant
Able to run between 35-40 a miles per hour.

Elephant
Largest land living mammal in the world.

Zebra
Stripes help them camouflage
Animal Statues - Activity

- The Teacher should review the “Animals from the Play” page (5) with the students.

- The Teacher will instruct the students to stand in a circle.

- The Teacher will instruct the students that they will freeze into statues as their favorite animal.

- Students should freeze into animal statue after a “3, 2, 1, lights up.”

- The Teacher can give the students Additional directions such as “your animal is sad, happy, etc.,” and freeze again.

- The Teacher should split the class in half. One group should sit down as the other group presents their statues.

- Students should be instructed when it is and is not appropriate to clap, cheer, talk, and practice during this activity.

- Once activity is complete students can fill in questions one and two on the student worksheet at the back of this curriculum guide.
• **Zookeeper** – Manages animals in a zoo

• **Reporter** – Collects, writes, and reports major news

• **Mayor** – Highest ranking officer in a city or town

• **Schoolchild** – A young person attending school

• **Chief of Police** – Top official in a police department

• Teacher and students can review occupations together. Another statue activity is encouraged.
• Once review (and activity) is complete, students can fill in questions three and four on the student worksheet.
The Teacher should brainstorm key words with the students based on the following question:

If you had a best friend who went missing, how do you think you would feel?

After completing this brainstorm students can answer questions five and six on the student worksheet.
1. What is your favorite animal from the play? (See page 4)

2. Why?

3. If you could have one of the jobs from above, what would it be? (See page 6)

4. Why?

5. If you had the occupation above and your favorite animal went missing, how would you feel? (See page 7)

6. What do you think you could do to help solve the mystery of the disappearing animal?