

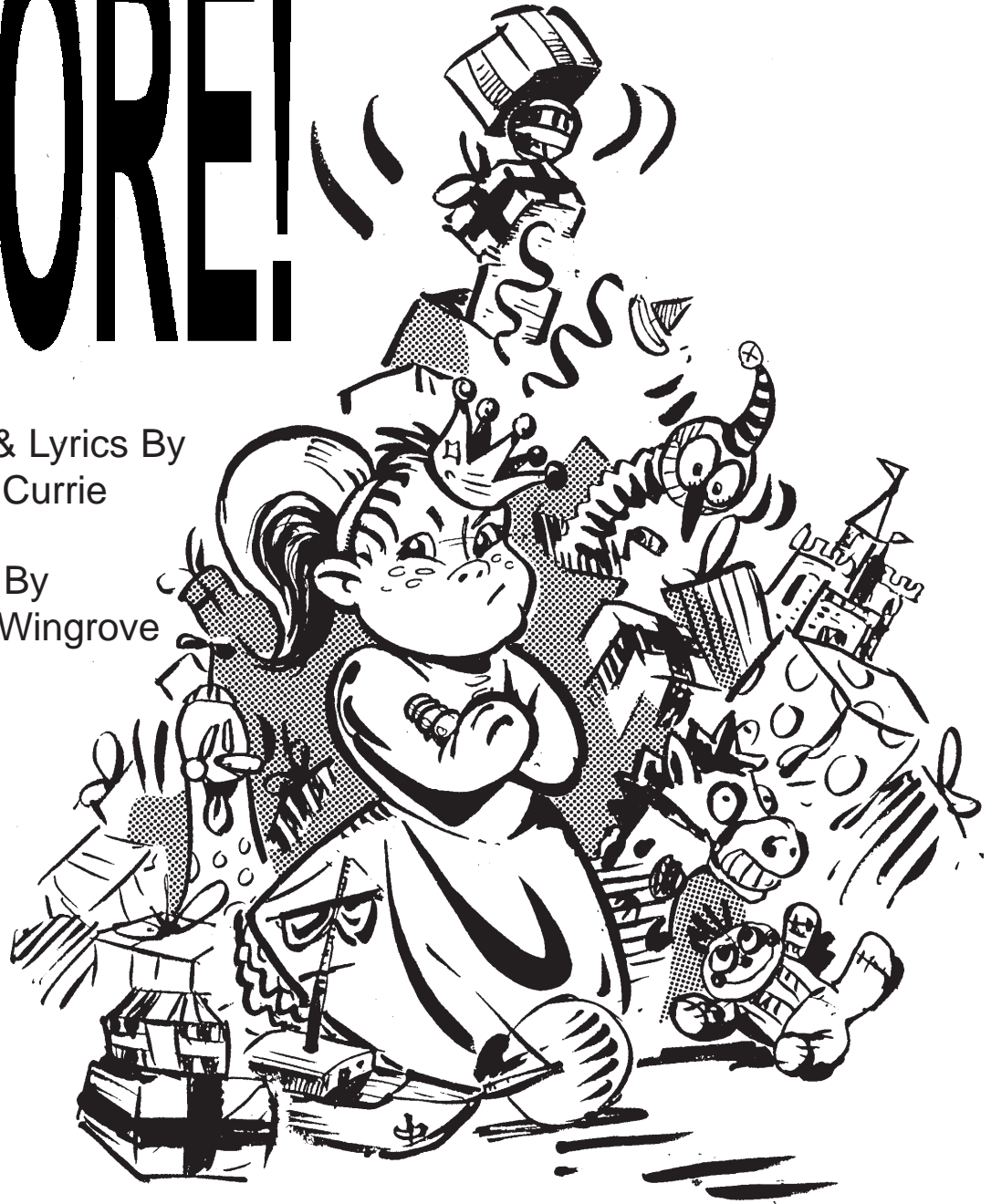
The Really Little Theatre Company

Study Guide For

MORE!

Book & Lyrics By
Thom Currie

Music By
Craig Wingrove



The Really Little Theatre Company
Professional Theatre For Really Little People

PROLOGUE

TO THE PERFORMING ARTS



AUX ARTS DE LA SCÈNE

MORE!

MORE! involves three performers, playing a number of roles. A wonderful and wacky celebration of holidays, love and the spirit of giving, **MORE!** will delight your audiences from Preschool to Grade 3, with music, dance, and comedy.

The Really Little Theatre Company is a professional touring theatre company that was formed in 1991, devoted to producing high quality musical theatre for young children. Working with only professional playwrights, composers, lyricists, choreographers, actors, designers and technicians, The Really Little Theatre Company is committed to keeping its standards top-notch. It is this commitment that ensures that our audiences are on the receiving end of a magical experience.

MORE! Production Staff

Director:	Thom Currie
Musical Director:	Craig Wingrove
Choreographer:	Barb Scheffler
Production Manager:	Paula Devitt
Production Designer:	Thom Currie
Musical Arrangement:	Craig Wingrove
Set Design:	Thom Currie
Set Construction:	Thom Currie
Costume Concepts:	Paula Devitt
Special Costume Thanks:	H.A. Piglet Productions Tarragon Theatre

Produced By The Really Little Theatre Company

For The Really Little Theatre Company

Thom Currie, Artistic Director
Paula Devitt, General Manager

About The Play

MORE! is an original musical play that explores the greed which surrounds gift-giving in today's society. The book and lyrics were written by Thom Currie, with music by Craig Wingrove.

The play involves three performers, who play a number of different parts. Set in a Fairy Tale Kingdom, the play opens with the King and his Chancellor lamenting that they are never able to satisfy the Princess' thirst for material belongings, as she constantly is screaming for more gifts. No matter how many expensive things she has, she always wants more. They determine that the best way to satiate the Princess is in the old fashioned way: a contest, wherein the people of the kingdom will bestow gifts upon the Princess until she receives the best of the best.

A mysterious young man named Joseph enters the kingdom, promising that he can give her the best gift of all. He and the Princess get to know one another, and he slowly gains her grudging respect. When she learns that he intends to leave the kingdom, the Princess becomes despondent, and realizes that she is going to lose the best gift she has ever received: the friendship and respect of another person. She confesses to Joseph and to her father that she no longer needs so many presents, as she has discovered the greatest gift of all: friendship.

It is important to note that ***MORE!*** makes little mention of any specific cultural holidays, and is suitable for audiences of all cultural and religious backgrounds. The words "Christmas" and "Hanukkah" appear in the song *Holidays* (Holidays are special days/ Days that are a special treat/ Like Hanukkah or Christmas Day/ That make the year complete). There is also a brief discussion of Thanksgiving in relation to the nature of holidays. The characters, however, are not given any specific cultural or religious backgrounds. The play, therefore, has a very broad appeal to people of various cultures.

Pre-Program Preparation Activities

MORE! is a musical, a popular form of theatre for all ages. The songs in a musical are used to express emotion, further the plot, and add a little pizzazz to the show. Some of the following suggestions will help prepare the students for the performance by making them aware of the role of music in storytelling and theatre.

Ask the students to think about their favourite television shows. Do these shows use music? How is background music used to illustrate or punctuate the story?

Ask the students to consider any music videos that they might have seen. Does the video tell a story? How does the music determine the kind of story the video is telling?

Ask them to think of or sing some songs they might know. What is the song saying? Is it a sad or a happy song?

Ask the students if they have ever seen a musical play. Or can they name a movie or a play in which songs are used to tell the story or express emotion? (*Beauty And The Beast, Aladdin, The Little Mermaid, Pocahontas, Phantom Of The Opera, Les Miserables, Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* are some of the answers to look for)

Post Program Enrichment

MORE! presents some interesting subjects for discussion, particularly around the holidays. Some of the themes presented over the course of the play are: friendship, sharing, deceit, honesty, greed, parental guidance, equity, and self examination. The following are some activities that might be used after the performance.

Wanting and Needing

In the play, the Princess confuses her needs with her desire for gifts. Have the students explore the difference between a “Want” and a “Need”. Ask the class what they would wish for if they were granted three wishes. Brainstorm, putting several answers on the board. When completed, ask the students to look at the list and determine whether their wishes are wants or needs. Give the students a definition for both, pointing out that they may want the latest toy but they do not really need it. Ask the students what they do or use everyday that they could not possibly live without (i.e. food, clothes, friends, etc.).

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Imagining Games

In a big circle, have the students make up a class story. Each person in the group is to contribute one sentence to the tale, and the person next to him/her must add to the story. The object is to get the class improvising and thinking off the top of their heads. This activity stimulates creativity and imagination, and can be linked to the process of writing a play such as ***MORE!***

Holidays

Have the students describe their favourite holiday, telling why it is a special time for themselves and/or their families. What does this holiday involve? Are there any special customs, foods, events, etc.? This is either a written or an oral exercise.

Letter Writing

Write and mail a class letter to the acting company c/o Really Little Theatre, 1180 Victoria Park Avenue, # 83009, Toronto, Ontario, M4B 3N2. Higher grades may send individual letters.

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MORE!

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET
please read carefully!

NUMBER IN COMPANY: 3/4
Company Manager: Paula Devitt

- ARRIVAL & SET UP**
- The company will arrive **1 hour** prior to the performance time to set up.
 - Please assign a staff member to greet the performers when they arrive, to direct them to the nearest loading area, to answer any questions they may have and to inform them when all the audience is seated and the performance may begin.
- FACILITIES & REQUIREMENTS**
- The performance is designed to take place in a **clear, clean area on the floor**
 - One electrical outlet close to the performance area is required.
 - All lights in the performance area should remain on for the entire performance, as no theatrical lighting will be used.
 - Please have bells, P.A. systems and noisy ventilation systems that will disrupt the performance turned off during the show and discussion period.
 - Due to copyright regulations, photographs, audio or video recording devices are not permitted.
- SEATING**
- The audience should be seated on the floor and should not exceed 200.
- PROGRAM LENGTH**
- The performance is approximately 50 minutes in length, followed by a short question and answer period.
- AFTER THE SHOW**
- The company will require **½-hour** following the show to strike the set and load out. Please ensure that no activities are scheduled for the performance area during this time.
- PROLOGUE OFFICE**
- If you have any questions regarding the technical requirements or program, please call the Prologue Office at (416) 591 9092.

Prologue to the Performing Arts

489 King Street West, Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario M5V 1L3