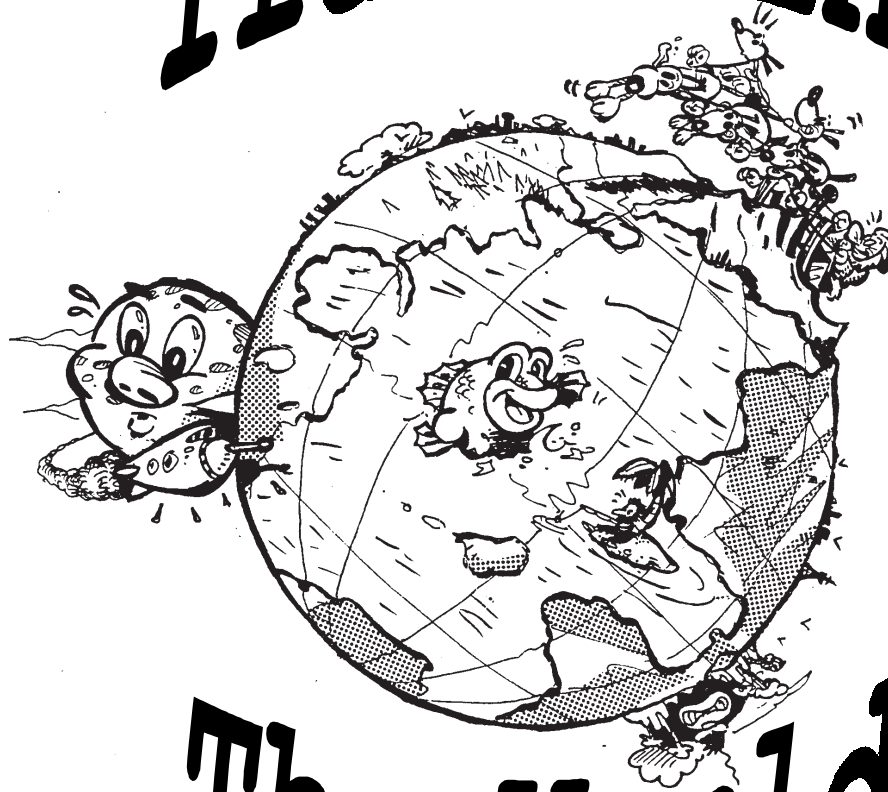


Really Little

T h e a t r e

Study Guide For

Travellin'



The World

A Musical Storytelling Show

Book By Paula Devitt
& Thom Currie

Lyrics By Thom Currie
& Steve Bloom

Music By Steve Bloom

Really Little Theatre
You Won't Believe The Fun

PROLOGUE

Travellin' The World

Travellin' The World is an original musical play which draws its material from different stories from around the world. The book was written by Paula Devitt and Thom Currie, with music by Steve Bloom and lyrics by Thom Currie and Steve Bloom.

The play involves two performers, who have each just finished a trip halfway around the world. They begin to exchange the stories that people have told them on their travels. Through extensive use of song, puppetry, dance and mime, the two travellers weave tales that have been told for centuries in different cultures and on different continents. The play ends up with the two promising to meet again, and share all the stories that they pick up on their future travels. A wonderful and funky celebration of folk-tales from around the world, ***Travellin' The World*** will delight your audiences from Preschool to Grade 3, with lots of participation, music, comedy and puppetry.

Really Little Theatre 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.

Travellin' The World Production Staff

Director:	Thom Currie
Musical Director:	Craig Wingrove
Choreographer:	Barb Scheffler
Production Designer:	Thom Currie
Scenic Painter:	Denise Frechette
Puppet Construction/Design:	Barbara Cassidy Ted Heeley

For The Really Little Theatre Company

Thom Currie, Artistic Director

Pre-Program Preparation Activities

Travellin' The World is a musical play, 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)

Read some different folk-tales from different parts of the world. There are many different versions of the same stories found all over the world, sometimes under different titles or with slight alterations to suit locale and culture. Have the students try to point out differences among the different versions.

Post Program Enrichment

Travellin' The World presents some folk-tales from around the world. Some of these stories may be known to the students while others may be less familiar. Some of the themes presented over the course of the play are: friendship, sharing, deceit, honesty, prejudice, equity, and self examination. The following are some activities that might be used after the performance.

Storytelling

Have the students individually relate a story that they know off by heart (*The Three Little Pigs, Jack And The Beanstalk, Cinderella, etc.*). Allow them to put their own little twists on the tales, without altering the basic structure of the original story.

In a big circle, have the entire class relate one story that they all know. Each person in the group is to add one sentence or one element to the tale, building onto the story. This activity stimulates the students to work as a group toward one common goal: the completion of the story.

Colouring Page, Crossword Puzzle, Word Search & Word Match

Folk Tales

Ask the students if they know any stories that have several different versions, based on cultures and geography. What stories can be found in many different cultures under different names? (*Mollyndroat* is the Welsh version of *Rumplestiltskin*, *Nail Soup* is the Swedish version of *Stone Soup*, *Donkey And Toad* is a Jamaican spin on *The Tortoise And The Hare*, etc.)

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.

The Stories of *Travellin' The World*

Travellin' The World is a storytelling play, wherein the actors, through storytelling, song, dance and puppetry, relate stories that they have discovered in different cultures around the world. Here is a brief description of the stories that may be included in your school's performance of ***Travellin' The World***.

Nail Soup

Nail Soup is the Swedish tale of a poor traveler who begs for food at the door of a mean, old woman. Having been told that she has no food in her house, the beggar declares that he will have to make soup out of a rusty old nail that he has with him. The old woman is fascinated, and provides him with all the ingredients to make a wonderful soup, thinking that she is learning an incredibly cheap way to fix soup out of a nail. This story, which evolved into the American version, *Stone Soup*, deals with themes of sharing and kindness.

The Brownie of Ferne-Den

This popular Scottish story deals with themes of prejudice and equity. All the people in a certain community are afraid of the "Brownie" (Scots-Gaelic term, meaning troll or faerie) who lives in the valley, even though no one has ever actually seen him. When a member of the community becomes ill, the Brownie must disguise himself to convince the doctor to make a house call, even though it means passing by the Brownie's own front door. Once the villagers look past their prejudices, they are able to see a loving individual.

Gossipy Paraska

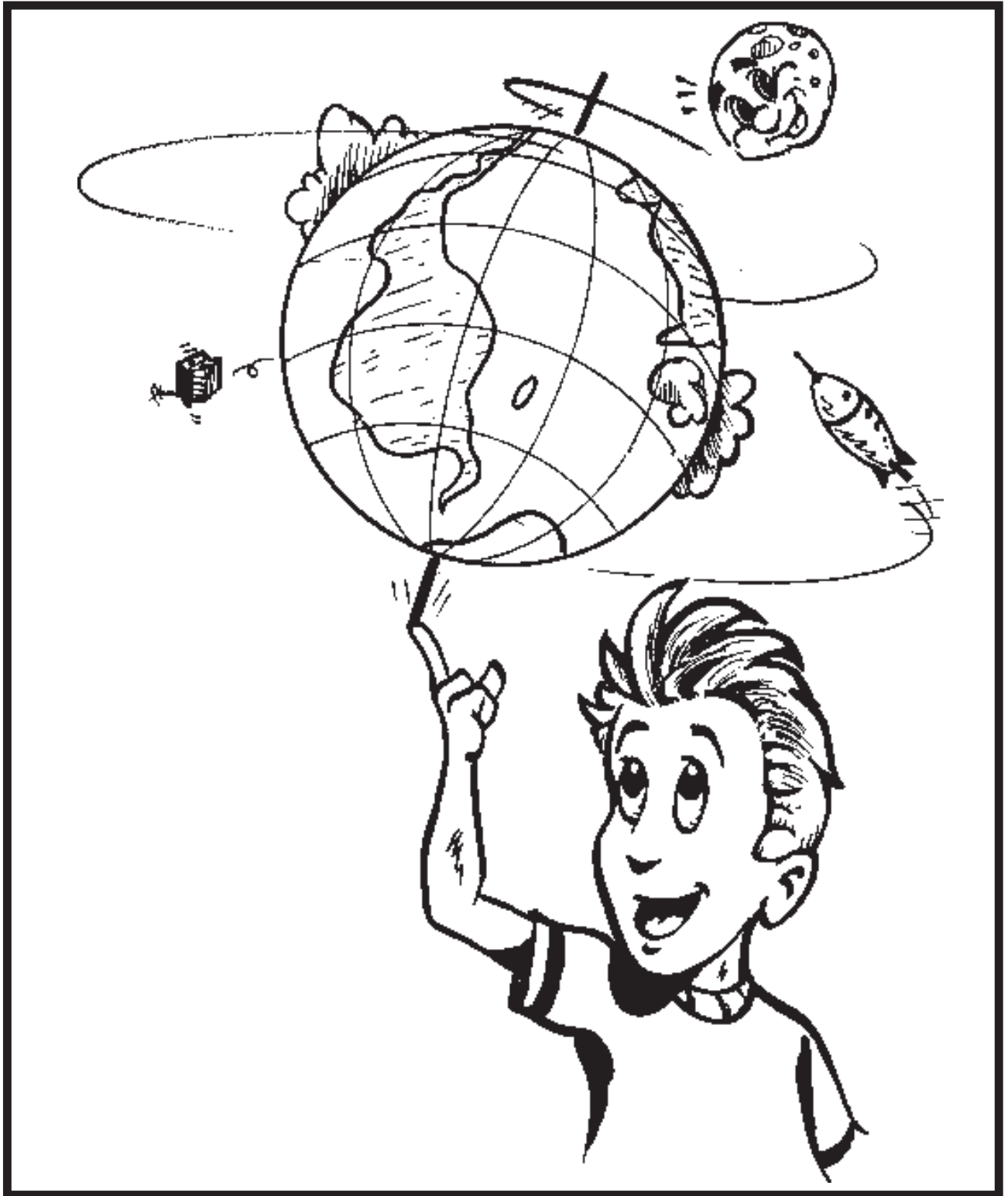
This Ukrainian tale deals with gossip and deceit. Paraska has a problem: she simply cannot stop gossiping. When her brother comes across a buried treasure, he concocts all sorts of ridiculous stories to go along with the good news, so that no one will believe anything Paraska says, so that they might keep their gold from those in the village who might take it from them.

Too Much Noise

This popular story shows up in culture from Ancient China to 19th century California. It deals with a farmer who complains to a wise old man that his house is too noisy. On the advice of the old man, he brings all his barnyard animals into the house, until he realizes how quiet it actually used to be. This story deals with themes of self examination and greed.

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Theatre



Travellin' The World Colouring Page



Travellin' The World

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The Really Little Theatre Company

Travellin' The World

TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHEET
please read carefully!

NUMBER IN COMPANY: 2/3
Company Manager: Thom Currie

- 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.
 - A standard, adult-height table 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

19 Duncan Street, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 3H1