Zeraffa Giraffa

Education Pack

littleangeltheatre.com | 020 7226 1787
John Wright, the founder of Little Angel Theatre, was born in South Africa in 1906. He travelled to England in 1935 and worked as an assistant stage manager for the Ballet Rambert while studying at the Central School of Art and Design. During this time he saw a puppet performance by Podrecca’s Piccoli and became hooked. John made his very first puppet in 1938.

In 1961 John and his troupe found a derelict temperance hall in Islington and transformed it into a theatre, designed for the presentation of marionette shows. It opened on Saturday 24th November 1961. This was to be the first purpose built puppet theatre the country had seen for many years and the only one with a permanent long string marionette bridge constructed backstage. The bridge was designed for puppeteers to stand on while they manipulate long stringed puppets who perform on the stage below leaving the audience unable to see the puppeteers. The original bridge is used to this day. The theatre has a traditional ‘proscenium arch’ and seats 100 audience members.

John Wright died in 1991 but the work of the theatre continued apace with family, friends and supporters working tirelessly to continue in his footsteps to make sure John’s legacy would delight generations to come.

“How did Little Angel Theatre start?”

“Over the next 30 years, the Little Angel team created and performed over 30 full-scale shows”
A True Story!

Zarafa was a female giraffe who lived in Paris for 18 years. She was given to the king of France as a gift from Muhammed Ali of Egypt in 1824 becoming the first giraffe to be seen in Europe for many years.

She was captured as a young giraffe by hunters and taken on the back of a camel to begin her journey to France.

A young giraffe is sent as a gift from the Pasha of Egypt to the King of France, but Paris is very far away...

With a boy called Atir to help Zeraffa find her way, the pair sail up the Nile past pyramids, sphinxes and temples and out across the stormy sea to a country where everything is different. No one has seen an animal like Zeraffa before. Can Zeraffa and Atir find a way to make this new place home?

Zeraffa Giraffa is an emotionally engaging tale that explores what it is like to be different. Based on the book by award-winning children’s author Dianne Hofmeyr, Zeraffa Giraffa is inspired by the astonishing true tale of a real giraffe. This brand new adaptation is told using beautiful hand-made puppets and an original musical score that will bring you along Zeraffa’s epic journey across land and sea.

About Zeraffa Giraffa

Zeraffa Giraffa is based on the book by Dianne Hofmeyr. The show is a co-production between Little Angel Theatre and Omnibus Theatre. “Omnibus Theatre is a home of storytelling – a small place to encounter big ideas. We are driven by the legacy of our former library building to tell stories, familiar and unknown, in South London and beyond. Our mission is to create theatre that has the power to inspire audiences, to change minds, to bring us together.

Omnibus Theatre nurtures emerging artists and new voices, presenting work that is ambitious and relevant. Integrity and rigour underpin the work we create and the work we commission. We are committed to making our work affordable and introducing it to new audiences.”

A True Story!

‘Zara’a’ was a female giraffe who lived in Paris for 18 years. She was given to the king of France as a gift from Muhammed Ali of Egypt in 1824 becoming the first giraffe to be seen in Europe for many years.

She was captured as a young giraffe by hunters and taken on the back of a camel to begin her journey to France.

A young giraffe is sent as a gift from the Pasha of Egypt to the King of France, but Paris is very far away...

With a boy called Atir to help Zeraffa find her way, the pair sail up the Nile past pyramids, sphinxes and temples and out across the stormy sea to a country where everything is different. No one has seen an animal like Zeraffa before. Can Zeraffa and Atir find a way to make this new place home?
"Zarafa" was a female Nubian giraffe who lived in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris in a specially built rotunda for 18 years. If you visit Paris today the rotunda is still there.

Zeraffa’s Rotunda in the Jardin des Plantes in Paris

A gift from the Pasha of Egypt to King Charles X of France, she was one of three giraffes the Pasha Muhammad Ali sent to European rulers in 1827. These were the first giraffes to be seen in Europe for over three hundred years, so this was the first time the people of France at the time would have seen one!

She was captured as a young animal by Arab hunters near Sennar in Sudan and taken to Khartoum on the back of a camel, from where she was transported by boat down the Nile to Alexandria. She was accompanied by three cows that provided her with 25 litres of milk to drink each day.

From Alexandria, she embarked on a ship to Marseilles, with an Arab groom, Hassan, and a Sudanese servant, Atir. As she was so tall, a hole was cut through the deck above the cargo hold through which she could poke her neck. After a voyage of 32 days, she arrived in Marseilles on 31 October 1826. Fearing the dangers of transporting her to Paris around the Iberian peninsula and up the Atlantic coast of France to the Seine, it was decided that she should walk the 900 km to Paris.

Her arrival caused quite a stir across France, with people lining the streets to see her pass by. Fashions of the time became Giraffe inspired as France went Giraffe Crazy!

FACTS!
- Total journey took 2 and a half years.
- She arrived in France in 1827.
- Died in 1845 at 18 years old.
• Mostly found in the dry savannas of Africa, roaming among the open plains and woodlands.

• World’s tallest living land animals.

• They can grow as tall as 5.5m

• Their height helps them look out for predators such as lions or hyenas

• They have excellent eye sight.

• Herbivores – only eat plants.

• They have very long tongues helping them pull down leaves growing high above them.

• Giraffes don’t drink much water as they get most of their water from their leafy meals

• Female giraffes give birth standing up.

• Giraffes live for around 25 years in the wild and up to 40 years in captivity.

• Giraffes have 4 stomachs helping them to digest their food
In the Production we follow Zeraffa on her Journey, which starts in the place of her birth, Ethiopia, and ends in Paris. She visits many places along the way.

Outline of Route taken

- Captured in Ethiopia. Taken to Sennar (Sudan, Africa)
- Sennar to Khartoum (Sudan, Africa) – walked on camel’s back.
- Khartoum to Alexandria (Egypt, Africa) – 2000 mile boat trip down the river Nile, Passing the Great Sphynx of Giza, the Pyramids and Egypt’s capitol city Cairo.
- Alexandria to Marseille (France) – 3 week sail across the Mediterranean Sea
- Marseille to Paris (France) – 550 mile walk.
Facts about the key places Zeraffa Passed through on her Journey

**Ethiopia—Zeraffa was born and captured in Ethiopia**
- Ethiopia is a landlocked country (it is entirely surrounded by land) in Eastern Africa.
- It is the 2\textsuperscript{nd} most populated country in Africa.
- The Ethiopian landscape is largely formed from a high volcanic plateau. It is surrounded on three sides by low-lying desert.

**Sudan Facts (Sennar and Khartoum) – Zeraffa is brought to the Pasha in Khartoum**
- Khartoum is the capital of Sudan and is also the largest.
- The river Nile runs through Sudan and Khartoum and has allowed the desert land to flourish and bloom for many years.
- Sudan has wo distinct parts, the desert and the Nile Valley - Stony, with sandy dunes drifting over the landscape.

**Giza and Cairo Facts - In the show Atir talks to the Sphinx, in real life they would have seen the Sphinx and the Pyramids on their journey**

Sphinx of Giza –
- One of the largest and oldest statues in the world. It is 241 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 66 feet high. The Great Sphinx guards the pyramid tombs of Giza.

The Great Pyramids of Giza –
- Pyramids were built for pharaohs (Kings) after their death. The Great pyramid of Giza was built for a pharaoh named Khufu.
- The pyramid stands at 451 feet high and was the tallest structure on earth for thousands of years.
- Southern Egypt’s landscape contains low mountains and desert.
- Northern Egypt has wide valleys near the Nile and desert to the east and west.

**Alexandria—Zeraffa set sail from Alexandria**
- Main port of Egypt.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria –
- The first lighthouse constructed in the world.
- The lighthouse was hit by several earthquakes and was abandoned before crumbling to ruins.
- The lighthouse is the third longest Wonder of the World to survive.
- Landscape is urban and town like, with the harbour that meets the Mediterranean Sea.
Zeraffa’s journey continued...........

Marseille—Zeraffa arrived in France at the port of Marseille

- City in the south of France
- Has the biggest commercial port in France
- Marseille is surrounded with limestone hills by the Gulf of Lion and also has rivers around its city.

Paris - Zeraffa was presented to the King in Paris

- Capital city of France
- The Eiffel Tower was built in 1889, so whilst an iconic landmark it wouldn’t have been around during Zarafa’s lifetime.
- Central France consists of the Paris basin, which is surrounded by farmland and dissected by the Seine River.
- The King of France at the time was Charles X, who’s reign ended with the French Revolution. He escaped to Gorizia in Austria where he later died.

- A stuffed giraffe known as Zarafa can be seen to this day in the Museum of Natural History of La Rochelle, France.
Landscape Art

Throughout Zerafa’s journey to France they passed several different landscapes (see previous pages).

Walking Landscape

- Draw, paint, colour in a landscape of your choosing from Zerafa’s journey (e.g. – Africa’s deserts).
- In the middle of the page cut a horizontal slit, leaving at least an inch of paper either side of the slit.
- On a separate piece of paper draw and cut out a giraffe (or you could do a camel, or a person etc).
- Attach this giraffe to a stick.
- Place giraffe through the slit with the stick poking out the back, and watch your giraffe walk across the desert or chosen landscape.

Handprint Giraffe

What you’ll need:

- poster paints – yellow and brown
- paint brushes
- paper
- googly eyes
- glue
- decorative items
- paper plates/ trays for paint

How to

1. Practice the children planting hand and forearm on paper with a little bit of space still at top of page and to the right of the handprint on the paper (to draw head on)
2. Paint hand and forearm in yellow paint. Use paintbrush to paint a generous amount of paint onto hand and forearm.
3. Place hand onto paper and push down. Keep hand still for a few seconds and lift straight off upwards.
4. Clean your hand and then turn your piece of paper around so the tips of your painted fingers are at the bottom of the page.
5. Draw on head shape to top of arm print. Don’t forget to add in ears. Leave your giraffe to dry.
6. Decorate your giraffe with a brown pattern using either paint or tissue paper, our fab artist has gone for a mix of both! Top tip: you can use half a polystyrene ball dipped in paint to get the same shape repeatedly.
7. Stick on a pair of googly eyes.
8. Use felt tips to decorate fine details like mane and tail and add on any other decorative items or surroundings.
What you need

- Colour Print template on card (see next page)
- Scissors
- Coloured felt tips
- Googly eyes
- Tissue paper
- Glue stick

What to do:

- Print out our giraffe template from HERE and next page (or make your own using ours as a guide).

- Cut around the solid lines so you are left with just the outline.

- Fold down the central dashed line of the giraffe which runs from the nose to the tail

- Fold down the dashed line diagonal folds on the neck of the giraffe and then fold up the dashed straight line on the neck of the giraffe

- Fold down the giraffe's head and then fold down the dashed line on the tail

- Stick on your best pair of googly eyes! If you don't have any googly you can get even more creative and draw your own eyes on. What expression will you choose?

- Now it's time to decorate your new giraffe with brown tissue paper shapes, or choose your favourite colours and colour in with felt tips.

Other ideas!

Zeraffa caused a storm in France and many designs were inspired by her.

Giraffe's have a very distinctive pattern. Using this as a starting point design your own version of the giraffe pattern (could be done with a design computer programme). What would you change? The colours, the shapes?

In France many fashions and new products had giraffe colours or patterns. Design your own accessories or fashions which would not look out of place on the catwalks of Paris at that time! This could extend to household items such as furniture?
Creative Writing

- What would you pack with you in your bag if you were to take the same journey as Zerafa? How would you travel? How many modes of transport can you use?

This can be done by making spider diagrams as a class of different modes of transport, different belongings to pack etc and then getting each child to write their own story.

You could choose a completely different route as well.

This can also be done as a storyboard version where the child can draw pictures to accompany their writing. Get them to describe the landscape, the characters and anything they see on their journey.

- Writing about feelings/Empathy

How would you feel if you were Zeraffa, Atir or Sara? They all had to leave their homes and family behind them.

How would you help yourself to remember the place and people you had left behind?

Write a diary entry as one of these characters describing the feelings you have associated with their story of leaving home.

Write a letter home describing where you are now and how you feel.

Imagine you are someone in France seeing a giraffe walk through your town or village! Write a diary entry or letter describing the excitement this would have caused and the sights you saw. How would you describe a creature as strange as a giraffe to someone who has also never seen one before!
About Little Angel Theatre
www.littleangeltheatre.com

Books

Zeraffa Giraffa
Originally published: 7 April 2014
Author: Dianne Hofmeyr
Illustrator: Jane Ray

The Giraffe that Walked to Paris
Published on Jun 20, 2015
By Nancy Milton. Historical fiction about an early 1800's gift from Egypt to France that included a Giraffe, cows, and an antelope

ZARAFA - Animated film
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe3MeJ9qUaY

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=little+angel+theatre&sm=3
Visit You Tube to watch trailers, clips and behind the scenes films of our shows past and present and see the puppets in action!

Two short films featuring Little Angel Theatre about the process of putting on one of our shows.

Also available:
Little Angel Theatre visual stories for children on the autistic spectrum
Puppet Making Workshops
Contact education@littleangeltheatre.com for more information.

www.facebook.com
Make friends with Little Angel Theatre to keep up to date with the latest news

https://twitter.com/LittleATheatre
Follow us on Twitter!

Contact: education@littleangeltheatre.com

Education resource pack written by Sarah Schofield, additional material by Deanna Mathers and Beth Warnock, production photographs by Ellie Kurtz