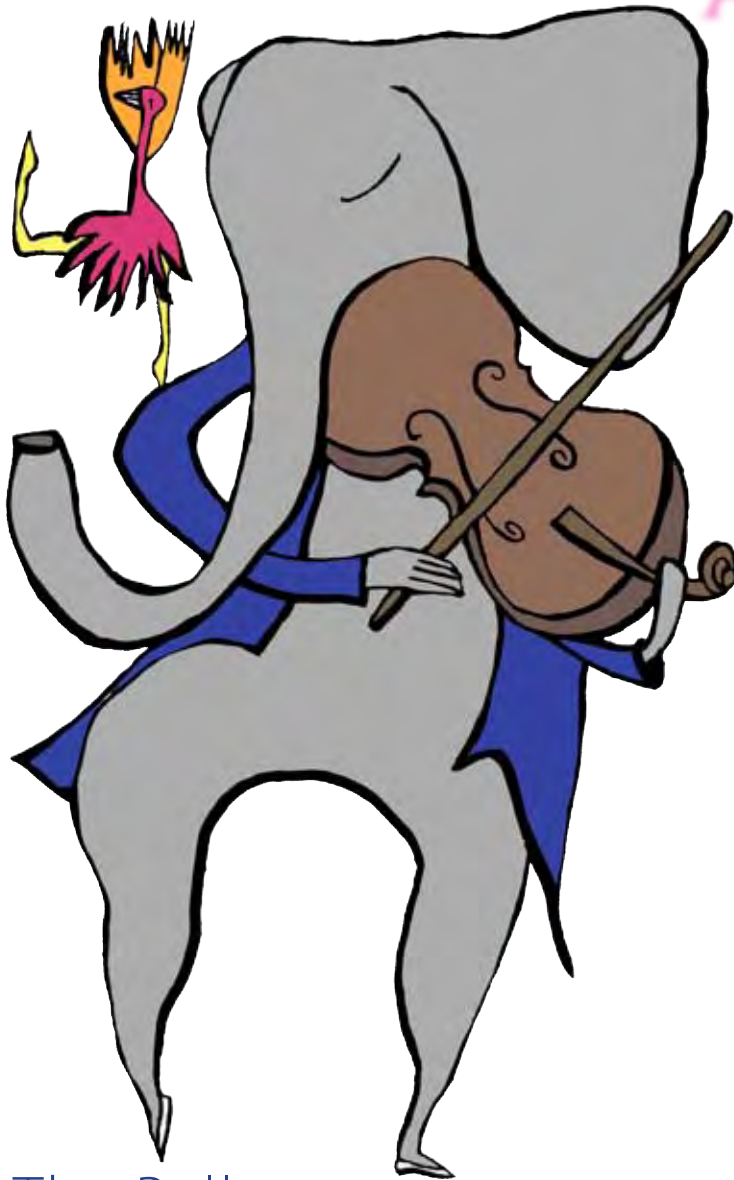




NYTB

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS



The Ballet

Choreography by Beth Storey Taylor

Music by Camille Saint Saëns

Costume Design by Sylvia Taalsohn Nolan

Set, Property Design & Painting by Gillian Bradshaw-Smith

Featuring the New York Theatre Ballet &

Children of Ballet School NY

(the official training academy of NYTB)

The Story

Two children wander into a magical forest ruled by Diana, Queen of the Forest, and her shaggy lion. At first, the children are frightened by the boisterous animals, especially when they come charging out of the woods carrying huge knives, forks and spoons! But Queen Diana makes her animal subjects show the children kindness and respect, gifts that should be given to everyone by all creatures.

The Music

Carnival of the Animals is the title of a piece of classical music written in 1886 by the French composer, Camille Saint Saëns (1835-1921). Saint Saëns was concerned that the piece was too frivolous to be considered as serious music and he only allowed one piece, *The Swan*, to be performed during his lifetime. He left instructions in his will that the entire piece could not be played until after his death. However, in spite of his success as a composer, the music he is most remembered for is *Carnival of the Animals*.

What is Ballet?

Ballet is a classical form of dance that began over 500 years ago in Italy and France. Today, ballet is enjoyed on stages around the world.

Enrich your child's theatrical experience by following this study guide before and after the performance.



Carnival of the Animals

Poems by Ogden Nash

The Lion

The lion is the king of beasts,
And husband of the lioness.
Gazelles and things on which he feasts
Address him as your highness.
There are those that admire that roar of his,
In African jungles and velds,
But, I think that wherever the lion is,
I'd rather be somewhere else.

Cocks and Hens

The rooster is a roistering hoodlum,
His battle cry is cock-a-doodleum.
Hands in pockets, cap over eye,
He whistles at pullets, passing by.

The Elephant

Elephants are useful friends,
Equipped with handles at both ends.
They have a wrinkled moth proof hide,
Their teeth are upside down, outside,
If you think the elephant preposterous,
You've probably never seen a rhinosterous.

Kangaroos

The Kangaroo can jump incredible,
He has to jump because he is edible,
I could not eat a kangaroo,
But many fine Australians do,
Tose with cookbooks as well as boomerangs,
Prefer him in tasty kangaroomeringues.

The Aquarium

Some fish are minnows,
Some are whales,
People like dimples,
Fish like scales,
Some fish are slim,
And some are round,
They don't get cold,
They don't get drowned,
But every fishwife
Fears for her fish,
What we call mermaids
They can merfish.



Mules

In the world of mules
There are no rules.

Birds

Puccini was Latin, and Wagner Teutonic,
And birds are incurable philharmonic,
Suburban yards and rural vistas
Are filled with avian Andrew Sisters.
The skylark sings a roundelay,
The crow sings "The Road To Mandalay",
The nightingale sings a lullaby,
And the sea gull sings a gullaby.
That's what shepherds listened to in Arcadia
Before somebody invented the radia.



Try writing a poem about your favorite animal and send it to your favorite New York Theatre Ballet dancer!

Look, Listen, Enjoy

Watch the dancers

Look at the costumes and set designs

Listen to the music

Laugh when the dancers do something funny

Clap when you see a part you especially like

The Seven Movements of Dance

Every step in ballet is based on one of seven dance movements. These are movements which your body makes naturally. The French names are below with their English translation. Try to make-up steps that go with each movement.

Plier...to bend *Glisser...to glide*

Tourner...to turn *Entendre...to stretch*

Sauter...to jump *Relever...to rise*

Elancer...to dart

When do girls go on their toes?

Usually between the ages of 10 and 13. They must have strong bones and their muscles must be strong enough to support their weight on their toes before they get pointe shoes. During the first two years the girls only wear their pointe shoes for a few minutes at the end of their technique class.

Do boys study ballet?

Yes! Each year more and more boys study ballet. Ballet is very hard work and boys must develop great coordination, strength and athletic ability. Boys learn to jump high, turn quickly, lift the girls and they need to make it all look easy!



Activities to do with your children after the performance:

Making Masks

1. Make a list of the animals and characters in the ballet.
2. Find your supplies.
 - a. Paper plates
 - b. Popsicle sticks
 - c. Construction paper
 - d. Paint
 - e. Tissue paper
 - f. Yarn
 - g. Cotton balls
 - h. Buttons
 - i. Glue
3. Before you begin, talk together about the characters in the ballet, and then make your masks using all of your supplies!



Charades

Discuss how the dancers conveyed the feelings of the animals in *Carnival of the Animals* without talking.

Make index cards with drawings of the animal characters.

Without looking, chose a card. Act out the character on your card, and the other players can guess which animal you're portraying.

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