

A/MFA

PRESENTS



CORDUROY

Play Guide

NOVEMBER 25 – DECEMBER 23, 2023

BASED ON THE *CORDUROY* AND *A POCKET FOR CORDUROY* BOOKS BY DON FREEMAN

LICENSED BY CBS CONSUMER PRODUCTS

ADAPTED FOR THE STAGE BY BARRY KORNHAUSER

MUSIC BY VICTOR ZUPANC

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH PLAYS FOR NEW AUDIENCES

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About the Show

Late at night while the world sleeps, a curious bear named Corduroy searches every inch of a department store in pursuit of his missing button. Leaving behind delightful messes, a Night Watchman is on the case to discover the origin of this playful destruction. All the while, a young girl dreams of bringing Corduroy home as a new companion. Don Freeman's beloved picture book comes to vibrant life in this fun and highly physical adaptation, sure to delight all audiences.

Published during the Civil Rights Era in 1968, *Corduroy* is one of the first mainstream children's books to feature a Black girl as its protagonist. With universal themes of friendship, belonging, and acceptance, *Corduroy's* timeless tale transcends barriers and reveals a heartwarming innocence at its center.

AGES: 3 AND UP / RUN TIME: APPROX. 50 MINUTES



Note from the Director:

"My love of children's literature was reignited years ago when, in my quest to find inclusive picture books for my young children, I found Corduroy. Freeman's Corduroy, a simple story of friendship and tenacity, quickly became a family favorite. Today, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to bring this heartwarming story to life through the magic of theatre."

-Verda Davenport, Director of *Corduroy*



About the Author:

Author and illustrator Don Freeman wanted to write a picture book about a character who explores a department store at night. How did he settle on a stuffed bear as the hero of such a tale? "I don't remember how or when a toy bear came into my life," wrote Don to editor Linda Zuckerman, "but he must have come from way out of my past. You know, I could just see a bear wearing corduroy overalls with one button missing ... the minute I settled on Corduroy and Lisa, everything came together." He chose the name "Corduroy" for his cuddly main character because it was once his nickname for his son, Roy.

- From "About Corduroy" at corduroybook.com

Meet the Makers



Cast



Ivy
McGrew
as
CORDUROY



Brian
Earles
as
THE NIGHT
WATCHMAN



Miki
Gaynor
as
MOM



Aleriya
Smith
as
LISA



Sarah
Nichols
as
STAGE CREW



Alexandria
Brown
as
STAGE CREW

AMFA Staff

Director of Children's Theatre and Performing Arts – Erin Larkin

Associate Director of Children's Theatre and Performing Arts – Chad Bradford

Children's Theatre and Performing Arts Technical Director – Andrew Shelton

Performing Arts Coordinator – Rivka Kuperman

Youth and Family Programs Coordinator – Liz McMath

Production Crew

Master Carpenter and Charge Artist – Frank Mott

Carpenters – Aaron Burnside, Paige Carpenter

Costume Shop Manager – Anthony McBride

Stitchers - Anthony McBride, Anna Brantley,

James Peters, Keegan Hines Escarre

Master Electrician – Andrew Shelton

Light Board Operator - Margo Gifford

Audio Lead - Luke Mitchell

Sound Board Operator - Jessi Perren

Assistant Stage Manager – Margo Gifford

Deck Manager - Brandon Nichols

Creative Team

Director – Verda Davenport

Scenic Design – Benjamin Kramer

Costume Design – Anthony McBride

Lighting Design – Penelope Poppers

Props Master – Margo Gifford

Stage Manager – Baleigh Almond

Imagination Openers



Check out the books *Corduroy* and *A Pocket for Corduroy* by Don Freeman from your local library and read them together.

What would happen...

While looking at an illustration in the book, talk about the character(s) and what is happening on that page. Who are they? Where are they? What is happening? How do the characters feel about what is happening? What clues from the story and the illustrations help you know this?

EMERGENT LITERACY STANDARD PREK: EL1.2 ENGAGES IN READ-ALOUDS AND CONVERSATIONS ABOUT BOOKS AND STORIES. / ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS K-5: RL.3 ANALYZE HOW AND WHY INDIVIDUALS, EVENTS, AND IDEAS DEVELOP AND INTERACT OVER THE COURSE OF A TEXT.

What does it mean...

...to be a friend? How do you feel when you are with your friends? Do you think Lisa feels this way with Corduroy?

G.U.I.D.E. FOR LIFE: UNDERSTANDING AND EMPATHY

Let's play make believe.

One person plays the Night Watchman, and everyone else plays Toys in the department store. The Night Watchman hides a button in the room and the Toys try to find the button while the Night Watchman isn't looking. When Night Watchman comes by, freeze! If the Night Watchman catches you moving, you're out. The Toy who finds the button wins! Switch roles and play again. For more of a challenge, be sure to move and act like the toy you are pretending to be!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION STANDARD K-2: PHYSICAL COMPETENCE, STUDENTS WILL APPLY THE KNOWLEDGE OF CONCEPTS, PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIES, AND TACTICS RELATED TO MOVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE.

Create and Share

Share your creations with AMFA

Illustrations in picture books are narrative art. Narrative art tells a story because the images are recognizable, happen in order, and show action. Help us continue the story of Corduroy's life with Lisa.

STEP ONE

Get creative.

Draw a picture of something Corduroy and Lisa may do together.

STEP TWO

Snap a snazzy pic.

Show off your drawing by taking a picture of it.

STEP THREE

Post it.

Tag us @arkmfa and use the hashtag #MYAMFA

VISUAL ARTS STANDARD K-8: CR.1 STUDENTS WILL GENERATE AND CONCEPTUALIZE ARTISTIC IDEAS AND WORK.



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instagram.com/arkmfa
twitter.com/arkmfaorg
youtube.com/ArkansasMuseumofFineArts

Theater Etiquette



1. Arrive early.

Arriving 15-30 minutes early allows time to pick up your tickets, buy concessions, make a final trip to the restroom, and locate your seats.

2. Turn off all electronics.

Lights and sounds from phones and other electronic devices are distracting to other patrons as well as the performers. Photography is not allowed during the performance.

3. Be aisle kind.

Say “pardon me” and “thank you” as you move through the aisle; tuck your belongings under your seat to remove tripping hazards; stand up, when possible, to let others move past you when finding their seats. Be sure to take all your belongings with you when you leave and throw away any rubbish on your way out.

4. Play your part.

Watch and listen; laugh at funny bits; applaud at the spectacular. Be present and in the moment with the performers.

THEATRE STANDARD K-8: RE.7.2 STUDENTS WILL EXHIBIT APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE BEHAVIOR.

G.U.I.D.E. FOR LIFE: INTERACTION AND DECISIONS



Continue the Conversation

Compare

How we say things is as important as what we say. Nonverbal communication such as facial expressions, body movement, and tone of voice help convey the feelings and emotions behind our words. Explore how nonverbal communication can change the meaning behind what you say. Say “hello” as if you are saying it to the following people: someone new, a family member, someone you dislike, a pet, someone you admire. How did your facial expressions, body movements, and tone of voice change?

THEATRE STANDARD K-8: PR.4.2 STUDENTS WILL SELECT VOICE, MOVEMENT, AND EXPRESSION TO INTERPRET A DRAMA/THEATRE WORK. / G.U.I.D.E. FOR LIFE: UNDERSTANDING, INTERACTION, AND EMPATHY

Critique

Barry Kornhauser’s adaptation of *Corduroy* included scenes about Lisa that were not in Don Freeman’s original work. Why do you think these scenes were included? How did they affect the story? How did they affect your feelings about the characters?

THEATRE STANDARD K-8: RE.7.1 THE STUDENT WILL ANALYZE ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL CHOICES IN AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE OF DRAMA/THEATRE WORK.

Create

Play the game Super Story Ball! Tell a story together about what you think *Corduroy*’s first day with Lisa will be like. Grab a ball, either real or imaginary. The person holding the ball adds one sentence to the story, then passes the ball to the next person. Remember that characters are introduced in the beginning of a story, a problem occurs in the middle of a story, and the problem is solved at the end of the story. Remember to listen to and build off the ideas that came first.

THEATRE STANDARD K-8: CR.1.1 STUDENTS WILL CONCEIVE PLOT, CHARACTERS, DIALOGUE, AND STAGE MOVEMENT THROUGH EXPLORATION. / ENGLISH LANGUAGE STANDARD K-2: SL.1 PREPARE FOR AND PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN A RANGE OF CONVERSATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS WITH DIVERSE PARTNERS, BUILDING ON OTHERS’ IDEAS AND EXPRESSING THEIR OWN CLEARLY AND PERSUASIVELY / ENGLISH LANGUAGE STANDARD 3-5: W.3 WRITE NARRATIVES TO DEVELOP REAL OR IMAGINED EXPERIENCES OR EVENTS USING EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE, WELL-CHOSEN DETAILS AND WELL-STRUCTURED EVENT SEQUENCES.




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AMFA members create an inclusive cultural space that inspires and builds community through the visual and performing arts. Enjoy many benefits throughout the year, including free or discounted admission to all AMFA programs.

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The taking of photographs or the use of recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited.