

**B.O.T.C.H BONUSES!  
TADA! RESOURCE GUIDE**

**B. O. T. C. H.**

**A MUSICAL FOR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY**

**Book & Lyrics by Jon Agee  
Music by Daniel Feigelson**

**Director - Janine Nina Trevens  
Assistant Director - Ceanna Bryant  
Musical Director - Gia Gan  
Choreographer - Kim Grier-Martinez  
Costume Design - Gabriela Contreras  
Lighting Design - Steve O'Shea  
Scenic Design - Joel Sherry**



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# ABOUT TADA!

## WHAT IS TADA! YOUTH THEATER?

TADA! Youth Theater's mission since 1984 has been to provide young people from different social, racial, economic, and cultural backgrounds with musical theater programs that inspire them to learn to be creative, and think differently through high-quality productions, positive youth development and education programs.

TADA!'s vision is that all young people grow up feeling successful, creative, confident, accepted, and accepting of themselves. Through learning the ability to express themselves, we believe that people can break down barriers of racism and inequality and create positive active citizens.

TADA! is a "non-profit" company, which means we rely on the generous donations of our supporters to support our vision. We abide by a set of regulations that all non-profit companies follow, like having an amazing Board of Directors that help support all of TADA!'s operations.

For over 39 years TADA! has provided opportunities for tens of thousands of New York City children, teens, and families to learn from, be enthralled by, and be inspired through the arts.

**99+**  
Productions

**183k+**  
Audience Members

**1600k+**  
Educational Arts Programs

**848+**  
Participants in Programs

# ABOUT B.O.T.C.H.

## WHAT IS *B.O.T.C.H.* ABOUT?

B.O.T.C.H. is a jazzy musical, about 7 youth and their adventures in the New York City subway system. The show begins with the members of B.O.T.C.H. (Bureau Of Turmoil, Chaos, and Headaches) introducing the audience to the Land Below. From there, we meet Sandy and Russell, two regular New York siblings, who are on their way to their aunt's for a holiday party, albeit begrudgingly. We then meet Hugo and Madeleine, two rich friends from the Upper East Side, who are having their first ever subway ride. Finally we meet Shneezer, Beezer, and Peg - tourists from Buffalo, NY on their way to the Nutcracker. The entire group is informed that their train is out of service and receives confusing directions on how to transfer to the "R" train.

Hugo and Madeline wander into an underground painting studio where they meet Bruce, a rat who likes painting portraits of cheese, and his friends Bert and Bridget. At first, Bruce is worried that Hugo and Madeline are there to hurt him, because they're New Yorkers, and he's "just a rat!" Bruce tells Hugo and Madeline that he's sure he will never amount to anything because he's "just a rat," even though he has big dreams. Hugo and Madeline assure him that he has a lot of talent, and Hugo buys two of his paintings.

Sandy and Russel find themselves in the basement of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in an Ancient Egypt exhibit. The two meet a family of mummified people who were "excavated" and taken away from their original burial site. The three sisters sing and dance about their childhood and all the fun times they used to have back in Egypt.

Lost deep in the subway system, Schneezer, Beezer, and Peg are close to giving up hope that they will find the R train! Peg spots a door, and the three move through it to find themselves now in the headquarters of B.O.T.C.H.! They meet the Boss who tells them about how B.O.T.C.H. is employed by the city of New York to cause chaos 24 hours of the day. They all sing about how this is a far cry from the comfy and quiet suburbs that Schneezer, Beezer, and Peg are used to, but it's one of the things that makes New York City so special and exciting.

At last, the three parties make their way to the R train platform. They trade stories, at first not believing one another, until the rats, mummified people, and members of B.O.T.C.H. reveal themselves. Together, they all celebrate how this kind of adventure is special purely to New York City. In a moment of true New York City spirit, Hugo and Madeline give the tourists their spots at the Waldorf Gala they were headed to, so they can now take Russell and Sandy's spot at their aunt's dinner, and the three Buffalo tourists give Russell and Sandy their tickets to the Nutcracker. The R train pulls up, and everyone takes off on their own adventures!

# ABOUT B.O.T.C.H.

## B.O.T.C.H. THROUGH THE YEARS

Did you know this is actually the fourth time that TADA! has produced B.O.T.C.H.? Check out the photos down below.

See anyone you recognize?



*Do you recognize RYET  
Alumni Jordan Peele?*



*Can you spot RYET Alumni Julia  
Jordan Kamanda - Composer of  
Common Ground ?*



# INTERVIEW

## AN INTERVIEW WITH DAN AND JON

*I was fortunate enough to sit down with Dan Feigelson and Jon Agee, the creators of B.O.T.C.H. and ask them about what it was like to make the show, what it means to them, and how it holds up more than 30 years later!*

**Q: Dan, you're the composer of B.O.T.C.H. and Jon, you wrote the book and lyrics. What does that mean? What were your responsibilities in creating the show?**

**DF:** Good question! The composer in a musical is the person who writes the music - the tunes for the songs. With *B.O.T.C.H.* Jon and I came up with an idea for a show together. Even though my main job was to write the music, Jon and I talked a lot through the process of writing *B.O.T.C.H.* Sometimes I would come up with a melody and Jon would fit words to it. Sometimes Jon would write words, and I would write a melody to it.

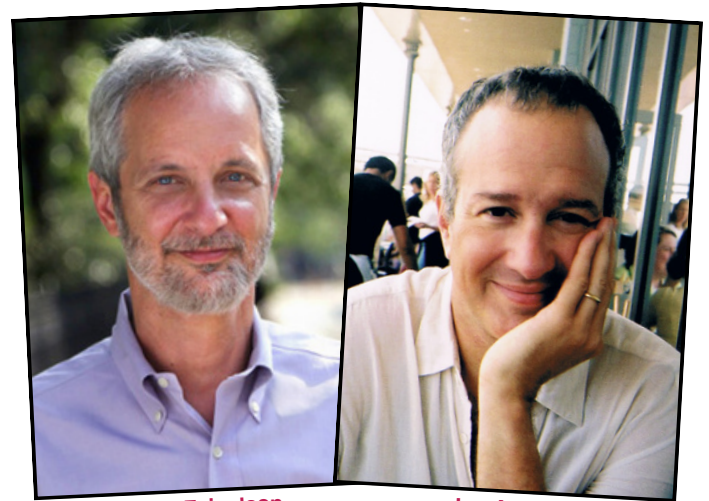
**JA:** We scoped out the show and figured out where songs were going to land. And then it was kind of on me to sketch out the lyrics to kind of establish the subject matter, the focus of the song. Dan took those lyrics and then came back to me with the music. And then we took it from there!

**Q: Dan - B.O.T.C.H. has such a fun, jazzy style of music. As the composer, what led you to this genre of composition for this show? What does Jazz have to do with New York City?**

**DF:** I think jazz is the music of New York City. It's the music that encapsulates the spirit and rhythms and the soul of New York City. Jazz started in New Orleans, but really from the 30s or 40s on, the center for jazz was in New York. When I feel the rhythms of the subway, the rhythms of walking around the streets, those are jazz rhythms to me. When I think of New York, I think of Jazz. For this show, it felt appropriate. And Jazz is not just one thing. When you think about *B.O.T.C.H.*, "The Land Below" is a *mysterioso* (or mysterious sounding) song, "Nobody's Seen Them Since" is more of a hard bop feel, and "The Hieroglyphic Shuffle" was more of a swing. I wanted to show the different ways Jazz could be. I think it's important to show that jazz is different things and jazz has different feelings.

**Q: Jon - For writing the book and lyrics of B.O.T.C.H., how was it different from other projects you've worked on?**

**JA:** At the time, I had only written stories for children in picture books. In my stories there's usually only one or two characters. When we agreed to put together a show for TADA!, I knew it would have 20 people in it, maybe more! So I had to think of a story that could have 25 people in it and I had never done a story like that! I also discovered TADA! shows have guidelines, one of which is that there are only roles for children. Which was an adjustment as all of my children's books, up to that time, were about grown-ups. I had to think of a story that was about a large group, where no one character was the focus or stood out, and where they were all children.



Dan Feigelson

Jon Agee

# INTERVIEW

**Q: *B.O.T.C.H.* is such a fun exploration of how all these young people perceive New York City. What does this theme in the show mean to you?**

**DF:** Jon and I always intended *B.O.T.C.H.* to be a show about New York City, for New Yorkers, and for people who love New York. There's so many people and cool ideas floating around, but also NYC can be scary and confusing. We both kind of loved how it can be wild and unpredictable. We thought to ourselves, who is best at creating confusion and chaos? Children! So we put forth this idea that the whole thing keeping the city unpredictable and filled with ideas and joy was a group of children!

**JA:** I think *B.O.T.C.H.* is a love letter to New York City. I hope that audiences, even people from Buffalo, can see that. As soon as it came to be about something about New York, it was about drawing on all these things that are archetypes: the tourists, the upper east siders, the regular kids, and then down below you have the subway, the rats, the mummies. There's such a diversity to it all. I think the way that the groups all interact with all these different situations is in such a New York way. They're curious like New Yorkers. They don't just close their mind. I think that New Yorkers are open minded and adventurous.



*TADA!'s production of B.O.T.C.H. in 2010*

**Q: I know it can be difficult to pick a favorite, but do you have a favorite song?**

**DF:** It really depends on my mood! I don't have a favorite song. I will say that there were some songs that I worked harder at, and some that I almost felt like just came to me. "The Hieroglyphic Shuffle," for example - I was riding my bike in New York City, and I just started humming. And I hummed the whole song! And when I got home, I just wrote it down. That one just came fully formed. So I don't have a favorite, but it is rare when that happens as a composer.

**JA:** I would also say that "The Hieroglyphic Shuffle" is such a fun number. If you ever see the show, and to everyone who has seen the show, it's the one that sticks with them! I remember seeing the show a few times with audiences and people just love it. The fact that you have the fun song, the fun lyrics, with the fun choreography, it all just comes together!

**Q: The first production of *B.O.T.C.H.* was back in 1991. How do you feel like it has aged since then? Are there elements that feel particularly timeless?**

**DF:** It's funny, my partner and I were on the subway the other day and there was a subway delay. An announcement was made on the train with the message of: "We're unsure how long we will be here for. You have to get off here and get on XYZ subway line or XYZ bus to go to XYZ station and transfer..." anyways. I turned to her and said "...it's *B.O.T.C.H.*" I guess that unpredictability feels like it really hasn't changed. Sometimes being on the subway can be like, "Wow this is exactly what we wrote about"

**JA:** There have been plenty of revisions to the show over time, but the basic story is the same. As long as New Yorkers continue to ride the subway, I think the show can live on. The subway is the equalizer. The place where all different people ride to get around NYC.

# INTERVIEW

**As someone who lives in New York, I have seen B.O.T.C.H. hard at work every single day. Do you guys have any fun stories where you've seen B.O.T.C.H. up to some chaos?**

**DF:** One time I saw a loose horse running down the street, followed by a guy in a cowboy outfit chasing it! And apparently, I didn't even know that this existed, but there was a cowboy parade somewhere in the city and a horse got loose. It feels very B.O.T.C.H. to me.

**JA:** As a visitor to New York for the last 20 years, one of my favorite experiences is riding the subway. There's something immediate and powerful about being immersed among the diverse population of New York City, each one of them heading to an important destination. I know I also see them at work whenever I'm on the subway.



2010 Production of B.O.T.C.H.



1991 Production of B.O.T.C.H.



1997 Production of B.O.T.C.H.

**Q: How is working with TADA! different from other theater companies you've worked at?**

**DF:** First of all, Nina is amazing and she should be given a medal. The city should recognize her contribution. I don't think there's anyone in musical theater for kids who has done more in New York, and even beyond, than her. I feel like working with TADA! has always been a really collaborative process. I've done other jobs where you make the show and then turn it in and that's that. But with TADA! it's always been a dialogue - like we're building something together. It also feels like TADA! pays attention to the individual kids who are playing the roles.

**JA:** When we first wrote the show in 1991, we would go and sit in rehearsals and write notes, which we would give to Nina, who would give them to the cast. That was lots of fun. It also seemed so important, because as much as you think your words and music are perfect when you're writing them, seeing them performed is so critical. It was so great to see the young actors, how incredibly talented they were and are!

**Q: What do you hope the audiences will take away from watching B.O.T.C.H.**

**DF:** Be open to the unpredictable. When things seem scary initially, don't reject them right away. Maybe there's something cool you'll find when you embrace it.

**JA:** To laugh, to stretch their imagination, and share the joy expressed by the talented actors on stage.



# TELL ME ABOUT...

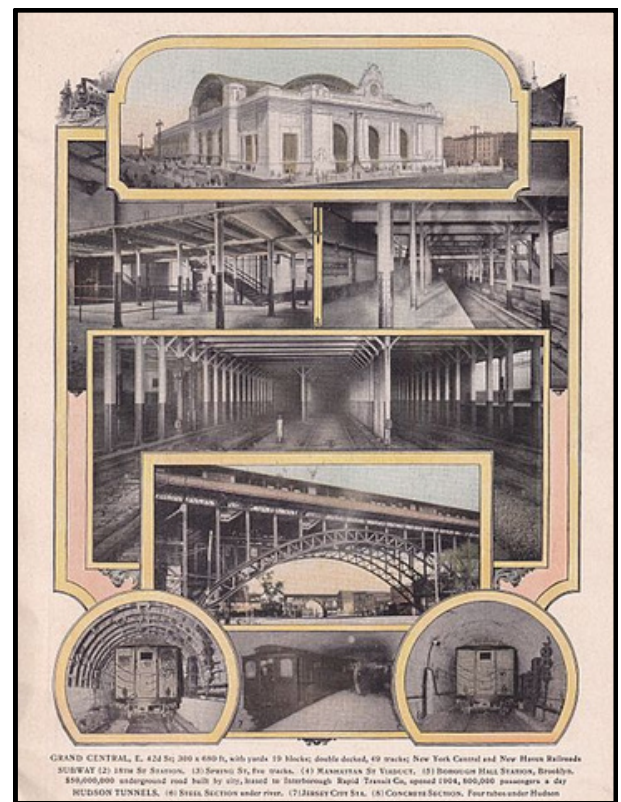
## THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY SYSTEM

*New York City is one of the biggest cities in the world. Nearly 8.5 million people live here. If you live here (or have ever visited) then you know that with all the people and buildings, there's not a lot of space left for roads. Because of how densely populated New York City is, there has to be an effective and efficient public transport system that can be utilized without creating more traffic or problems. Enter...the New York City Subway system.*

### HISTORY

Back towards the end of the Industrial Era (a period of economic growth and introduction of machines and factories that lasted from the late 1700s to 1800s), New York City was one of the largest growing cities in the US. In just about 10 years between 1890 and 1900, the population grew by nearly 1.5 million people. So the government was starting to wonder: "How the heck are all these people supposed to get around?" In 1869, an American inventor, Alfred Ely Beach, built an underground subway tunnel system as a test. His "Beach Pneumatic Transit" was only 312 feet and stretched under Broadway in Lower Manhattan. Not very long at all! In 1888, The Great Blizzard showed everyone the benefits of having an underground transport system. In 1894 plans for the construction of the subway were approved, and construction began in 1900.

The NYC subway system was initially operated by private companies like the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Corporation and Interborough Rapid Transit Company, though at the time, the city was still responsible for building most of the tracks. In 1940, the city acquired the two private companies, and formed the New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA) in 1953. The NYCTA's responsibilities were later absorbed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in 1968. The subway faced some struggles in the 1970s and 1980s, like low ridership, graffiti, crime, poor maintenance and delays. This was fixed by the early 1990s, though according to some reports, there is still a maintenance list that was built during that era that is still being addressed to this day! The annual ridership was at 1.7 billion in 2019, but dipped dramatically during the COVID-19 pandemic, and did not go over one billion again until 2022.



GRAND CENTRAL, E. 42d St; 300 x 400 ft, with yards 19 blocks; double decked, 69 tracks; New York Central and New Haven Railroad  
SUBWAY (2) 181st St Station, 125th St, Five tracks, (4) MANHATTAN ST VIADUCT, (3) BROADWAY HALL STATION, Brooklyn,  
\$50,000,000 underground road built by IRT, leased to Interborough Rapid Transit Co, opened 1904, 800,000 passengers a day  
HUDSON TUNNELS, (6) STEEL SECTION under river, (7) JERSEY CITY STA, (8) CONCRETE SECTION, Four tubes under Hudson

*Photos of the old New York City subway system*

# TELL ME ABOUT...

## THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY SYSTEM



*NYC subway system, above and underground*

### TODAY

Now, the New York City Subway system is one of the world's largest rapid transit systems. There are 472 stations, with 245 miles of routes, on 691 miles of railway track. Of the 472 stations, 463 - 467 are open 24 hours a day. It has maintained running 24/7, with the exception of some disruptions due to major events like 9/11 or Hurricane Sandy. There are subway stations that can be found in all five New York City boroughs. Of the operational stations, about 40% are above ground and 60% are underground. According to the latest reports from the MTA, approximately 3.2 million people use the subway every single day. At the moment, the subway fare is \$2.90 (back when it opened in 1904, the fare was only one nickel).

Maintaining a subway system like the one in NYC, takes a lot of work and money (in 2022, the MTA's Operating Budget was projected to be \$19.379 billion - can you imagine how much money that is??). The tracks have trains weighing as much as 400 tons running along them 24 hours a day, are exposed to a wide range of temperatures, and the portions that are above ground can be exposed to the elements like rain, snow, and high heat! So how do you take care of all of that carbon steel? A system used by major cities with transport systems all over the globe is by utilizing something called a Geometry Train. This is a train that runs along the tracks all over the island, with people inside of it, and uses lasers and video to measure things like track alignment, or if there are portions that are beginning to warp or become unstable. So next time you see workers repairing a portion of the track, just remember it's because a Geometry Train went through there and said, "Looks like this one needs to be fixed up a little bit!"



*Geometry trains hard at work detecting which sections of the subway need repairs*

# TELL ME ABOUT...

## THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY SYSTEM

*MADLINE: Now, could you tell us how to get to the R train? We're completely lost.  
(S2. B.O.T.C.H.)*



Official New York City subway system MTA Map, as of January 2024

# TELL ME ABOUT...

## NEW YORK CITY RATS

*When you think of New York City, what do you think of? What image do you see in your head? Broadway? The Empire State Building? The Statue of Liberty? What about...rats? It's not uncommon to see one scurrying around as you're walking the streets or getting onto the subway. In the year 2014, Animal Planet named New York City the "Worst Rat City in the World." Compared to other cities in the US, studies have shown that because of human population, public sanitation practices, and housing patterns, NYC is the perfect city for rats to live in. The number of rats in New York City can be tough to know for certain, but the most recent studies have shown that there might be as many as 3 million.*

### WHO IS THE NYC RAT?

The New York City rat population is predominately made up of the brown rat (also known as the Norway rat). They weigh anywhere from 250 - 350 grams (approximately the weight of a soda can). The adult rat can fit through holes as small as 1 inch wide, can jump 4 feet horizontally or 3 feet vertically, survive a fall of 30 - 40 feet, and tread water for 3 days. The average lifespan of a NYC rat is only one year. During that time, female rats can have up to five litters of 7 or more baby rats, or "pups" Most rats do not travel more than 600 feet from where they were born.



### ARE ALL NYC RATS THE SAME?

Great question! And to answer it...no! Not all NYC rats are the same. In 2017, a graduate student from at Fordham University named Matthew Combs, along with a team of other researchers, published a paper where they detailed how certain pockets of rats in the city are genetically different from others. They determined that "uptown" and "downtown" rats have different genetics from each other, as well as "West Village" versus "East Village" rats. Next time you see a rat up near the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and then see another one down by the Whitney Museum, just remember, they're not the same!

# TELL ME ABOUT...

## NEW YORK CITY RATS

### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH RATS? HOW ARE WE SOLVING IT?

While the NYC rat seems harmless, they have been known to carry illnesses which could make someone very sick if they came in contact with them. The New York City Department of Health is who handles rat infestation problems within the city. While they have realized that eliminating all rats from the city is rather unrealistic, they've made efforts to control how many there are through a wide range of techniques. In 2009, the Health Department began offering half-day lessons in how to help combat rat infestation problems at the "Rodent Control Academy." In recent years, the city has taken on more of an active and preventative approach – meaning they try to make sure the problem never even occurs. A more recent example is how in April 2023, the city started asking buildings to put their trash out closer to when it would get picked up. This way there is less build up and rats have less time to get to it.



*NYC Department of Sanitation's advertisements to remind businesses about the garbage time changes*

Also in 2023, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, who is an outspoken hater of rats, implemented New York City's very first ever Director of Rodent Mitigation, or also known as the "Rat Czar." Kathleen Corradi, a former school teacher and sustainability expert for the Department of Education, is in charge of figuring out how to control the spread of rats, and making sure infestations over the city are taken care of! To make a complaint about rodent problems in New York City, you can file a complaint online or by dialing 3-1-1. Want to know if a building you are living in or working in has been inspected for rat infestations? You can also check the New York City Rat Map that shows when a building was last inspected and if it passed or not.



*Mayor Eric Adams with Director of Rat Mitigation Kathleen Corradi*



*NYC Rat Map*

# TELL ME ABOUT...

## NEW YORK CITY RATS

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND RATS

Regardless of how you feel about rats, they continue to capture the awe or disgust of individuals across the internet every single day. In 2015, a YouTube video of a rat carrying a large slice of pizza down the subway steps went viral. "Pizza Rat," or so the hungry little rodent was nicknamed, received nearly 5 million views within two days. Of course, not without a little controversy. Some said that this video was evidence of continued poor sanitation in NYC. Others defended the rat, saying that the demonstrated perseverance and attitude was the same as a true New Yorker. In 2020, actor and performance artist Jonothon Lyons went viral for wearing a realistic rat costume and recreating the video. He blew up on social media as people tagged him all over the city, doing everything from scurrying up to people and jumping on trash cans. In an interview with VICE, he said he tends to get a lot of different reactions from folks, but at the end of the day, all he's trying to do is, "make people happy for a moment." Most recently in 2023, TikToker Kenny Bollwerk went viral for his late-night "rat tours" where he would take groups on routes near Rockefeller Center, as well as in Flushing / Sunnyside, Queens, to go and look for rats! He also streamed some of his adventures as he explored some of the most rat-infested parts of the city, with up to 10,000 people watching in a session.



2015 Pizza Rat



2023 Jonothon Lyons

*Check out the video of Pizza Rat for yourself on YouTube. What do you think of the ambitious little rodent?*



# TELL ME ABOUT...

## ANCIENT EGYPT AND MUMMIFIED PEOPLE

*For the longest time, “mummified people” have captured the fascination and imagination of historians and archeologists alike, as well as filmmakers and storytellers. But what really is a “mummified person?” What does it mean to be “mummified” and why was someone mummified? A lot of what we know today is actually thanks to ancient historians like Herodotus who would take really detailed notes during his trips to Egypt around 450 BCE. Modern day archeologists and scientists contribute to this knowledge as technology has allowed them to x-ray the outside of artifacts without actually disturbing them too much. There is so much we can learn from them, even though they’ve been mummified for thousands of years!*

### WHY WAS SOMEONE MUMMIFIED?

In ancient Egypt, the afterlife was a big part of their culture. They believed that the body needed to be preserved in order for the soul, or what they called the “ka,” to unite with their human spirit in the afterlife, or the “ba.” It was not something that was feared, and rather was a very sacred process. They also believed that the soul lived on in the afterlife along with the things that they were buried with after they passed away, which is why all their tombs were decorated and filled with so many of their possessions.

### WHY WAS SOMEONE MUMMIFIED?

Not quite. But close! When you think of the ancient Egyptian tombs, filled with jewelry and art and all sorts of cool things, that was usually done only for the pharaohs (leaders of Egypt), nobility, and high ranking officials. Mummification was a very expensive process, beyond the means of the common people. However, this was a super important process that was important to everyone - from Pharaohs all the way to the common folk! Therefore, most people would pay for whatever they could afford when their loved one passed away. It is estimated that over 3,000 years of their civilization, nearly 70 million mummies artifacts were made.



*One of the sarcophagi excavated from the tomb of King Tutankhamen*

# TELL ME ABOUT...

## ANCIENT EGYPT AND MUMMIFIED PEOPLE

### WHY WAS SOMEONE MUMMIFIED?

In total, the mummification process would take close to seventy days. Once someone passed away, special priests performed the proper rituals and the process they called “embalming.” The first thing they would do is clean the body with water from the Nile River, cover it in a special oil, and then pray over it and ask their gods to help take their soul to the afterlife. From there, they would work on removing certain organs that they were worried would decay, or get spoiled. Next, they worked on removing all the moisture, which they would do by covering the body in a special salt called natron. They would leave the body for nearly 40 days while it got all dried up! Once that was done, they would wrap the body in fine linen bandages, and for the wealthier members, they would include things like amulets and jewels that they believed had magic protective powers. After that was all finished up, the body was ready to be buried! They would be placed in a coffin (or sarcophagus), and all the loved ones would bury it, either in a graveyard they called a Necropolis, or in a fancy tomb for the Pharaohs and the rich.



*Egyptian artifacts thousands of miles away from their home country in the British Museum.  
What do you think?*



### WHY HAVE MUMMIFIED PEOPLE BEEN IN THE NEWS LATELY?

Lately, in the historical and museum community, there has been a lot of conversations about displaying mummies, or mummified people. We are now acknowledging that these mummified remains and artifacts were oftentimes not given or found under the best circumstances. Some were stolen by individuals who would go to Egypt and didn't hold their culture in high regard. Beyond that, people are starting to ask, “is it right to have deceased human remains on display?” Over the past few years, a lot of museums have been shifting language and are replacing the word “mummy” with terms like “mummified person,” or “mummified remains.” This is meant to change the way we describe these individuals and hopefully increase respect around them. Some argue that this is museums giving into “woke culture.” However, in the midst of this conversation, the question still remains, who's voice are we supposed to listen to? What we believed the ancient Egyptians wanted? Historians, archaeologists, and scholars? Modern Egyptians? Museum goers? Egyptian Egyptologist Abd el Gawad says that while we can't know exactly what the ancient Egyptians wanted, there are parts of it that are clear, and as she puts it, “and that doesn't include unwrapping mummies or displaying mummies out of the coffin.” The conversation about how to display these mummified remains is ongoing, and a part of a much larger conversation within the museum community about how we begin reparations on centuries of colonialization. January 26, 2024, The American Museum of Natural History announced it will be closing two major halls exhibiting Native American objects.



# ACTIVITIES

## STAGE DIRECTION GAME

*Left is right and right is left?!? Stage directions in theater can be confusing, especially for someone new. Back in the day, stages used to be raked, or slanted, away from the audience. So when you were walking “Upstage,” you were literally walking up! And vice versa. Left and right on stage is always meant to be from the actors perspective as they face the audience... but what happens if they’re facing Upstage? It can be a lot! Don’t worry. This simple game will help anyone understand how to navigate the stage, even as a complete novice!*

### WHAT YOU NEED

- An open space
- The diagram on the next page that shows the different locations on stage.
- 1 Director
- A group of Actors

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Look at the diagram that shows where the different stage locations are. Decide where in your open space the “audience” will be.
2. Decide who is going to be the Director. This individual is going to be standing in the “Audience,” facing the “Stage.” Everyone who is not the Director will be an Actor.
3. Have the Actors start at Center Stage.
4. The Director will call out stage directions by saying “Everyone move to \_\_\_\_\_.” For example: “Everyone move to Stage Right” or “Go to Upstage Right.” Have everyone quickly move to where they believe that position is.
5. If anyone moves to the wrong location, show them where they should actually go.
6. Do this until everyone feels like they understand stage directions.

### HOW TO MAKE IT MORE EXCITING

1. If you want to add a little more flavor: give your Actors some “character” directions. Instead of saying “Everyone move to Downstage Left,” say “Everyone walk like you’re super old to Downstage Left.” Or say something like “Walk like a dog to Upstage Right” and allow your actors to move accordingly.
2. Another way: give your Actors some directions that might be specific to them! Saying things like “Everyone wearing a hat go Stage Right, everyone wearing shorts go Stage Left.”
3. If you want to play elimination style: have everyone move as quickly as they can to the location the Director calls out. If they move to the wrong location, or are the last person there, they are eliminated until the final Actor is standing!

# ACTIVITIES

## STAGE DIRECTION GAME - DIAGRAM

### THE STAGE

<b>UPSTAGE RIGHT</b>	<b>UPSTAGE</b>	<b>UPSTAGE LEFT</b>
<b>STAGE RIGHT</b>	<b>CENTER STAGE</b>	<b>STAGE LEFT</b>
<b>DOWNSTAGE RIGHT</b>	<b>DOWNSTAGE</b>	<b>DOWNSTAGE LEFT</b>

**THE AUDIENCE**



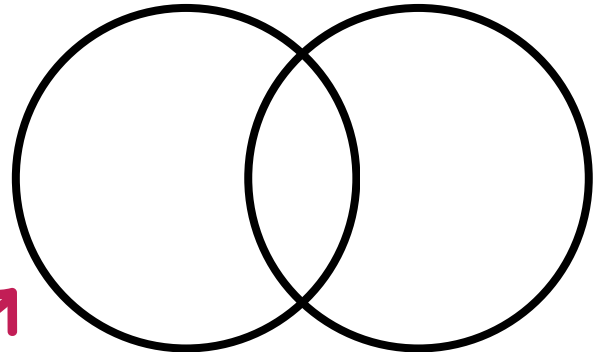
# ACTIVITIES

## VENN DIAGRAM - SUBURBS VS CITY

*In B.O.T.C.H., Shneezer, Beezer and Peg sing about how the suburbs are different from the city with the employees of B.O.T.C.H. But how are they actually different? How are they similar? A Venn Diagram is a great way to visually display similarities and differences. And as an actor in theater, it can be super important to understand these kinds of things clearly. As Shneezer, Beezer, and Peg sing about the suburbs, understanding what their characters LIKE about the suburbs as well as DISLIKE about the city can help inform how you might choose to portray a character on stage. It is always important to understand your character's point of view!*

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Paper
- A writing device (pen, pencil, colorful marker, etc.)
- A group of participants.
- The Venn Diagram Example



### HOW TO PLAY

1. Decide how you want to do this activity. Either split your big group in half, or have groups of two. Set up your paper and writing materials.
2. Draw a circle on one half of the paper and label that "Suburbs."
3. Draw another circle on the paper, but have that circle intersect with a section of the circle you've already drawn. Like the example shown here. Label that circle "City."
4. As groups, write about things that are associated with ONLY the "Suburbs" in the circle that doesn't overlap with the other. This could be anything - if you're our tourists from Buffalo you might say something like "green lawns" or "clean sidewalks." Write all the things you can think of related with the Suburbs into that circle.
5. As groups, talk about things that are associated with ONLY the "City." If you're a part of B.O.T.C.H. you might say something like "loud noises" or "traffic." Write all the things you can think of related to the City in the second circle.
6. As a group, discuss all the things that might go into that center section, where the two circles overlap. These are things the City and the Suburbs have in common. This could be anything like "people live there" or "there are roads where cars drive on."
7. Finally, now that all the sections are complete, discuss as a group what things make the City and Suburbs unique, and what things are similar!

# ACTIVITIES

## MOVE LIKE A CHARACTER!

*From painting rats to dancing mummified people, B.O.T.C.H. has so many fun characters. Playing all of those characters takes a lot of work. There's so much to think about: how to move your arms, your legs, what your face should look like. It might seem like too much, but this simple acting exercise can be super helpful for getting anyone in character!*

### WHAT YOU NEED

- An open space
- A group of participants
- A Director

### HOW TO RUN THIS EXERCISE:

1. Have the director move to a place where they can be heard by the whole group.
2. Get all of your participants set up in an open space.
3. Start them out with just walking at a normal pace. Dictate this pace as a level 5.
4. Play with speed - have your players moving around at different levels. Go from 5 to 10, where they should all be moving around as quickly (and safely) as possible. Then have them go from a 5 to a 1, where 1 should be almost stationary.
5. Go back to a 5.
6. Play with character - have them move around and exhibit different characteristics. You might say "move around as an old person" or "move around as someone who is scared of where they are." Feel free to use specific characters from B.O.T.C.H.! "Move like someone who is rich and snobby" or "Move around like someone who is really surprised and in awe of where they are" or "Move like you're in a dark space" or "Move like you're a rat." You can also play around with temperature and weather! "Walk like it's super hot outside" or "move like it just started to rain."
7. Go back to 5.
8. Play with both character and speed - have them move around as characters at different levels of speed. "Move around as an old person at a level 9 speed" or "move around as someone in awe at a level 2 speed." Encourage them to take moments to really inhabit the space. Maybe even build a scene. Ask questions like "why is the rat moving at a 9 speed? Are they running late? Are they running from something?"
9. Have everyone stop. Talk about the different characters and speeds they just performed and discuss as a group. Ask them questions how about their experience like:
  - a. How did moving at X speed make you feel?
  - b. What physical characteristics did you use to show X character?
  - c. Did you have to think differently to help create these different characters and scenes?
  - d. How did what someone else was doing affect what you were doing?

# GAMES

## FIND THE WORDS!

*Can you find all the words related to B.O.T.C.H.?*

### Word Search

R F Y L A N D B E L O W B W I W H Q O K  
Z L Q S S I G W M M V C U G Y F N P C G  
T K V Q A R T I S T I I R I T V O N X U  
M R C P E E M V Z P D Q E B U W Q R A Z  
W U A U X M G L E C E R A M R E K C C T  
T O S I D M V Y Y T Y U U U M R Y Z D I  
T P J E N L J M P E A R P M O N R V F S  
W A E J U V F V Q T P Y J M I X G U M W  
O E D Z Z M T K I B Y D Q I L C R Z R D  
V P Y A T G Z H G U C N E E Y D W K Q A  
E O S V P E R O L U P E X S O A K Q G Y  
K I D N X U V J W A U W C O L X N R L L  
V C P P E B L K B Y C Y Z W P B Z A E M  
F H G N W P L H H C C O F U C I M T P F  
V E I U S R N O J J S R J S L A U O G G  
C E F I I N Z I E H G K A J W H O Q R V  
E S L C H A O S G R K H Z I E H S C X V  
O E W Q J M A U Z J U I Z P W J F M X X  
R K L I Z K Q B O T C H B Y Q M H L F D

LANDBELOW

MUMMIES

TURMOIL

JAZZ

NEWYORK

SUBWAY

ARTIST

RAT

BUREAU

MUSEUM

CHEESE

TADA

BOTCH

TRAIN

CHAOS

EGYPT

# GAMES

## MATCH THE PAINTING TO THE ARTIST

*Bruce, the artist rat from B.O.T.C.H., needs your help! He has done a bunch of research on some of his favorite artists and painting, but it seems like he's gotten mixed up and doesn't know which painting belongs to which artist. Are you able to help? He has a few notes that might be able to give you some hints.*

### Johannes Vermeer

A Dutch Baroque Period painter who liked to show ordinary people in everyday life.



### René Magritte

A Belgian artist who liked to paint familiar objects and scenes, with unexpected elements.



### Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

A French artist who was well known for painting scenes of bustling people, sometimes at places like the theater.



### Berthe Morisot

A French artist who liked to paint portraits of people at home or in nature. Her works have a lot of quick and simple brush strokes.



# GAME ANSWERS

## Word Search

R F Y L A N D B E L O W B W I W H Q O K  
 Z L Q S S I G W M M V C U G Y F N P C G  
 T K V Q A R T I S T I I R I T V O N X U  
 M R C P E E M V Z P D Q E B U W Q R A Z  
 W U A U X M G L E C E R A M R E K C C T  
 T O S I D M V Y Y T Y U U M R Y Z D I  
 T P J E N L J M P E A R P M O N R V F S  
 W A E J U V F V Q T P Y J M I X G U M W  
 O E D Z Z M T K I B Y D Q I L C R Z R D  
 V P Y A T G Z H G U C N E E Y D W K Q A  
 E O S V P E R O L U P E X S O A K Q G Y  
 K I D N X U V J W A U W C O L X N R L L  
 V C P P E B L K B Y C Y Z W P B Z A E M  
 F H G N W P L H H C C O F U C I M T P F  
 V E I U S R N O J J S R J S L A U O G G  
 C E F I N Z I E H G K A J W H O Q R V  
 E S L C H A O S G R K H Z I E H S C X V  
 O E W Q J M A U Z J U I Z P W J F M X X  
 R K L I Z K Q B O T C H B Y O M H L F D  
 C W C Z A H H F R S U B W A Y S W D V B

LANDBELOW	MUMMIES	TURMOIL	JAZZ
NEWYORK	SUBWAY	ARTIST	RAT
BUREAU	MUSEUM	CHEESE	TADA
BOTCH	TRAIN	CHAOS	EGYPT

*Did you find all of the words?*



*Were you able to match all the artists?*



### Johannes Vermeer

A Dutch Baroque Period painter who liked to show ordinary people in everyday life.



### René Magritte

A Belgian artist who liked to paint familiar objects and scenes, with unexpected elements.



### Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec

A French artist who was well known for painting scenes of bustling people, sometimes at places like the theater.



### Berthe Morisot

A French artist who liked to paint portraits of people at home or in nature. Her works have a lot of quick and simple brush strokes.



# GLOSSARY

## WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN?

*A glossary of words, phrases, people, or places from B.O.T.C.H. to help you understand the show just a little bit better!*

**Armani (Ar-MON-ee):** Giorgio Armani is an international Italian fashion designer that makes expensive, haute (elegant or fancy) couture clothing and accessories.

**Avant-Garde (a-VANT-guard):** A term associated with works of art that are considered experimental.

**Aztec (AZZ-tek):** A group of indigenous people who were located in Central Mexico and Central America during the 14th-16th centuries.

**Buffalo, NY:** The second largest city (after NYC) in the state of New York; it is located in Western New York on the east/ern shores of Lake Erie and at the head of the Niagara River.

**Bumpkins:** An insult or term for someone who would be considered unsophisticated or socially awkward. Usually associated with someone from the countryside or rural areas.

**Bureau (BYUR-oh):** An office or agency for collecting or distributing news or information, coordinating work, or performing specified services.

**Cacophonous (ca-COUGH-oh-nuss):** a loud mixture of sounds that is often considered unpleasant.

**Caviar (Cav-ee-AR):** The roe (eggs) of the beluga, or other fish, usually served as an hors d'oeuvre (small snacks before dinner) or appetizers.



**Central Park:** A large park that takes up over a square mile in the heart of Manhattan in NYC. It is host to approximately 42 million visitors each year.

**Chaise Lounge:** a chair having a lengthened seat that forms a leg rest for reclining.

**Chaos (KAY-ahs):** A state of utter confusion or disorder; a total lack of organization or order.

**Cheese (types of):** Camembert, Stilton, Gorgonzola, Cheddar, and Swiss



# GLOSSARY

## WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN?

**Coup de grace (COO-duh-GRAHZ):** An impact on a wounded animal intended to mercifully end the suffering of the animal.

**Déjà vous (DAY-zha VOO):** A French expression used when experiencing a new situation as though an event has already happened or has happened in the recent past; the exact circumstances of the previous encounter are uncertain.

**Gala:** a fancy and formal event held by an organization, usually in celebration of some kind, that has performances and entertainment!

**Gomorrah:** an ancient city from the Old Testament in the Bible. In the story, it is destroyed by God because it is deemed to be “wicked.”

**Guggenheim (GOO-gun-hime) Museum:** The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum is a well-known art museum located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in NYC.

**Hieroglyph (HYE-ro-glif):** A picture / symbol used by early Egyptian people before they had a alphabet.

**“It’s Greek to Me!”:** A phrase that means the speaker does not understand what they are looking at. In this context, the Greek language is being used as a metaphor for something that is confusing.

**Ixnay (Ix-nay):** Pig latin for “nix,” which is essentially meaning “no” and is a rejection of sorts.

**Lobster Bisque:** Bisque is a smooth, creamy, super soup, usually made around the broth from sea based creatures, like lobsters!

**Louvre Museum:** One of the world's largest museums, the most visited museum in the world, and a historic monument. It is a central landmark of Paris, France.

**Magritte (Mah-GREET):** René Magritte (1898 -1967) was a Belgian surrealist artist. His intended goal for his work was to encourage viewers to become hypersensitive to their surroundings.

**Meatloaf:** meat that has been ground up, seasoned, and put into a loaf shape before it is cooked. Then parts of it are sliced or cut out of the pan it was cooked in.

**Metropolitan Museum of Art:** An art museum located on 5th Ave. at the eastern edge of Central Park, along what is known as Museum Mile in NYC. It is the world’s largest art galleries with a permanent collection containing more than two million works of art.

# GLOSSARY

## WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN?



**Mona Lisa:** 16th century portrait painted in oil on a poplar panel in Florence by Leonardo da Vinci during the Italian Renaissance. The work can be found on the wall in the Louvre art museum in Paris, France. It is perhaps the most famous painting in the world.

**Necropolis:** A large cemetery, traditionally with a lot of elaborate monuments.

**Nile:** The longest river in the world, through eastern Africa to northeast Egypt. The river has been used for irrigation in Egypt since at least 4000 B.C.

**Nobel Prize:** any of six prizes awarded annually for outstanding work in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, economics, and the promotion of peace.

**Nutcracker Ballet:** Based on the book called "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King" written by E.T.A. Hoffman. In 1891, Tchaikovsky was commissioned to write the music for the Nutcracker Ballet.

**Panache (Pah-NASH):** French word that means dash or flamboyance in style and action.

**Pharaoh (FAIR-row-h):** An ancient Egyptian ruler.

**Plaza Hotel:** A landmark, 20-story, luxury hotel on 5th Ave. in New York City. Previously owned by 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump.

**Rat:** 1. Long-tailed rodents OR 2. Slang for scoundrel or "snitch."

**Rembrandt:** Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, known most commonly as Rembrandt, is a dutch painter whose works are known for their dramatic nature and having a lot of contrast between light and dark colors.

**Rubbernecking:** a term used to describe individuals who might be staring at something, like an accident on the road. It's meant to reference the way someone's neck might look as they are turning their head to look at something!.

**Sarcophagi (Sar-KOF-ah-guy):** a stone coffin, usually associated with Egyptian, Greek or Roman culture. They are well known for their intricate designs.

# GLOSSARY

## WHAT DOES THAT WORD MEAN?

**Stella McCartney:** is an English fashion designer. She is the daughter of former Beatle Sir Paul McCartney.

**Subway:** A short tunnel or underground passageway for pedestrians, automobiles, etc.; underpass.



*One of these is in NYC, and the other in London. Can you tell which is which?*



**Toulouse-Lautrec (Too-LOOZ Loh-TREK):** Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec was a French artist who who painted the exciting, colorful, and theatrical life of Paris during his lifetime.

**“Tres Chic Fromage, Mon Cher...”:** French for “very stylish (or fancy) cheese, my dear.”

**Truffles:** A candy made of soft chocolate, shaped into a ball and covered with cocoa, or sometimes a three-layered cube of light and dark chocolate.

**Turmoil:** a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.

**Van Cleef & Arpels (Vahn CLEEF and AR-pul):** A fancy French jewellery and accessory company that was founded in 1896.

**Vermeer (Vur-MEER):** Johannis or Jan Vermeer was a 17th century Dutch painter who is known for his masterful treatment and use of light in his work.

**Waldorf Astoria Hotel:** A famous luxury hotel on Park Ave. in NYC that dates back to 1931.

**Whitney Museum of American Art:** A modern art museum that is often referred to as "the Whitney." Located in the Meatpacking District.

# THEATER TERMS

## WHAT DOES THAT THEATER TERM MEAN?

*The Theater Arts have so many terms and phrases that it can be so hard to keep track of them all! Here is a quick guide to help you out.*

**Actor:** The individual(s) who inhabit the characters on stage! They are the ones who are performing for the audience.

**Blocking:** The instructions that the Director gives to the Actors on where to move on stage during their scene.

**Book and Lyrics:** the individual who writes out all of the scenes and the words for the musical numbers.

**“Break a leg”:** theater slang for “good luck!”

**Choreographer:** The person who comes up with all of the dance moves for the musical numbers.

**Choreography:** the dance movements taught to the actors for musical numbers.

**Composer:** the individual who creates the music, tunes, or score for the show.

**Costume:** Anything that an actor wears on stage is referred to as a costume. The Wardrobe department provides clothes, shoes, hats, & any personal accessories such as umbrellas, purses & eyeglasses.

**Designer:** The people who work with the director to decide what the production will look like. There are several areas that need to have designers: costumes, set, lighting and sound. The designers work very closely with the director to create the environment,

**Director:** The individual responsible for envisioning the presentation of a show, collaborating with actors on their characters, creating the blocking, and overseeing rehearsals.



*Two RYET members performing choreography in TADA!'s production of Everything About Camp (Almost) (2023)*

# THEATER TERMS

## WHAT DOES THAT THEATER TERM MEAN?

**House Manager:** The person responsible for managing the theater auditorium and handling everything related to the audience.

**House:** A term used to describe the space where the audience sits.

**Monologue:** a long line of dialogue given by one actor



*RYET members pointing with prop wands in TADA!'s production of Princess Phooey (2023)*

**Props:** A property or “prop” is anything that the audience sees that is not worn by an actor & is not a structural part of the set such as: food eaten during a play, dishes, briefcases, books, pens, telephones, curtains & anything else you can imagine.

**Props Master:** The person who buys items that will be used or adapted to become props. Props masters also purchase the raw material used to build props.

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**Props Master:** The person who buys items that will be used or adapted to become props. Props masters also purchase the raw material used to build props.

**Score:** another word for the music on the show.

**Set:** The physical elements and setting on stage that the actors inhabit when performing the show.

**Stage Manager:** The individual who oversees the entire production from the beginning of the performance to the end, managing everything both on and behind the stage.

**Stage:** Where the actors perform and all the action of the story happens.

# THEATER ETIQUETTE

## WHAT IS GOING TO THE THEATER LIKE?

*Going to see a live theater performance isn't quite like going to the movies. There's a couple of things you'll want to keep in mind to make the most of your experience at TADA!'s theater.*

1. **Be sure to arrive on time to the theater.** All of our performances of B.O.T.C.H. are at 7:00 PM on Fridays, or 2:00 PM / 4:00 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. We've all seen someone do the awkward shuffle to their seats after the show has already started. Don't be that person!
2. **Don't go into the theater until the "house opens."** In theater we call the audience the "house." The house doesn't open until all the cast and crew are done with all of their pre-show preparations. Until then, feel free to hang out in the lobby and get a snack! Once the House Manager says "the house is open," you can go find your seat.
3. **When you're in the theater, be sure to listen to the ushers!** They can help you find where your seat is, and also have important information about where to go if there's ever an emergency. So be sure to be nice to them!
4. **Snacks are for the lobby, not the theater!** Make sure you leave all juices, sodas, gum, crumbly chips, sticky desserts, and ALL messy foods in the lobby. Munching on a super loud snack or unwrapping a candy wrapper can be really disruptive for your audience neighbor. We also have to make sure that we keep the theater clean for the next show!
5. **Turn off your cell phones.** Science has proven that there's no sound louder than someone's cell phone that goes off during the middle of a theater performance (it's true, no need to look it up). Don't disrupt the show, especially when it's so easy to prevent!
6. **When the lights go dark, it's time to focus on the stage.** Before then, feel free to chat with your neighbor and the people around you (ask them what their favorite TADA! show is, or if it's their first one, talk about what you're most excited to see). But once the house lights (remember what the "house" is?) start to dim, it's time to quiet our voices and focus on the stage.
7. **During the show - laugh, cry, applaud.** The actors love it! It lets them know what you're enjoying. Any reaction you have supports the performers on stage.
8. **During the show - do not record or take photos of the performance.** This is strictly prohibited, and can be very distracting for actors and audience members alike.
9. **After the show - be sure to be respectful of the space as you leave!** Pick up any trash or programs you brought in with you. If you see your favorite actor in the lobby, be sure to tell them how good they did.
10. **Tell a friend about TADA!.** Did you like the show? Then be sure to tell a friend about us and know that you are welcome back anytime. In fact, we hope to see you at our next show - *Common Ground!*

# THANKS FOR COMING!

## WANT TO HELP TADA! YOUTH THEATER?

There are so many ways you can help TADA! Youth Theater. You can...

- Support us financially by donating online or with one of the ushers in the lobby.
- If you're able to volunteer your time during our shows or during one of our events, please feel free to reach out to us via email ([info@tadatheater.com](mailto:info@tadatheater.com)).
- TADA! has a long list of items we're always looking for, such as dance shoes, musical equipment, tech equipment, building supplies, and more!

If you want to help TADA! but aren't sure how you can, just reach out to us! We love to hear from folks who are looking to help out.

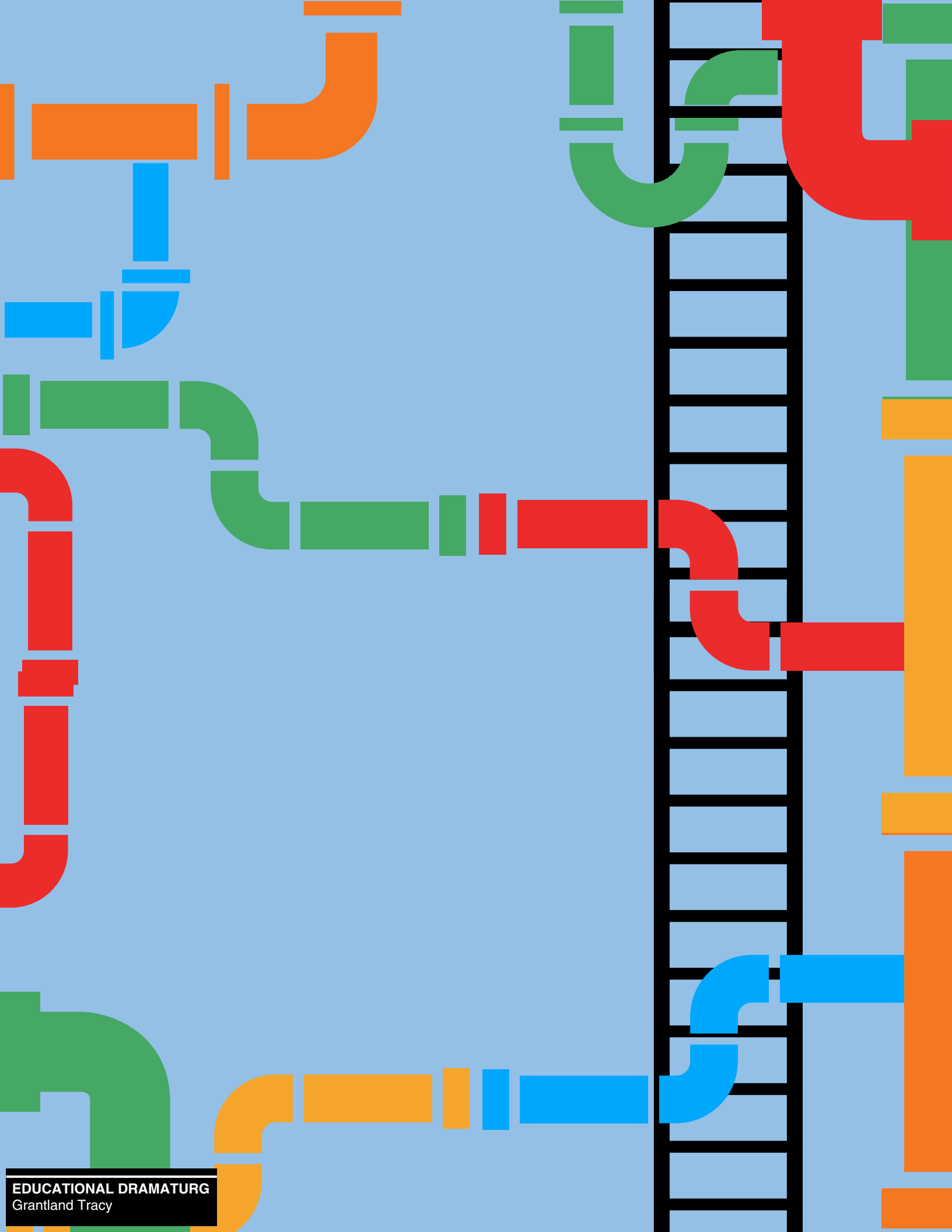


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