



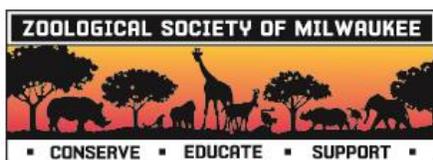
# Kohl's Wild Theater Teacher Packet

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## *A Tale of Two Hemispheres*



Photos by ZSM/Richard Brodzeller



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## What is Kohl’s Wild Theater?

Kohl’s Wild Theater (KWT) is made possible by a partnership among Kohl’s Cares, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. This program provides conservation-themed theater performances using drama, songs, and puppetry to children and their families both at the Milwaukee County Zoo and within our community. Since 2011, all performances have been offered free of charge thanks to a \$2.5 million donation to the Zoological Society from Kohl’s Cares.

The KWT outreach program, a division of the Zoological Society’s Conservation Education Department, offers 4 different shows about a variety of topics. Our plays and musicals are approximately 30-45 minutes long, performed by professional actors, and include stories about animals and environmental conservation. KWT performances are very similar to attending a play at a traditional theater, but there **will** be many times when the audience can be a part of the show through group participation. There **will not** be time during the performance for the actors to go over curriculum or to review information. After the performance, if time permits, the actors will take a few minutes to answer questions from the audience. **Please note, there are no live animals in KWT shows.**

All of our performances are developed for an elementary school audience. Elements of our shows are entertaining for adults and younger children, but the educational information presented is targeted for grades 1-5.

# *A Tale of Two Hemispheres*

## **Summary**

This 40-minute performance includes two 15-minute plays, each about a different side of the globe. The first play, *Lights! Camera! Artic!*, follows a film director's journey to the arctic as she attempts to make a documentary about polar bears. While there, she observes a polar bear character challenged by melting ice and a trumpeter swan character. As she observes the animals and their environment, the film director learns that her own energy usage is contributing to the situation. Audiences learn that reducing energy usage at home with simple steps like turning off lights and appliances can reduce our "carbon footprints" and help animals as far away as the arctic.

The second play, *The Treasure of the Sea*, is a musical about the Humboldt penguin and the importance of sustainable fishing. Two pirates sail the seas seeking treasure and quickly learn that a penguin's treasure is fish. In an attempt to have all the treasure (they are pirates, after all), they begin to catch as many fish as they can, without leaving any for the penguin. The penguin shows the pirate captain that if fish aren't shared, some ocean animals will starve. In an act of mutiny, the penguin and one of the pirates are able to convince the captain to be "sustainable" and share the fish.

In addition to these two 15-minute plays, *A Tale of Two Hemispheres* also includes a short game about choices students can make to reduce their personal carbon footprints.

## **Target Age Range**

Most appropriate for grades 1-5 and families with children of all ages.

## **Theater Etiquette**

Before the performance, please take a moment to review good theater etiquette with your students. It is important that students are respectful to the actors during the show. It is a good idea to remind students not to talk during the performance, but encourage them to participate when directed to do so by the actors.

## **Educational Concepts Related to Performance**

### **Climate Change:**

- A “carbon footprint” is a kind of measurement indicating the amount of carbon dioxide a person’s activities add to the atmosphere.
- We all make carbon footprints when we use electricity to turn on a light, computer, TV, or other household appliances.
- Carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere is contributing to seasonal loss of polar ice caps.
- Electricity is often generated at power plants by burning fuels such as coal. Coal is made of carbon, and when it’s burned it turns into a gas, carbon dioxide. Gaseous carbon dioxide can travel anywhere in the world, including the Arctic Circle.
- The warming climate in the arctic causes the spring season to arrive earlier. A shortened winter makes it harder for a polar bear to catch a sufficient number of seals, which are its main source of nutrition.
- Children can help address this problem from home by not wasting electricity. It is ok to use energy when we need it, but small steps such as turning off the lights when we leave a room, or turning a computer off when it is unused can make a big, collective difference.

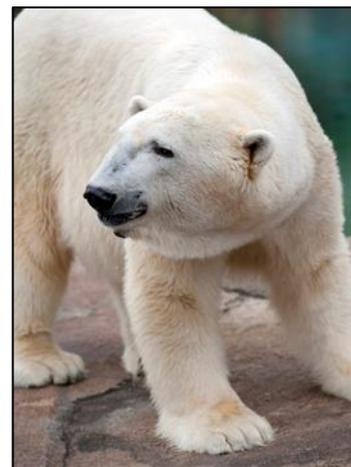
### **Sustainable Seafood:**

- Sustainable seafood is seafood that is caught or farmed with thought given to the well-being of the oceans and fish stocks over time. Sustainable use of a renewable resource avoids overharvesting or overexploitation and involves allowing the resource (animal or plant) to replenish itself so that the resource is not depleted.
- Sustainable fishing aims to avoid extinction of species and to leave enough fish in the ocean so that the oceanic or marine food web isn’t disrupted.
- Unlike humans, who can eat many different foods, Humboldt penguins are limited to fish as their only food source. This is why penguins are at greater risk if fish stocks are depleted in the ocean.
- Children can help by reminding their parents to choose a sustainable fish when ordering food at a restaurant or shopping at the grocery store. Sustainable fish shopping guides are free and available on-line. For more information go to [www.seafoodwatch.org](http://www.seafoodwatch.org).

## Featured Animals

### Polar Bear (*Ursus maritimus*):

- Polar bears are native to the Arctic Circle, including the countries of Canada, Russia, Greenland, and others.
- Polar bears primarily hunt seals from the ice as the seals surface for air from underwater. During the warm summer months, polar bears are opportunistic feeders, surviving on lean diets of berries, lemmings, and birds.
- Polar bears are the largest land based predators. Compared to other bears, polar bears have an elongated body, longer skull and nose, and larger feet that act much like snowshoes, dispersing weight when walking on ice or snow.
- Polar bears are a vulnerable species due to climate change, pollution, conflicts with shipping, and oil and gas exploration and development.



### Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*):

- The trumpeter swan is the heaviest bird native to North America, weighing on average between 15 – 30 lbs. Their wings are as strong as a baseball bat.
- They are found in northwestern and central North America and as far north as Alaska.
- Often mating for life, both male and females participate in raising their young, but the female primarily incubates the eggs.
- During the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century trumpeter swans were almost hunted to extinction for feathers and as game. Today their numbers are stable and they are considered a conservation success story.
- The Zoological Society and Milwaukee County Zoo worked with the Wisconsin DNR to reintroduce trumpeter swans to our state.



### Humboldt Penguin (*Spheniscus humboldti*):

- Humboldt penguins are “warm weather” penguins found along the Pacific coast of Chile and Peru in South America. Their name comes from the “Humboldt Current” which runs from Antarctica up the South American coast.
- They nest on islands and rocky coasts, burrowing holes into large cliffs of guano.
- Humboldt penguins are currently threatened due to unsustainable fishing, oil spills, and over-exploitation of their nesting habitat.



## **Post-Performance Discussion/Extension Questions:**

- 1) How do we use energy at home? How many devices use electricity? What are some easy ways that we can conserve or use less energy at home?
- 2) How many animals can you think of that eat fish as part of their diet? Don't forget the many land animals that enjoy fish such as grizzly bears and jaguars, or birds such as pelicans or bald eagles.
- 3) In what countries or regions of the world is seafood eaten by people to a greater degree than in Wisconsin or the Midwest?
- 4) Apart from the needs of wild animals, is sustainable fishing good for humans to practice?
- 5) How are we able to have fresh seafood living in Wisconsin? What energy is involved in bringing fresh seafood to Wisconsin?
- 6) Can how we get our seafood possibly impact polar bears – even though the sea creatures people eat are not the same as what a polar bear would eat?

## **Activities:**

- 1) Play the Polar Bear Trek Board Game, which can be printed from this website: [http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/sites/default/files/polar\\_bear\\_trek.pdf](http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/sites/default/files/polar_bear_trek.pdf)
- 2) Play a sustainable fishing game. Fill a large bucket or other container with water. Cut different types of fish out of construction paper and laminate them. Place the fish in the water and have your class fish them out. Once the fish are caught, students can use a sustainable fishing guide to see if it is a fish they should eat or not. Sustainable fishing guides for the Midwest can be found at [http://www.seafoodwatch.org/cr/cr\\_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA\\_SeafoodWatch\\_MidwestGuide.pdf](http://www.seafoodwatch.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_MidwestGuide.pdf).

## **Suggested conservation organizations that help protect the habitats and animals discussed:**

- Polar Bears International: [www.polarbearsinternational.org](http://www.polarbearsinternational.org)
- International Penguin Conservation Work Group: [www.penguins.cl/](http://www.penguins.cl/)
- Ocean Conservancy: [www.oceanconservancy.org](http://www.oceanconservancy.org)
- The Zoological Society of Milwaukee: [www.zoosociety.org/conservation](http://www.zoosociety.org/conservation)
- The World Wildlife Fund: [www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)

**For more information on Kohl's Wild Theater, see our website at [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org) or email us at [kwt@zoosociety.org](mailto:kwt@zoosociety.org).**

## **About the Artists**

**NICOLE GREEVY (Playwright)** is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and actor. She wrote and directed dozens of plays, songs and videos for Central Park Zoo's Wildlife Theater, using drama, music and puppetry in order to make conservation and natural-science themes accessible to the average visitor. Other conservation-themed work includes the short teleplay "Thundering Plains, Or, How the Wildlife Conservation Society Saved the American Bison (as interpreted by sock puppets)" and she is co-creator of *Living in Captivity*, an independent comedic pilot about zookeepers. Other work includes the comedic web series *Exorcists Local 667* and you can hear her voice narrating many Forgotten Realms novels on Audible.

**JOHN TANNER (Composer/Sound Designer)** is one of the principals of Tanner-Monagle, with years of experience in scoring, arranging and music composition for television, radio, industrial video and theatre. His commercial music has won numerous awards, including Golden Reel Awards; Telly Awards; national, regional and local American Advertising Federation "Addys." He has written original scores and designed sound for theatrical productions at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, American Player's Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, First Stage Milwaukee and many others.

**DAVE MCLELLAN (Director)** joined the Zoological Society in 2010 to begin development of Kohl's Wild Theater. Since that time, Dave has directed 13 original plays and musicals for the Zoo, as well as many short skits and exhibit interactions. Prior to moving to Milwaukee, Dave spent a year working as a conservation educator for the Walt Disney Company in Orlando, FL. Before moving to FL, he was a company member and assistant director with the Wildlife Theater, performing regularly at the Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo and Queens Zoo in NYC. Other selected theater credits include the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Ford's Theater, Round House Theater, Imagination Stage, SurfFlight Theater, Capital Repertory Theatre, Cape Rep Theatre, and Universal Studios Florida. Dave now resides in Wauwatosa with his wife, Mary, and two children, Angela and Johnny.

**STEVE BARNES (Set/Props Designer)** is a Racine-based set designer who has designed for the Milwaukee Rep, First Stage Children's Theatre, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Renaissance Theatreworks, In Tandem Theatre, as well as Lawrence University and the Racine Theatre Guild. Steve holds an MFA in Scenic Design from Purdue University.

**ANDREA BOUCK (Costume Designer)** is a recent MFA graduate in costume design from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She now manages the Costume Shop at First Stage Children's Theatre in addition to designing costumes for other area theaters.

**BRANDON KIRKHAM (Puppet Designer)** received his MFA in Costume & Scenic Design at Ohio University, and works as a Props/Crafts Artisan at First Stage Children's Theatre in Milwaukee. Brandon's Puppets have been seen in venues across the country.

**THE ACTORS** - KWT employs numerous professional actors that perform many different roles in our various shows. Casting changes with each performance, but if you want to learn more about each individual actor you can see their bios at <http://www.zoosociety.org/Education/WildTheater/Cast.php>.