

KIDS ONLY!

# MADAGASCAR

## A MUSICAL ADVENTURE

KEEP OUT!

# IT'S SHOWTIME!



## Welcome to Chicago Shakespeare Theater!

Soon, you'll meet Marty the Zebra and all of his cracka-lackin' friends—Alex the groovy Lion, Gloria the hip Hippo, and Melman the jittery Giraffe. If you've seen the movie of *Madagascar*, you've met these friends before. Today, they're onstage in the very same room with you, dancing and singing! There are many theatrical tools that help to bring a story to life onstage..

### SET

Which set pieces help us to know when we're in Central Park Zoo? In Madagascar?

### COSTUMES

What can we learn about the characters by the clothing they wear?

### PUPPETS

Which characters are puppets? Can you see how the puppets work?

### MUSIC

Can you tell how a character is feeling by what—or how—they sing?

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### ASTONISHING ANIMALS

The animals in this story possess some truly cool traits. Read these fun facts—or have your grown-up read them to you—and draw a line to connect each animal to its fact!

a. With its eyes, ears, and nostrils on the top of the head, this animal can hear, see, and breathe while most of its body is underwater.



b. This animal is a bird but doesn't fly. It swallows whole fish and can drink salt water from the ocean.



c. This animal can run up to 40 miles an hour and sleeps standing up!



d. This animal may be a hunter, but most of the time it sleeps—nodding off for up to 21 hours a day!



e. This animal is so massive that even its babies are born around 6 feet tall!



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### A FEAST FIT FOR A KING!

Lions are carnivores—animals that only eat meat. When Alex can't find steak (his #1 favorite food) on the island of Madagascar, he starts to get very weak. All animals need food to survive and grow. On each plate, draw a kind of food that you think each animal would love to eat.

GLORIA  
THE HIPPOMELMAN  
THE GIRAFFEMARTY  
THE ZEBRASKIPPER  
THE PENGUIN

YOU!

KING JULIEN  
THE LEMUR

Whats YOUR favorite food?



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## WELCOME TO MADAGASCAR!

Madagascar, a country located off the coast of Africa, is a huge island. Most of its animals and plants can't be found anywhere else in the world. In recent years, scientists have discovered 615 new species there.

Lemurs are mammals native to Madagascar—in fact, the island is home to about 100 different kinds of lemurs. Many are *endangered* species, which means they are in danger of disappearing forever. Here are some of the animals we meet in this story...

**KING JULIEN** is a **Ring-tailed Lemur**, the best known of all lemur species—and considered to be the most intelligent, too



**MAURICE** is an **Aye-aye Lemur**, the largest of all nocturnal lemurs, weighing in around 6 pounds.



**MORT** is a **Mouse Lemur**, one of the smallest species of lemurs in the world. It's often been mistaken for a rodent!



Madagascar is also home to the **Fossa**, a small cat-like creature that's a carnivore—an animal that only eats meat—just like Alex the Lion.



Want to learn more and find out how you can help? Visit [www.lemurconservationnetwork.org](http://www.lemurconservationnetwork.org).



DREAMWORKS

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## TOGETHER FOREVER

Alex, Marty, Gloria and Melman are the best of friends, and they would do anything and go anywhere for each other—even to the faraway island of Madagascar! Imagine you are about to sail across the ocean to a place you've never been before. Who would you choose to go with you? Family members, friends, pets? Draw a picture of your group. Now write a story (or tell one to your grown-up) about your exciting adventure!



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## I LIKE TO MOVE IT, MOVE IT!

During rehearsals for this play, the actors playing Alex, Marty, Gloria, Melman and the other animals get to practice moving and acting like their animal characters. You can pretend to be an animal too!

## CAN YOU?...

Stretch your neck and stick your tongue out like a giraffe?



Waddle like a penguin?

Sprint and pounce like a lion?



On all fours, leap like a lemur?

Now turn on some music and groove to the beat with your new animal moves. As King Julien says, "Get up! Don't be snootie with your bootie!"

Keep exploring! Check out Giles Andreae's *Giraffes Can't Dance* at the library.



# MAKE A NEW FRIEND



Chicago Shakespeare Theater's Pier neighbor, Chicago Children's Museum, shares this at-home activity, as well as providing a hands-on learning experience in our Theater Lobbies each Friday between performances.

Puppets are used to present many of the animals in Madagascar, including the penguins and lemurs. The puppets are controlled by puppeteers. Now you try it! Here's a quick and fun way to create your very own puppet friend with items you already have at home!

## Materials:

- Household item (duster, rock, sock, etc.)
- Googly eyes
- Tacky glue
- Odds and ends (caps, yarn, puff balls, fabric scraps)

## Process:

1. Glue on googly eyes with tacky glue.
2. Decorate your new friend any way you want!
3. Once your puppet has dried, give your friend a name, go on an adventure, make up a story, sing a song, or put on a puppet show!



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## ON THE CAR RIDE HOME...

What do you talk about when the play is over? Perhaps your favorite character or song. Or the part in the play you enjoyed the most. And you can think about how this story connects to you...



✿ Marty wants to find a place where, as he sings, “I could find the wild in me.” Have you ever been somewhere that makes you feel free, where you can be a little bit wild? Where was it? How does it feel to act wild?

✿ Marty and Alex are best friends, but when Marty wants to leave the Central Park Zoo, Alex thinks that’s a very bad idea, they get in a big fight. Who’s your best friend? have you ever gotten into a fight with a friend? How did you make up?

Keep exploring: Check out by *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* by Peter Brown and *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak at the library.

