

# THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS

## Out and About and Together Again

New material for **THE PAPER BAG PLAYERS: Out and About and Together Again** was created by Kevin Richard Woodall and John Stone, with classic sketches drawing from material created by founding Artistic Director Judith Martin  
Performed by Jada Bennet, Nicole Delsack, Rebecca Rand and Kevin Richard Woodall  
Music by John Stone and Donald Ashwander  
Scenic Artist: Jonathan Peck  
Directed by Kevin Richard Woodall \* Co-Directed by John Stone

**Out and About and Together Again** was safely rehearsed and filmed in outdoor locations in accordance with COVID-compliant protocols.

## 2020-21 Study Guide

Dear Teachers and Parents,

Out of extraordinary circumstances, extraordinary things can come about! We knew that it would be impossible to bring traditional theater to children this year, as we've done for over 60 years in our performances in theaters and schools. So we decided to create this on-demand video for you and your children, a "virtual field trip" that lets us come to you wherever you are, whether together in a classroom or auditorium, or while learning at home in these exceptional times. We closely adhered to safety guidelines, so that everyone in our company, and those in our community, were as safe as could be during rehearsal and the film shoot. One way we achieved this was rehearsing and filming outdoors. This was often exhilarating, but also could be very challenging, as when it rained – not a good mix with our traditional paper and cardboard costumes, props and sets! All in all, it was great fun to create, rehearse and film, turning our familiar city into a giant playground.

This study guide has been designed to expand your children's experience of the show. We encourage you to use this guide to prepare your students before they view the show as well as to discuss topics, themes and ideas afterward so that their appreciation will be all the more memorable and significant.

The Paper Bag Players are thrilled to present our 62<sup>nd</sup> season's show, ***Out and About and Together Again***. As the title suggests, the setting for this show is outdoors. We introduce some fanciful things and characters into recognizable places, such as a doorman who is actually a dancing bear. You'll also meet *Bob the Slob*, a bumbling giant who makes a big mess, a wondrous world of pointing and spinning *Arrows*, and in *Anywhere Chair*, a hand-drawn animated story in which twins Tinsley and Tobias encounter a lost but lovable chair. Have some paper and something to draw with so you can follow our scenic artist in *Draw With Me*, and also get ready to dance and sing as we guide you in *The Paper Bag Rag*! The show culminates in a big party in the park with *Your Friend Is My Friend*, a rollicking song and dance for larger-than-life figures, proving that "any friend of yours is a friend of mine."

At the heart of this adventure are two special words: inspiration and imagination. We use paper and cardboard materials to tell our stories, just like children do! We draw inspiration from children and the imaginative ways they play and we hope through our own performances to inspire them in turn. From the entire Paper Bag Players team, thank you for being a part of this exciting journey. Get ready to laugh, sing, dance, draw and use your imagination as we head *Out and About and Together Again*!



## A Message to Share with Your Children

*Your presence is a very important ingredient of this show. In fact, without an audience, there is no show! You are part of the show whether you are silently listening, laughing or clapping. Sometimes, you will be called upon to help the performers, shouting advice, getting out of your seats to dance, and singing along with them. You'll even draw a funny picture during the show! We can't wait for you to see our show – and to be part of it, too! Finally, **we love to hear from you**: If you have time to draw us a picture about your favorite moment, or a letter telling us what made you laugh or think about something in a new way, we will certainly appreciate it. Your artworks and letters are always treasured!*



## Out and About and Together Again

Our show opens in a Zoom call with our cast members (Nicole, Jada, Kevin and Rebecca) eager to meet up and play. As they leave their homes, they pass by Charley the Door Bear who dances and high fives them on their way out the building.

## Discussion

✧ Zoom and video calls or meetings are a relatively new way for us to “meet” our friends and family, and to sometimes do our work and school. If this is a technology of the present, what are some of the ways and technologies that allowed humans to interact with one another in the recent past, and LONG AGO past? Now use your imagination and think of some way we will meet and communicate in the future!

## Activity

✧ It's pretty silly that the front door is being opened not by a doorman or doorwoman, but a door bear! Think of one or two other occupations and of some unexpected animals that might do them. When you've come up with your favorite funny combinations, draw them on a piece of paper.

✧ Out on the street, the cast dances and sings at first alone, until little by little they join up and are reunited. They are so happy to be outside and together again! When you're at your most happy, what sort of song or dance do *you* do? Can you make up a song or dance and show it to your family or friends or siblings or teacher? See if you can teach your song and dance to someone else. Now see if they can teach *you* their happy song and dance!





## BOB THE SLOB

In this park scene, a woman follows directions when a park worker politely reminds her not to litter. But then a giant slob named Bob comes bumbling in with a loud voice and a lot of terrible habits.



### Discussion

✳️ Bob the Slob made quite a mess, didn't he? Name or write down all of the messy and rude things he did. (Hints for after you've made your list: did you remember these? Bob littered his newspaper, slurped his drink and burped, threw his sandwich on the ground – piece by piece, dumped his potato chips everywhere, threw his banana and peel, and watched as someone else had to take the blame for his mess!) This story brings up a lot of strong feelings. How did you feel? Angry at Bob? Frustrated that Jada might not have known Bob did it? Sorry for Nicole?

### Activity

✳️ One thing you can do when you have strong feelings is to write a letter. Choose one of the three characters to write to. You can write to Bob to persuade him to change his ways, to Nicole expressing empathy, or to Jada to let her know that it was actually Bob who made the mess. You can really make a difference if you let people know how you are feeling, what you notice, and what you think is important!

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## ARROWS

*Arrows* shows a different kind of journey or story: one with no words, just movement. It's a kind of dance!

### Discussion

✳️ There are many kinds of arrows in our piece: ones that point toward and away from each other, dancing arrows, arrows that fly through space, even arrows of a clock! Some stories tell you just what they mean. In this special piece, it's up to viewers like you to decide what the images and movements mean. Or sometimes, the movements don't really have to mean anything at all: they can just be interesting, or beautiful or inspiring. What sort of thoughts come to your mind when you see the piece, *Arrows*?



### Activity

✳️ Let's have some fun drawing pictures that tell stories with nothing but arrows. First, draw some lines to divide your page into four parts. In one corner, draw a family of arrows (two parents and two kids). In another corner, draw two or more arrows that are shooting to the stars like rockets. In the next corner, arrows that chase each other. Now draw a funny face made from arrows. Turn your page over: what sorts of stories or scenes can you draw with nothing but arrows of all shapes, sizes and directions?

## THE ANYWHERE CHAIR



*Anywhere Chair* is a story about a pair of twins, Tinsley and Tobias, who encounter a lost but lovable chair. There's a magical song that makes the chair transport through space – anywhere in the world, or even out of this world – and we'll need your help singing along to make the magic work.

### Discussion

✳ Memory Game! The Anywhere Chair travels to six different locations. How many can you name? (Hint for

after you've made your list, did you remember the chair travels to a desert, the bottom of the ocean, a strange world of shapes, in front of a train, a tiger cage, a star in space, and finally Home.)

### Activity

✳ The Anywhere Chair certainly went a lot of places, thanks to your singing, but now it's your turn to think up some more. Find a cozy chair, have a seat, close your eyes while you sing the song ("You can go any-anywhere, when you sit in the Anywhere Chair!") and dream up places of your own to travel to. When you open your eyes, make believe you're in those new worlds. If there's a friend or sibling, you can travel together! Pick your favorite destination that you imagined, and now draw a picture of yourself in the chair in that special world.

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## YOUR FRIEND IS MY FRIEND

Rebecca is alone, waiting for a friend of a friend to arrive so they can go to a party in the park. But two friends turn into three, and three into four, as Nicole, Jada and Kevin join in the fun!

### Discussion

✳ In the video, when Jada calls for her friend Kevin, we see him running very fast through the park because he's late. How do you think he was able to run so quickly? Answer: he ran at a normal speed, but the movie was edited in such a way as to speed up his actions and add sound effects of fast running. In movies, these magical changes to reality are called *special effects*. Can you recall any other *sound effects* or *special effects* in the show? Example: when the Anywhere Chair spins, that's a special effect.

### Math Activity

✳ As the song goes (and we believe it's often true in life) – *any friend of yours is a friend of mine!* So, if Rebecca brought to the party 3 more friends, Nicole brought 2, Jada brought 6 and Kevin brought 5, then how many people (including the cast of 4) are going to the party? (*Write your answer down.*) Uh oh! It turns out 5 of those extra friends can't make it! Now how many people are going to the party? (*Write your answer.*) But wait! Of the remaining group, everyone brings one extra friend: the whole group has doubled! (*Write your answer.*) (Answer key: 20, 15, 30) One thing is for sure: it's going to be a really fun party!

