EDUCATOR’S STUDY GUIDE

ANNE

JUNE 5 – JUNE 30
DRAYTON FESTIVAL THEATRE

OCT 2 – OCT 27
HAMILTON FAMILY THEATRE CAMBRIDGE
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ABOUT

ABOUT DRAYTON ENTERTAINMENT

An award-winning, not-for-profit charitable organization, Drayton Entertainment produces the finest in live theatre at seven venues in southwestern Ontario. Each theatre maintains its distinct identity, but at the same time, combines the strengths and energy of all to provide an entertainment experience that is unparalleled.

The stage for success was first set in 1991, with the launch of the Drayton Festival Theatre. Under the leadership of founding and current Artistic Director, Alex Mustakas, the theatre was an immediate success. Since then, Drayton Entertainment has added the St. Jacobs Schoolhouse Theatre, King's Wharf Theatre (in Penetanguishene), Huron Country Playhouse (with two stages in Grand Bend), St. Jacobs Country Playhouse, and the Hamilton Family Theatre Cambridge.

Drayton Entertainment’s distinctive business model provides protection from the inherent fragility of the theatre industry, while providing an outlet for growth and prosperity. This has positive implications for artists and audiences—all of whom enjoy enhanced opportunities both on and off the stage.

By successfully balancing the competing demands of quality productions, fiscal responsibility, and community integrity, Drayton Entertainment has emerged as a true innovator and leader for arts and culture in Canada.

SYNOPSIS

Leapin’ Lizards! It’s the world’s favourite family musical!

Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, brave young orphan Annie is forced to live in a miserable orphanage run by the wicked Miss Hannigan. Her hard knock life takes an unexpected turn when the plucky redhead is chosen to spend a fairy tale holiday with famous billionaire industrialist, Oliver Warbucks.

With its Tony Award®-winning book and score, including the memorable songs “Hard Knock Life,” “Easy Street,” “I Don’t Need Anything But You,” and the uplifting anthem “Tomorrow,” we bet your bottom dollar you’ll love it!

CHARACTERS

Annie ................................................................. An 11-year-old redheaded orphan girl
Miss Hannigan ........................................................................................................ The alcoholic orphanage matron
Oliver “Daddy” Warbucks .......................................................... Billionaire businessman
Grace Farrell ................................................................. Oliver Warbucks’ faithful secretary
Drake .............................................................................................. The butler of the Warbucks mansion
Daniel “Rooster” Hannigan ...................................................... Miss Hannigan’s no-good brother
Lily St. Regis .................................................................................................. Rooster’s girlfriend
Molly, Pepper, Duffy, July, Tessie, and Kate ..................................................... Annie’s orphan friends
Bert Healy .................................................................................................. Radio announcer
The Boylan Sisters ................................................................. Singers on the Bert Healy Show
Lt. Ward ................................................................................................. A policeman
Sandy ................................................................................................. An abandoned mixed-breed dog that Annie rescues

Don’t forget the many ensemble roles in the production.
“Little Orphan Annie” was a daily American comic strip created by Harold Gray (1894–1968) and syndicated by Tribune Media Services. The strip took its name from the 1885 poem “Little Orphan Annie” by James Whitcomb Riley, and made its debut on August 5, 1924 in the New York Daily News. It ranked number one in popularity in a Fortune poll in 1937.

Shortly before Christmas, 1971, Martin Charnin, a lyricist and director, bought a collection of “Little Orphan Annie” comic strips and began imagining a musical comedy based on the main character. After convincing librettist Thomas Meehan and composer Charles Strouse to join him in writing the show, Charnin and his collaborators created the musical in fourteen months. It took four and a half years to get to Broadway because no producer thought it stood a chance.

Annie tried out at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut where Andrea McArdle began in the role of Annie shortly before the opening. At Goodspeed, the show won the approval of Mike Nichols, who offered to produce it on Broadway. After a highly successful run at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, D.C., the show opened on Broadway on April 21, 1977 and was quickly adopted by theatregoers. There were four road companies of Annie, which toured for three and a half years.

In 1982 the first movie version (starring Albert Finney, Aileen Quinn, Ann Reinking and Carol Burnett) entered theatres, and later in 1999 a made-for-TV version of Annie (starring Alicia Morton, Victor Garber and Kathy Bates) was released. This brings us to the 2013 remake in modern-day New York rather than the typical 1930s setting (starring Jamie Foxx, Cameron Diaz and Quvenzhane Wallis).

**FUN FACTS**

1. Annie is ranked in the top 25 most popular shows in the history of Broadway.
2. The song ‘Tomorrow’ is sung every 20 minutes somewhere in the world.
3. In the United States, there has been a production of Annie every three months since 1979.
5. The rap version of ‘Hard Knock Life’ performed by Jay-Z, won a 1999 Grammy Award.
ACTIVITIES
QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

ACTIVITY #1: CREATIVE ACTIVITIES
FUN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO ANNIE

1. Marketing a show is very important in order to sell tickets. A fun part of marketing is the poster for a show. Design a poster for Annie. Include important symbols or characters from the show, the date and the theatre.
2. Come up with a dance to your favourite song from the show.
3. Annie was originally a comic strip. Draw your own Annie comic using the characters from the show.

ACTIVITY #2: REFLECTION
CLASS DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to be optimistic? How does optimism affect the way we interact with people around us?
2. What does it mean to value someone?
3. Who are the people that you value in your life?
4. What does it mean to be independent?
5. What is the relationship between independence and belonging?
6. Who are the people in your life that make you feel like you belong?

ACTIVITY #3: THEATRE
WRITTEN RESPONSES

1. Who is your favorite character in the play and why?
2. Did any of the costumes reflect a character’s personality or wealth? What clues did the costumes give about the characters?
3. What did you learn from the play, and what inspired you the most?
4. A lot of people work behind the scenes on a play or musical to make everything come together. Can you guess all the components that are involved in the creation of a production? (Actors, Director, Music Director/Band, Choreographer, Costumes, Lights, Sound, Stage Managers, Props, Sets, Ushers, Marketing, Box Office, and more).
5. Write a review of the performance. Tell us about what you enjoyed, what you disliked, as well as a brief synopsis.
ANNIE VOCABULARY

Annie takes place during 1933, Depression-era New York. Some of the words, phrases and references used in the play may be unfamiliar. This glossary will give you an idea of the type of language used in 1933 America.

- **Shenanigans**: Mischief.
- **Hard-knock life**: A tough life.
- **Hoovervilles**: The popular name for shanty towns built by homeless people during the Great Depression; named after Herbert Hoover, who was President of the United States during the onset of the Great Depression and widely blamed for it.
- **The Great Depression**: A period in the 1930s when there was a worldwide economic depression and unemployment.
- **Living in clover**: To enjoy a life of money and comfort.
- **Bet your bottom dollar**: You can be very sure.
- **Prohibition**: Barring the manufacture, transportation and sale of alcohol.
- **The jig is up**: The illegal activity has been found out or has come to an end.

THEATRE VOCABULARY

- **Actor/Actress**: Someone who performs on stage or screen.
- **Blocking**: The actor’s movements on the stage.
- **Cast/Company**: All of the actors in the entire show.
- **Character**: A personality that an actor or script creates.
- **Choreography**: The organized dance moves.
- **Comedy**: A work of theatre that is funny.
- **Costume**: The clothing or outfit worn on stage by performers.
- **Critique/Review**: Opinions and comments that evaluate the actors or their performances.
- **Cue**: A signal that indicates something else is about to happen.
- **Dialogue**: The conversation between actors on stage.
- **Director**: The person who oversees the entire creative vision and staging of a production.
- **Dress Rehearsal**: The final rehearsal before the performance with costumes and makeup.
- **Ensemble**: The group of performers on stage (usually with multiple roles) that support the story. In musicals, this group typically does large song and dance numbers.
- **Gesture**: An expressive body movement.
- **Libretto**: The book or text of a musical or opera.
- **Monologue**: A long speech by a single character.
- **Motivation**: A character’s reason for doing or saying something.
- **Musical Theatre**: A type of play that contains music, singing, and usually dancing.
- **Playwright**: The person who writes a play or book of the musical (also called libretto).
- **Props**: The items carried or used by actors.
- **Stage**: The area where the characters perform – usually containing a set.
COLOURING ACTIVITY

Annie always wears a locket from her parents. Design your own locket. Draw the photos you would put inside.