

2025-2026 TWA Grant Application

Contact Information

Organization Name:	<u>Casa Manana Inc</u>
Contact Title:	<u>Senior Manager, Foundation & Corporate Relations</u>
Contact Name:	<u>Haley Lawhon</u>
Address:	<u>3101 West Lancaster Avenue</u>
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TWA Sponsor:	<u>Olivia Kearney</u>
TWA Sponsor Email:	<u>olivia@kearneydesigns.com</u>

Artistic Significance & Project Innovation and Creativity: (Question 3)

Organization's Mission:

Our mission is to create, nurture, and advance professional live theatre unparalleled in artistic excellence for the enrichment and education of our diverse community and its future generations.

Name of Project/Program to be Funded:

Children's Theatre Student Matinee Program

Project Description:

Casa Mañana's Student Matinee Program provides deeply discounted, TEKS-aligned live theatre that strengthens learning, supports development, and expands arts access for over 45,000 students each year.

Project Purpose: What are the goals of the project/program?

This program aims to expand access to high-quality, TEKS-aligned live theatre for North Texas students, prioritizing Title I campuses, while increasing capacity from 50 to 60 performances to meet growing demand following last season's 90% average attendance. We will maintain the deeply subsidized \$8.66 ticket price to ensure affordability and strengthen literacy, critical thinking, and social-emotional development through curriculum-connected performances that enrich classroom instruction.

Is this program offered at a cost to children? If there is a fee for this program, please enter the cost in numerical dollar amount per child to enroll.

No, student fees are paid by an enrolling entity, such as a campus or district. The student, family, parent and guardian(s) are not responsible for payment.

What is the expected number of children to be directly served by project/program?

47000

What is the age range of children served by this project/program?

4-15

Identify the artistic discipline(s) included in this project/program: Check all that apply.

Dance, Music, Musical Theatre, Theatre, Theatre Set-Design

Project Innovation and Creativity: (Question 4)

Describe how this program provides arts access for children.

Casa Mañana's Student Matinee Program expands arts access by offering low-cost, TEKS-aligned school-day performances and digital study guides that support arts-based learning, giving children from diverse socioeconomic and geographic communities the chance to experience professional theatre as an essential part of their education.

Explain what makes this program/project innovative. Program/Project innovation differs for each community. If your program is a traditional arts experience but is unique to your community, please specify. If your program is innovative, relative to traditional arts offerings in your community, please specify.

Casa Mañana is the only theatre in Tarrant County that self-produces full-scale Children's Theatre with professional adult actors, giving students access to the same high-quality productions offered to the public. Unlike touring assemblies or scaled-down school shows, this program delivers a rare, truly immersive artistic experience designed specifically for young audiences.

What type or level of arts experience do children have as a result of your program? Please select one.

Student Introduction: Children observe arts examples and are provided age appropriate introduction of knowledge, skills, and content related to the observation.

Is this a new program? If the answer is NO, how long has the program been in existence?

40 years

Organizational Management and Capability: (Question 5)

The organization has the following human capital. Check all that apply.

Board, Staff, Project Manager/Director, Volunteers

Describe your organization's staffing structure.

Number of full-time employees	30
Number of part-time employees	18
Number of volunteers	100

Describe the qualifications and experience of the individuals who will provide this programming and work directly with children.

WALLY JONES, PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE PRODUCER Mr. Jones has led the Casa Mañana team for more than 15 years where his creativity, ideas, and passion have taken Casa Mañana to a new level. He joined the theatre in November 2008 after a long tenure and various roles including Executive Director at the North Carolina Theatre. Under the leadership of Mr. Jones, the number of shows produced at Casa Mañana has tripled, and Casa Mañana has experienced increased attendance, year after year (prior to the pandemic). In 2013, he aggressively managed a successful campaign to reduce the theatre's debt ratio. He also started the acclaimed Apprentice Program, brought Broadway shows back to "the Dome," and opened the new Reid Cabaret Theatre in February 2018. LINDSEY RUSHEN, GENERAL MANAGER Ms. Rushen joined Casa Mañana in 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance from the University of Arkansas and a Master of Music in Historical Musicology from Florida State University. Lindsey has spent the last

Race and Ethnicity

Describe the race proportion of your:	Staff	Board
African American	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	3	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	0	3
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0	0
White	75	80
Two or More Races	9	6
Other	13	11

Describe the ethnicity of your:	Staff	Board
Hispanic/Latino	13	11
Not Hispanic/Latino	87	89

Outside Support: (Question 5 continued)

List community partners supporting the program:

Bank of America Charitable Trust, Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts, R4 Foundation, Ecolab Foundation, Garvey Texas Foundation, Ryan Foundation, Mary Potishman Lard Trust, BNSF Railway Foundation, Rea Charitable Trust, Virginia Hobbs Charitable Trust, Holloway Family Foundation, FASH Foundation, Cook Children's Medical Center, Texas Bank, A total of 408 schools across 69 area school districts

Organizational Funding: (Question 5 continued)

Has the organization received a TWA Grant in the past? If so, which years?

Yes 2024

Budget at a Glance

Total Organization Budget Amount	7542968
Total Program/Project Budget	845762
TWA Grant Request	15000
Grant request's percentage of total organization budget. Cannot exceed 25%.	.2

If awarded the full grant request, what amount of TWA funding would support the following categories? Please provide a numerical dollar amount for each area.

Staffing/Salaries	3,000
Operational Expenses	0
Supplies and Materials	12,000
Facilities (Rent/Mortgage)	0
Technology Equipment	0
Instructional Resources and Curriculum	0
Student Transportation Fees	0
Other: Please specify	0

Attachments Included

1. Organization's current year budget.
2. Organization's final/actual budget for the previous year.
3. Program/project budget

Other sources of revenue (\$2,000 or more) for the project/program: Provide a list of sponsors, grants, etc., and include dollar amounts.

Bank of America Charitable Trust – Grant: \$25,000; Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation – Grant: \$25,000 ; Texas Commission on the Arts – Grant: \$7,000; R4 Foundation – Grant: \$15,000; Garvey Texas Foundation – Grant: \$5,000; Mary Potishman Lard Trust – Grant: \$15,000; BNSF Railway Foundation – Grant: \$10,000; Rea Charitable Trust – Grant: \$10,000; Virginia Hobbs Charitable Trust – Grant: \$10,000; FASH Foundation – Grant: \$2,000 ; Texas Bank – Sponsorship: \$50,000

Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation: (Question 5 continued)

Program Implementation (if new) or Operational Plan: How will/is this project/program administered? Limit 1500 characters including spaces. Please include details such as where the program will be hosted, how children will be enrolled, how students gain access to this program, if transportation is needed or provided, and how the program will be administered.

Casa Mañana’s Children’s Theatre Student Matinee Program is hosted at our historic theatre in Fort Worth, where over 45,000 students each year attend weekday morning performances as school field trips. Schools across North Texas, including public, private, charter, and homeschool groups, enroll by purchasing deeply discounted tickets, with the School Sales Coordinator providing performance schedules, study guides, and accessibility accommodations. Districts arrange their own transportation, and Casa Mañana ensures a smooth arrival process with clear bus routing, student check-in procedures, and on-site safety support, including uniformed police officers at each performance. Students access the program through their educators, who select TEKS-aligned productions that support curriculum goals. Performances are full-scale, professional productions identical in quality to our public Children’s Theatre season. Students engage directly with the art form through live storytelling, professional adult actors, and optional post-show talkbacks that allow them to ask questions about the production and creative process. Digital study guides with TEKS-based pre- and post-show activities extend learning before and after the field trip, reinforcing literacy, critical thinking, and creativity in the classroom. This structure ensures that every student, regardless of income or district resources, can engage with professional theatre in a way that is enriching and developmentally meaningful.

Evaluation Plan: How will you evaluate the success of this program? Limit 500 characters including spaces.

Casa Mañana evaluates success through attendance and capacity data, the number of participating schools, and repeat enrollment, alongside qualitative feedback from teachers and students. Post-show surveys and new digital feedback tools measure engagement, learning impact, and relevance, allowing us to align with classroom needs and guide continuous program improvement.

Program/Project Timeline: Provide a detailed timeline to implement this program. If you choose to upload a file to answer this question please type, "Project Timeline attached" in the box below. TWA grant funds must be spent between June 1 - May 31. Limit 800 characters including spaces.

While the 2026–2027 Children’s Theatre season is not yet finalized, the schedule will follow our model of four fully staged productions. Casa Mañana will present 60 student matinee performances from Fall 2026 through Spring 2027 to meet rising school demand. Schools will reserve dates during Spring and Summer 2026, and matinees will run September 2026 through May 2027. Finalized schedules will be shared promptly with districts and educators to support advance planning, transportation coordination, and equitable access.

Program/Project Timeline: Optional File Upload.

Impact: (Question 6)

Demographic Information of Children Served

Demographic description of the children served by this project/program: Check all that apply.

At-Risk of dropping out of school* See explanation in #18

Title I

Low Socioeconomic

Low arts access

Children with disabilities or special needs

Children with health or medical challenges

Children recovering from an unusual life crisis. (i.e Foster Care, Neglect, Abuse, Trauma)

Children served represent cultural diversity

What percentage of children served by this program are considered at-risk? The term at-risk is used to identify students or groups of students who statistically have a higher probability of failing academically or dropping out of school.

57

What percentage of the children served by this program are economically disadvantaged?

82

Describe the community served by this program: Check all that apply.

Rural, Urban, Suburban, Major Metro Area, City- Large, City- Midsize, City- Small, Town

Project Need: What need(s) does this project/program fulfill? Limit 200 characters including spaces

Provides equitable, low-cost, TEKS-aligned theatre that addresses declining arts access and strengthens learning for students, with priority for Title I campuses.

Describe the race percentage of the student population served by the program. Please enter a numerical percentage for each. Percentages must add up to 100%.

American Indian or Alaska Native	1
Asian	2
Black or African American	18
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1
White	11
Two or More Races	2
Other	65

What percentage of the children served by this program are Hispanic/Latino? Enter a numerical response totaling 100%.

Hispanic/Latino	65
Not Hispanic/Latino	35

Optional Content Provided

Is there anything else that should be considered about this project/program? (Optional)

The Student Matinee Program addresses a critical and growing need in North Texas: equitable access to high-quality arts education at a time when public school arts funding continues to shrink. For the 45,000 students we serve each year—82% of whom attend Title I schools—Casa Mañana is often their first exposure to live theatre, a powerful experience proven to strengthen literacy, critical thinking, empathy, and emotional well-being. For many children, this field trip is not only their first performance, but their first time on a school bus, their first visit to a theatre, and in many cases the moment they realize the arts are for them. A grant of \$15,000 will directly support 60 deeply subsidized student matinees, helping offset the rising production, staffing, and operational costs required to keep ticket prices at \$8.66 and ensure schools can continue to participate regardless of budget constraints. Each performance is a fully self-produced, professional Children’s Theatre production—identical in quality to our public shows—supported by TEKS-aligned materials, digital study guides, and post-show engagement that reinforce classroom learning. This level of artistic and educational rigor is not offered anywhere else in Tarrant County at this scale or level of accessibility. At a moment when youth mental

health challenges are increasing and arts access is declining, the Texas Women for the Arts investment ensures that thousands of children can experience the proven academic and social-emotional benefits of the performing arts. Your support helps us remove financial and geographic barriers, welcome students into a safe and inspiring space, and offer an experience that broadens worldviews, nurtures creativity, and strengthens future generations. Support provided to this program is more than a contribution—it is a lasting investment in educational equity, childhood development, and the cultural vibrancy of our region.



U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

JAN 16, 1962

IN REPLY REFER TO
THIS NO. 1

Casa Manana Musicals, Inc.
3101 West Lancaster
Fort Worth, Texas

PURPOSE	
Educational	
ADDRESS INQUIRIES & FILE RETURNS WITH DISTRICT DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL REVENUE Dallas, Texas	
FORM 990-A REQUIRED	ACCOUNTING PERIOD ENDING
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	

Gentlemen:

Based upon the evidence submitted, it is held that you are exempt from Federal income tax as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as it is shown that you are organized and operated exclusively for the purpose shown above. Any questions concerning taxes levied under other subtitles of the Code should be submitted to your District Director.

You are not required to file Federal income tax returns so long as you retain an exempt status, unless you are subject to the tax on unrelated business income imposed by section 511 of the Code and are required to file Form 990-T for the purpose of reporting unrelated business taxable income. Any changes in your character, purposes or method of operation should be reported immediately to your District Director for consideration of their effect upon your exempt status. You should also report any change in your name or address. Your liability for filing the annual information return, Form 990A, is set forth above. That return, if required, must be filed after the close of your annual accounting period indicated above.

Contributions made to you are deductible by donors as provided in section 170 of the Code. Requests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes under the provisions of section 2055, 2106 and 2522 of the Code.

You are not liable for the taxes imposed under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (social security taxes) unless you file a waiver of exemption certificate as provided in such act. You are not liable for the tax imposed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. Inquiries about the waiver of exemption certificate for social security taxes should be addressed to your District Director.

Your District Director is being advised of this action.

Our determination letter of April 10, 1960, is modified to conform with the ruling expressed herein.

Very truly yours,

J. J. Hawley
Chief, Exempt Organizations Division

TAX EXEMPT #
75-0987585

Casa Mañana
2024-25 Budget Summary
For the Fiscal year Ending August 31, 2025

CATEGORY	BUDGET REVENUE	BUDGET EXPENSES	BUDGET NET PROFIT/(LOSS)
Broadway			
Million Dollar Quartet	\$ 350,000	\$ 295,417	\$ 54,583
Tuna Christmas	\$ 335,000	\$ 172,594	\$ 162,406
The Color Purple	\$ 230,000	\$ 360,986	\$ (130,986)
CATS	\$ 495,000	\$ 506,432	\$ (11,432)
subtotal	\$ 1,410,000	\$ 1,335,429	\$ 74,572
Children's Theatre			
Cinderella YE	\$ 385,000	\$ 182,460	\$ 202,541
Twas the Night Before Christmas	\$ 455,000	\$ 171,369	\$ 283,631
Charlie & the Chocolate Factory TYA	\$ 330,000	\$ 177,558	\$ 152,442
The Little Mermaid Jr	\$ 405,000	\$ 231,828	\$ 173,173
subtotal	\$ 1,575,000	\$ 763,214	\$ 811,786
Cabaret			
Night at the Apollo	\$ 100,500	\$ 50,239	\$ 50,261
Christmas with Kenny & Dolly	\$ 115,500	\$ 49,640	\$ 65,860
The Carpenters	\$ 105,500	\$ 48,439	\$ 57,061
90's Country	\$ 94,000	\$ 48,874	\$ 45,126
Simon & Garfunkel	\$ 105,500	\$ 50,805	\$ 54,695
subtotal	\$ 521,000	\$ 247,996	\$ 273,004
Special Events			
Tea with Cinderella	\$ 18,500	\$ 7,982	\$ 10,519
Music of Laurel Canyon	\$ 45,000	\$ 20,385	\$ 24,615
subtotal	\$ 63,500	\$ 28,367	\$ 35,134
Education			
Studios	\$ 180,000	\$ 49,680	\$ 130,320
Buckleys	\$ 35,750	\$ 43,600	\$ (7,850)
Camp Sr	\$ 76,500	\$ 31,763	\$ 44,737
Camp Casa	\$ 214,500	\$ 37,379	\$ 177,122
Camp Jr	\$ 42,000	\$ 7,615	\$ 34,385
Apprentice	\$ 64,000	\$ 94,159	\$ (30,159)
Community Engagement	\$ -	\$ 3,210	\$ (3,210)
subtotal	\$ 612,750	\$ 267,406	\$ 345,345
Development			
General	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 66,000	\$ 1,684,000
Gala	\$ 400,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 311,000
subtotal	\$ 2,150,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 1,995,000
Front of House			
Mainstage	\$ 430,000	\$ 262,850	\$ 167,150
Cabaret	\$ 142,000	\$ 86,875	\$ 55,125
subtotal	\$ 572,000	\$ 349,725	\$ 222,275
Operating			
	\$ 256,000	\$ 4,013,055	\$ (3,757,055)
TOTAL	\$ 7,160,250	\$ 7,160,190	\$ 60
		less depreciation	\$ (200,000)
		net income/loss after depreciation	\$ (199,940)

Casa Mañana
2025-26 Budget Summary
For the Fiscal year Ending August 31, 2026

CATEGORY	BUDGET REVENUE	BUDGET EXPENSES	BUDGET NET PROFIT/(LOSS)
Broadway			
West Side Story	\$ 400,000	\$ 404,852	\$ (4,852)
Hairspray	\$ 400,000	\$ 406,235	\$ (6,235)
Come from Away	\$ 300,000	\$ 345,787	\$ (45,787)
subtotal	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,156,873	\$ (56,873)
Children's Theatre			
Junie B Jones	\$ 300,000	\$ 134,225	\$ 165,775
Rudolph	\$ 552,000	\$ 258,406	\$ 293,594
Wizard of Oz	\$ 380,000	\$ 216,622	\$ 163,378
SpongeBob	\$ 325,000	\$ 236,509	\$ 88,491
subtotal	\$ 1,557,000	\$ 845,762	\$ 711,238
Cabaret - Fort Worth			
Neil Diamond	\$ 169,500	\$ 60,828	\$ 108,672
Rock 'n' Roll Christmas	\$ 121,000	\$ 53,665	\$ 67,335
Aretha Franklin	\$ 161,000	\$ 60,717	\$ 100,283
Carole Bufford	\$ 40,000	\$ 11,931	\$ 28,069
Fleetwood Mac	\$ 147,000	\$ 63,048	\$ 83,952
Sammy Davis JR	\$ 66,975	\$ 12,931	\$ 54,044
Yacht Rock	\$ 120,500	\$ 48,060	\$ 72,440
subtotal	\$ 825,975	\$ 311,180	\$ 514,795
Cabaret - Frisco			
Neil Diamond	\$ 16,000	\$ 21,607	\$ (5,607)
Fleetwood Mac	\$ 16,000	\$ 21,607	\$ (5,607)
subtotal	\$ 32,000	\$ 43,214	\$ (11,214)
Education			
Studios	\$ 235,000	\$ 75,660	\$ 159,340
Buckleys	\$ 39,000	\$ 47,640	\$ (8,640)
Camp Sr	\$ 51,500	\$ 41,339	\$ 10,162
Camp Casa	\$ 214,500	\$ 46,255	\$ 168,246
Camp Jr	\$ 52,000	\$ 14,100	\$ 37,900
Apprentice	\$ 90,000	\$ 86,464	\$ 3,536
Community Engagement	\$ -	\$ 3,330	\$ (3,330)
subtotal	\$ 682,000	\$ 314,787	\$ 367,213
Development			
General	\$ 1,850,000	\$ 62,000	\$ 1,788,000
Gala	\$ 400,000	\$ 94,000	\$ 306,000
subtotal	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 156,000	\$ 2,094,000
Front of House			
Mainstage	\$ 650,000	\$ 330,950	\$ 319,050
Cabaret	\$ 220,000	\$ 154,920	\$ 65,080
subtotal	\$ 870,000	\$ 485,870	\$ 384,130
Operating			
subtotal	\$ 226,000	\$ 4,229,282	\$ (4,003,282)
TOTAL	\$ 7,542,975	\$ 7,542,968	\$ 7
		less depreciation	\$ (200,000)
		net income/loss after depreciation	\$ (199,993)

	CHILDRENS 26-27	Rapunzel	Christmas Carol	Shrek	Nemo	TOTALS
	REVENUE					
45100	Public Revenue	\$231,750	\$439,810	\$278,100	\$231,750	\$1,181,410
45102	School Revenue	\$77,250	\$128,750	\$113,300	\$103,000	\$422,300
	Total Revenue	\$309,000	\$568,560	\$391,400	\$334,750	\$1,603,710
	EXPENSES					
55005	Actors	\$22,660	\$63,860	\$46,350	\$41,200	\$174,070
55010	Director	\$3,605	\$3,605	\$9,270	\$9,270	\$25,750
55015	Choreographer	\$1,545	\$1,545	\$-	\$-	\$3,090
55100	Music Director	\$3,090	\$3,090	\$3,090	\$3,090	\$12,360
55105	Musicians	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55108	Orchestrations/Programming	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55109	Rehearsal Pianist	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55150	PSM	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55152	ASM	\$3,296	\$5,150	\$4,223	\$4,223	\$16,892
55156	Production Assistant	\$2,575	\$3,605	\$3,090	\$3,090	\$12,360
55157	Run Crew	\$-	\$2,575	\$2,060	\$2,060	\$6,695
55075	Sound Design	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55076	Overhire- Sound Labor	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55820	Sound Materials	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$2,060
55350	Lighting Design	\$4,120	\$4,120	\$4,120	\$4,120	\$16,480
55355	Projection Design	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55358	Overhire-Lighting Labor/Spot Ops	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55650	Lighting Materials	\$1,030	\$4,120	\$2,060	\$1,030	\$8,240
55725	Projection Sourcing	\$-	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$1,545
55400	Scenic Design	\$515	\$515	\$515	\$3,605	\$5,150
55406	Overhire-Shop Labor	\$824	\$1,648	\$1,648	\$1,648	\$5,768
55810	Scenic Materials	\$1,545	\$3,605	\$2,575	\$12,360	\$20,085
55450	Costume Design	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
55451	Overhire-Costume Labor	\$2,575.00	\$5,150.00	\$5,150.00	\$5,150.00	\$18,025
55453	Dressers	\$3,605.00	\$8,240.00	\$6,180.00	\$8,961.00	\$26,986
55455	Overhire-Hair/Makeup Labor	\$-	\$6,180.00	\$-	\$2,575.00	\$8,755
55540	Costume Materials	\$1,545.00	\$2,575.00	\$3,090.00	\$14,214.00	\$21,424
55620	Hair/Makeup Materials	\$103.00	\$515.00	\$1,030.00	\$1,030.00	\$2,678
55505	Advertising, Single	\$36,050	\$51,500	\$46,350	\$46,350	\$180,250
55710	Photography	\$1,030	\$1,030	\$1,030	\$1,030	\$4,120
55515	Audition	\$670	\$670	\$1,906	\$1,906	\$5,150
55530	Cast Party	\$773	\$773	\$773	\$773	\$3,090
55535	Production Meals	\$670	\$1,030	\$876	\$876	\$3,451
55830	Production Contingency	\$258	\$258	\$258	\$258	\$1,030
55866	Travel	\$1,030	\$1,030	\$2,060	\$3,090	\$7,210
55868	Housing	\$1,854	\$1,854	\$3,605	\$5,253	\$12,566
55869	Local Transportation	\$361	\$361	\$618	\$773	\$2,112
55705	Union Insurance/Pension/Welfare	\$8,601	\$16,274	\$17,098	\$17,376	\$59,349
55751	Royalties	\$21,676	\$45,629	\$35,020	\$27,141	\$129,466
55805	Security	\$5,665	\$9,744	\$7,478	\$7,478	\$30,364
55990	Overtime Labor for Full Time Staff	\$1,030	\$2,575	\$1,030	\$2,575	\$7,210
55995	Payroll Taxes	\$5,438	\$12,304	\$9,540	\$10,072	\$37,355
	total expenses	\$138,252	\$266,158	\$223,121	\$243,604	\$871,135
	NET PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$170,748	\$302,402	\$168,279	\$91,146	\$732,575

25:26
CHILDREN'S THEATRE
SEASON
STUDY GUIDE





WHAT'S INSIDE?

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Recommended Grade Range:

Grades K–8 (with flexible options to adapt activities for different age levels)

TEKS Connections (by Subject)

Theatre Arts:

- Understand character, setting, and plot
- Practice audience etiquette
- Express ideas through voice, movement, and facial expression

English Language Arts (ELA):

- Build reading comprehension and sequencing skills
- Compare and contrast characters
- Strengthen vocabulary through context

Social Studies:

- Explore community roles and responsibilities
- Connect to cultural traditions and celebrations
- Reinforce values such as respect, empathy, and cooperation

Suggestions for Use

Before the Show:

- Introduce the storyline or main character
- Pre-teach key vocabulary
- Discuss what it means to be a respectful audience member

After the Show:

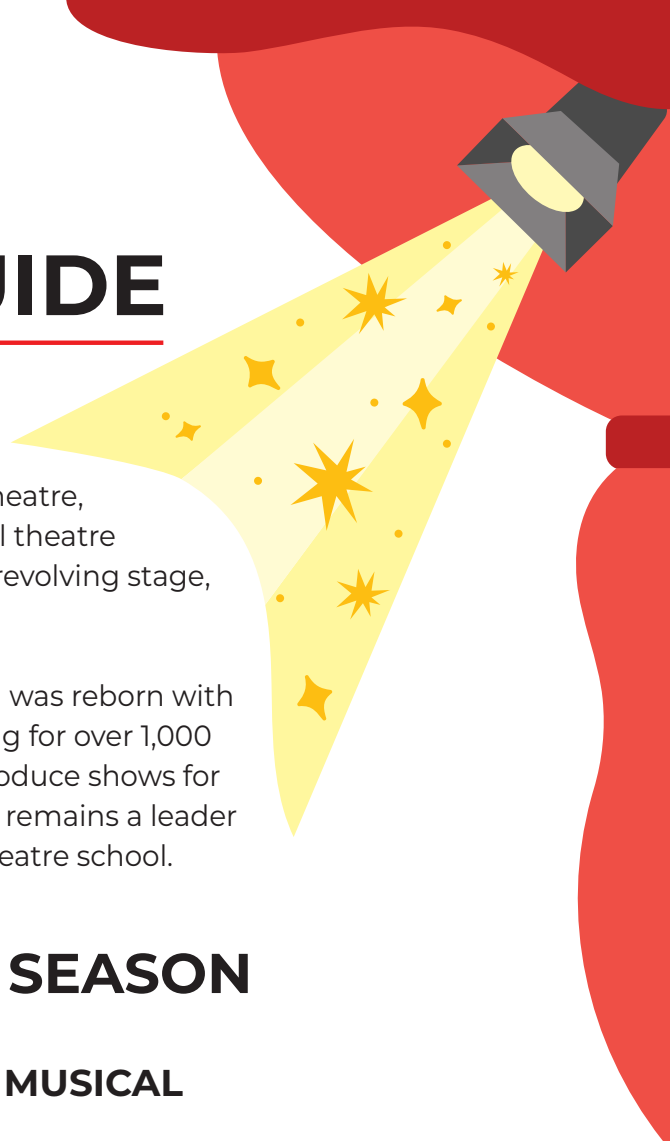
- Reflect on the performance with guided questions
- Complete a related activity
- Connect the story or characters to classroom learning

Optional Extensions:

- Have students draw favorite scenes or characters
- Write journal reflections or creative responses
- Perform short scenes or role-play key moments as a class

25:26 SEASON STUDY GUIDE

CHILDREN'S THEATRE



ABOUT CASA MAÑANA

Casa Mañana is Fort Worth's oldest and most famous live theatre, bringing Broadway musicals to the area in 1936. The original theatre looked very different—it was open-air, in-the-round, with a revolving stage, a moat, fountains, and seating for 4,000 people!

The building was later torn down, and in 1958, Casa Mañana was reborn with its signature geodesic dome, a new thrust stage, and seating for over 1,000 guests. In 1963, it became one of the first U.S. theatres to produce shows for young audiences through its Children's Playhouse. Today, it remains a leader in theatre education and is home to a respected musical theatre school.

25-26 CHILDREN'S THEATRE SEASON



JUNIE B. JONES, THE MUSICAL OCTOBER 4-19, 2025

Follow the spunky and curious Junie B. through her adventures in school and friendship.



RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 23, 2025

Based on the classic TV special, Rudolph and his misfit friends learn the value of being true to yourself.



THE WIZARD OF OZ JANUARY 23 - FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Join Dorothy and her friends on a magical journey to Oz in this timeless tale of courage, friendship, and home.



THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL MARCH 21 - APRIL 12, 2026

When Bikini Bottom faces disaster, SpongeBob and his friends band together to save their world with optimism and teamwork.

Teaching Theatre Etiquette



Let students know that **everyone plays a part in making the show great**—not just the actors, but the audience too!

To help the performers and everyone around them enjoy the show, they need to follow some simple theatre rules.

The **DOs** of Theatre Etiquette

- Sit quietly and stay in your seat
- Clap politely at the right times (after songs, at the end)
- Watch and listen carefully
- Laugh or respond at the right moments
- Respect the actors and the people around you



The **DON'Ts** of Theatre Etiquette

- Don't talk, whisper, or make noise during the show
- Don't use phones, cameras, or flashlights
- Don't get up or move around unless it's an emergency
- Don't bring snacks or noisy wrappers
- Don't boo, shout, or distract the performers

Practice Time!

1. Act It Out

Try acting out a DO. Can your class guess which one it is?

2. Flip It

Now act out the opposite. Why is it a DON'T?

3. Guess the Behavior

Take turns performing a DO or DON'T.
Can your classmates tell which one it is?



Name _____



Misfit Toy Creation Station

Imagine a toy that's different or unique.
Give it a name and draw a picture of it!

Name: _____

What makes it different: _____

Vocabulary

community, teamwork, different, belong, helper

Class Discussion Prompt

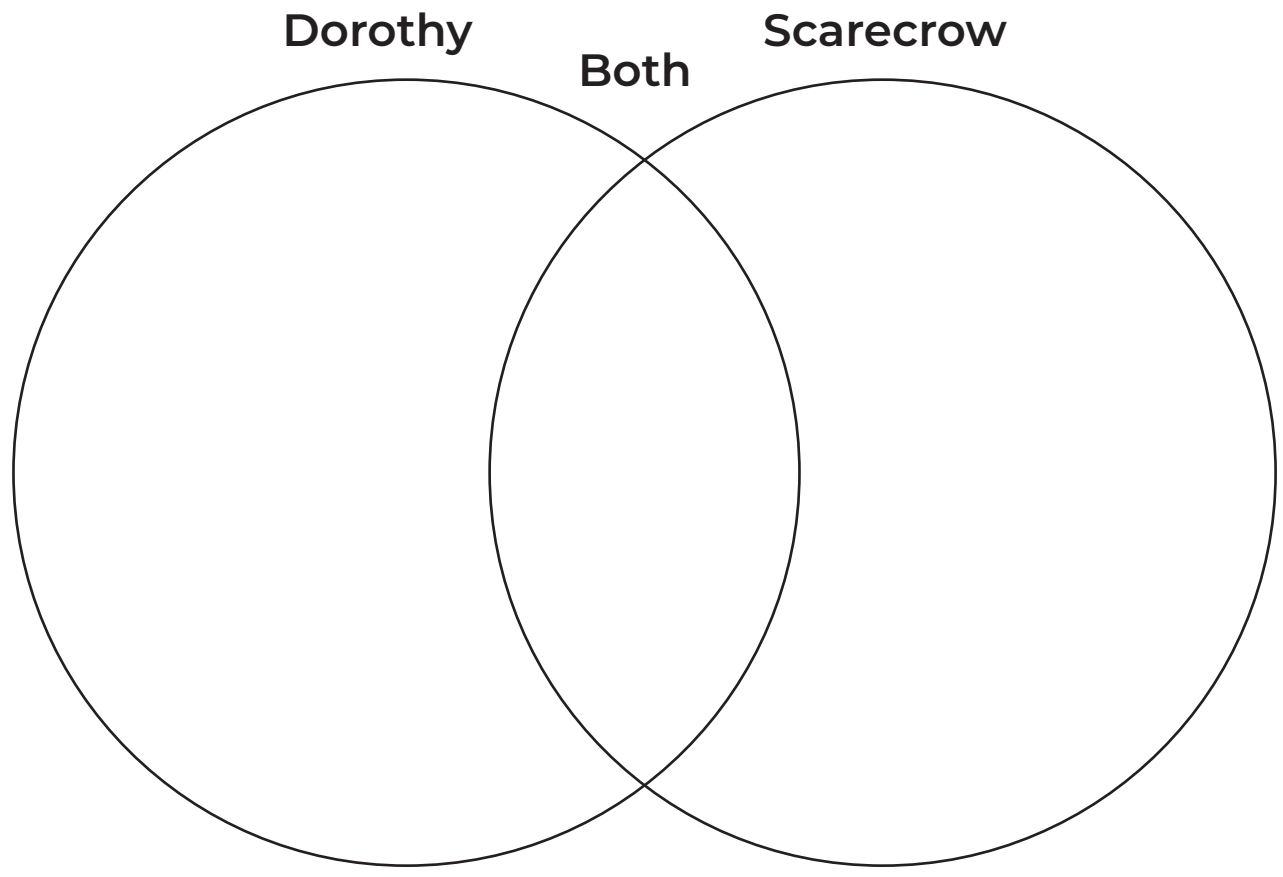
What makes someone feel like they belong?

Name _____



Compare & Contrast Characters

Use a Venn diagram to compare Dorothy and the Scarecrow.



Vocabulary

brave, loyal, problem-solver, goal, friendship

Class Discussion Prompt

What makes a good friend?

Name _____



Invent a Bikini Bottom Tool

Design an invention SpongeBob might use to help his community.
Label and explain it.

Explain your invention: _____

Vocabulary

invent, solution, teamwork, silly, problem

Class Discussion Prompt

How do you stay positive when something goes wrong?

Reflection & Critical Thinking



Use these questions and creative prompts to help students reflect on any musical and connect it to deeper learning.

1

Core Reflection Questions

- Who was your favorite character, and why?
- Did any characters change during the story? How?
- What was a major problem in the story? How was it solved?
- What lesson did the characters learn?
- If you were in the story, what would you do differently?

2

Creative Extension Prompts

- Draw a new character who could join the story.
- Write a new ending for the show.
- Imagine a musical about your life—what would it be called?
- Design a ticket, program cover, or logo for the show.
- Create a new scene for the show. What happens, and who is in it?

3

Bonus Cross-Curricular Activities

Art: _____



Draw a costume or a stage set for the show. Make sure it fits the story!

Music: _____



Choose your favorite song from the show and explain how it made you feel and why.

Writing: _____



Write a letter to your favorite character. Tell them what you liked about them!

Social Studies: _____



Explore how each musical shows community, traditions, or problem-solving.





