

# National 4-H Theatre Arts Curriculum Workshop

## “Board the Bus to Imagination in Action”

### I. Workshop Objectives

- To provide information on the 2013 National 4-H Theatre Arts Curriculum.
  - To provide a structure for workshop replication.
  - To highlight new features of revised curriculum.
  - To increase understanding of the experiential learning model and the skillathon process.
- 

### II. Participant Objectives

- Explore theatre arts experiences by completing three subject area skill-a-thons in theatre arts: acting, puppetry, and stagecraft.
  - Articulate the value of utilizing the “Imagination in Action” series with their target audiences.
  - Increase competency in utilizing the experiential learning model.
  - Increase knowledge in theatre arts.
  - Increase comfort level of participation in theatre arts activities.
  - Increase understanding of theatre arts as a thread across content areas (learning tool across different content areas).
- 

### III. Workshop Overview

- This is designed for a 2-hour workshop. The workshop can be adjusted based on available time and number of participants.
  - Throughout this workshop, we encourage the facilitators to take on certain roles. Have fun! Sections B. i. (*Boarding the Bus*) and B. ii. (*Back on the Bus!*) should be done in character, all other sections of the workshop should be facilitated as normal.
  - The following are some “characters” for the facilitators:
    - Tour Guide Tammy/Tommy: Acts as the tour guide for the ‘trip’; describes to participants what they get for their ‘fares’ (provides an overview of the workshop) offers segue way into the warm up circle activity, “Boarding the Bus” by the Tour Guide.
    - Bus Driver Ralph/Ralphine Cramdon: Acts as driver to and from bus stops (skillathon stations).
    - Ms./Mr. Keepinline: Acts as transit staff to ensure that participants ‘board’ and ‘deboard’ the bus.
-

## IV. Workshop

### A. INTRODUCTION

Total Time: 25 minutes

#### i. *Questions in Motion*

Time: 10 minutes

As participants enter play music (Bus Stop song by The Hollies) and direct them to gather in a circle (This area should be marked with a bus stop sign). While participants are standing in circle, ask the following and add some of your own using the model: “*If you..., step in....step out*”. Participants respond affirmatively to questions by stepping into the circle (You can have participants stand up and sit down instead of stepping in and out of a circle, depending on your group size and space available). This activity is to determine the experience/comfort level of the participants with theater and youth.

#### FACILITATOR #1

- *If you have experience with theatre*
- *If you have experience with puppetry*
- *If you are a state 4-H curriculum specialist, step in... step out...*
- *If you are a 4-H agent, step in... step out...*
- *If you are a county extension agent or program specialist other than 4-H, step in... step out...*
- *If you.....*
- *If you....*

#### ii. *Who Are We and Why are We Here?*

Time: 15 minutes

As facilitator #2 leads and models the introduction, facilitator #3 records comments on flip chart (name – where from – words that theatre evokes – expectations of workshop).

#### FACILITATOR #2

*“Before we move into the activity portion of the workshop, we want to satisfy our curiosity as to who we are and why we are here. What better way to introduce ourselves than in musical theater style! You only have to sing your name and where you are from. You can answer the other two questions either in words or song. And believe me you don’t have to be a singer – just find a tune or rap you can use to share:*

- *Sing your name and where you are from.*
- *(Continue to sing or say) What do you think of when you hear the words ‘Theatre Arts’?*
- *(Continue to sing or say) What is one thing that you want to get out of today’s workshop?”*

Facilitators turn from the audience and get into character with props. They turn back around, acknowledge the audience with a smile or gesture and get into places to begin the action.

---

### B. THE IMAGINATION BUS

Total Time: 80 minutes

#### i. *Boarding the Bus*

Time: 10 minutes

In character, Tour Guide Tammy/Tommy walks over to the ‘bus stop’ (circle of participants) and addresses the group.

#### TOUR GUIDE TAMMY/TOMMY

*“Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon and welcome--thank you for choosing “The Imagination Bus”. Your tour today includes a marvelous journey to the world of theatre arts—magic, glamour, creativity! Our travel experts have prepared for you an enticing package of cultural appetizers—mini-arts adventures that will awaken your creative powers, give you a glimpse of what takes place behind the scenes in the theatre, and reward your curiosity about the secrets of acting. On this very special trip, you will have the opportunity to experience yourself as puppeteer, actor and director as you stop along the way at “Imagination Stations,” designed for your enjoyment through experiential learning. “As your tour guide today and as an experienced traveler, I spend lots of time on the bus. I have seen many destinations, and I can’t wait to see how we enjoy today’s journey. We anticipate a pleasant trip along the Imagination Highway, so please, step right up, and make your way into the bus our transit line quality control manager, Ms. Keepinline, will give you your ticket.*

---

#### MS KEEPINLINE

*“Today’s imaginary trip requires this ticket which represents your imagination. You will hand it to your bus driver when she calls for them as you leave the bus. I’ll collect them from her at the end of the journey. As you board the bus you will be greeted by our bus driver, Ms. Ralphine Cramdon, who will take you to your destination. Now get your ticket, get right on and find a seat and so we can get this show on the road!”*

Ms./Mr. Keepinline introduces the bus driver and passes out tickets to participants as they step onto the ‘bus’, alternating tickets numbered 1-2-3, indicating their first Imagination Station stop (skillathon).

Ralph/Ralphine Cramdon sits in the driver’s seat at the front of the bus, opening the pneumatic door to let the tourists on. He/she collects tickets as the tourists enter the bus and take their seats. After everyone is seated, turn and address the group.

#### RALPH/RALPHINE CRAMDON

*“Lift your leg high as you step on this bus. Welcome. Let me tell you about three popular tourist attractions we are going to visit. The first is called “Photos Come to Life” Imagination Station. All who have a ticket numbered “1” will get off to experience an adventure with photos and the creation of new characters. At the second tourist site, “Everyday Puppets” you will be making puppets out of everyday objects. Those with the number “2” tickets will get off here. Be sure to make room for your new friends on the bus! At the third tourist site, “It’s All in the Tone,” you will channel your emotions through your voice. You will be amazed at how the tone of your voice can change how others hear you!*

*You will be at your first location for 15 minutes. Remember that is not a complete tour of each activity, so you might only get partially finished...just enough to whet your appetite to come back for more. At each station, you will find a facilitator who will guide you on your journey. Your stations are set up like skillathons where you and your team members will carry out the activity described by your facilitator. You will then be asked questions to help you reflect on your experience. I will sound my horn when it is time to move to the next station.” (Make screeching sound of bus stopping.)*

#### ii. **The Imagination Station**

Time: 60 minutes

Skillathon facilitators are not in character during this portion of the workshop. The skillathons stop at the generalization stage of the experiential learning cycle. This is a stage where new information can appropriately be introduced. Once the participants are back on the bus, the bus driver provides additional content and structural

background related to the series. The application stage of the experiential learning cycle will be addressed at the end.

RALPH/RALPHINE CRAMDON

*“It is time for tourists to move to the next station. All #1’s will go to Station #2; all #2’s will go to station 3; All number 3’s will go to station #1.”* (During this time the bus driver will be the designated time keeper, sounding the horn every 15minutes, indicating time for the participants to move to next skillathon station.)

**Imagination Stations (Skillathons):**

Skillathon #1 (Facilitator #1): *Creating Characters – Photos Come to Life*

Skillathon #2 (Facilitator #2): *Puppetry – Everyday Puppets*

Skillathon #3 (Facilitator #3): *Communicating Emotions - It’s All In the Tone*

**iii. Back on the Bus!**

Time: 10 minutes

Sticking her head through the door and putting her hand to her mouth as though shouting.

RALPH/RALPHINE CRAMDON

*“It’s time for the bus to leave! The bus is ready for boarding! Give me your tickets when you get back on.”*

Collects tickets and asks everyone to quickly take their seat. Ms./Mr. Keepinline assists tourists in boarding the bus and takes her seat in the first row. Tour Guide Tammy boards and takes the seat beside her. Ralph/Ralphine shuts the door and takes off, talking to the tourists while pretending to drive.

MS. KEEPINLINE

*“We have reached our final destination. We hope you’ll join us again in the real near future. As you leave the bus, please join our tour guide, Tammy, in the traditional Bus Stop Dance. Ya’ll come back now – ya hear!”*

Facilitators start the music. Tourists exit ‘bus’ and return to standing in circle, dancing on the way as they are led by Tour Guide Tammy.

---

**C. IT’S A WRAP!**

Total Time: 15 minutes

**i. Wrap-Up**

Facilitators take off their costumes/props and introduce themselves.

FACILITATORS

*You have just completed a sample journey in our “Imagination in Action” tour. Now, I would like to tell you more about this curriculum and the exciting learning opportunities it offers.*

*The “Imagination in Action Series” is a revision of “Theatre Arts Adventures”. The series consists of three books: Play the Role – Acting; Become A Puppeteer – Puppetry; and Set the Stage- Stagecraft. Activities are geared to grades 4-12.*

*What is one thing that is important to you that you will take away from today’s trip?*

*How you are going to use one thing that you learned?*

**ii. Evaluation**

Hand out evaluations and pens/pencils. Start music again.

FACILITATOR

*“Please take a moment before you leave and provide some feedback on this workshop. Also, let us know anything you would change about today’s experience to strengthen it for others!”*

---

**V. Workshop Logistics**

**A. ROOM SETUP**

- Circle of chairs (or small area for participants to stand in circle)
- Flipchart near circle of chairs
- Two rows of chairs to simulate a bus
- 3 tables, 1 for each skillathon

**B. MATERIALS NEEDED**

- Flipchart/markers
- Sign for bus stop
- Signs for skillathon stations
- Costumes for Tour Guide Tammy/Tommy, Ralph/Raphine Cramdon, Ms./Mr. Keepinline
- Signs for Imagination Stations (skillathons)
- CD player/computer to play music (song: Bus Stop by the Hollies)
- Horn for bus (bike horn or cymbals work well)
- Evaluations/pens/pencils
- Copies of Theatre Arts Conceptual Framework (optional)
- Copies of skillathon activities (optional)
- Materials for skillathons:
  - *Creating Characters – Photos Come to Life*
    - Scissors
    - Paper
    - Pens
    - Magazines with Character Photos
  - *Puppetry – Everyday Puppets*  
Miscellaneous Craft and Office Supplies:
    - Buttons
    - Wooden Spoons
    - Cotton Balls
    - Paper Plates
    - Yarn
    - Paper and Fabric Scraps
    - Paper Towel Roll
    - Gloves
    - Wash Cloth
    - Aluminum Foil
    - Jewelry Scraps

- Thread Spools
  - Feathers
  - Plastic Bottles
  - Tissue Paper
  - Shoe Box
  - Rocks
  - Feather Duster
  - Tinsel
  - Cellophane
  - Bubble Wrap
  - Toy Parts
- *Communicating Emotions - It's All In the Tone*
    - None