



EDUCATION GUIDE



Thursday, March 28, 2019
9:30am and 12:30pm

Tickets: \$6.00 per person

Recommended for Grades K through 3

ABT Student Matinee series sponsored by



Alberta Bair Theater for the Performing Arts
2801 Third Avenue North • Billings, Montana 59101
406-256-8915
www.albertabairtheater.org

Teacher Guide

WELCOME to *Me...Jane*, a new musical commissioned by the Kennedy Center and based on the illustrated children's book about the childhood of Jane Goodall. Here are some ideas for extending your students' theatergoing experience.

Before the Show

If you have 5 to 20 minutes:

- ◆ **Use the Cuesheet!** The *Me...Jane Cuesheet performance guide* on page 4 is written for young theatergoers to help them learn all about and enjoy the performance. Please read it together and discuss the questions and activities (and return to some of them after the show). If time is short, **review pages 4 and 12 first.**
- ◆ **Discuss visiting the Kennedy Center** and how to be good audience members. Take the short virtual tour of the Family Theater: <http://www.kennedy-center.org/Pages/VirtualTour/Familytheater>



If you have 30 to 60 minutes:

- ◆ **Read and discuss the book *Me...Jane*** by Patrick McDonnell.
- ◆ **Help children locate Africa** on a map or globe and explore its size and diversity. Share a few facts: Africa is the world's second largest continent and it has 54 countries. Africa has the largest tropical area of any continent but it also has other types of climates, including the famous Sahara Desert, the largest desert in the world. There are more than 1,000 different species of mammals in Africa. Point out that Jane studied chimpanzees in what is known today as the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania.
- ◆ **Teach some new vocabulary** related to the story, such as primatology, science, patience, environment, conservation, preservation, and so forth. Encourage students to use these words (and add others) as they discuss the performance.
- ◆ **Help students explore more about Jane Goodall** at www.janegoodall.org.

After the Show

As you leave the theater, please take one of our *Me...Jane* postcards. You can also find one at <https://goo.gl/EMXrQo>.

The postcard gives you some ideas to capture your young theatergoer's first impressions about the show. Then in the days afterward, as time allows, here are some other questions and extended activities you might explore together.



The Story

Questions:

Why do you think many of the adults Jane met thought her interest in science and animals was silly? What did Jane’s dog Rusty teach her? Why was this important? How did Jane make her dreams come true?

Go Deeper:

- ◆ Help students recall and understand the story’s main idea and elements. Review difficult terms or concepts. Ask them to write a “review” of the show that summarizes what happens and gives their opinions about what worked on stage and what didn’t. Standard: English Language Arts—Information Text (RI.2)
- ◆ Have students read (or better yet—sing!) the lyrics to the song “Animals! Animals! Animals!”:
**EVERY ONE OF US DISTINCT
BUT EVERY ONE OF US IS LINKED
BY A HOME AND BY A HISTORY
BY A UNIVERSAL MYSTERY
FROM THE STARFISH TO THE SWAN
EVERY ONE US PHENOMENONS
AND EVERY ONE OF US HAS WORTH
AREN’T WE LUCKY TO SHARE THE EARTH
WITH...
ANIMALS! ANIMALS! ANIMALS! ANIMALS! ANIMALS!**
- ◆ Then, ask: How do these words connect to the play’s message? Why is it important to protect animals around the world? How can young people help? Some ideas: Write letters to their members of Congress on the importance of animal protection or write to Jane Goodall about seeing the play and learning about her life—what message would they like to tell her?
- ◆ Ask children to imagine their own story about a real person they know (like a grandparent or friend). Have them write and illustrate a little bit of the story.

Science



Questions:

Why do animals such as elephants, chimpanzees, and giraffes live in other parts of the world like Africa but not in the wild in England or the United States?

Go Deeper:

- ◆ Have students research/discuss the other types of animals that Jane would have encountered in Tanzania, Africa (such as red-tailed monkeys, bush pigs, crowned eagles, or leopards), and choose one to research further, especially exploring the animal’s habitat and why it lives there. Standard: Life Science—Biodiversity and Human (LS4D)
- ◆ Have students become National Geographic Citizen Scientists. They can join a squirrel counting project or other mapping project — no experience necessary. Learn more at <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/idea/citizen-science-projects/?page=1>

Geography



Questions:

What did you know about Africa before seeing the show? What did you learn about Africa from the performance?

Go Deeper:

Have students look at a detailed map of Africa and choose a country to research and write a report on.

Theater

Questions:

How did the show compare with the book? What do you think the show would have been like without the music and songs? Discuss how creating a musical is creative, collaborative, and fun (see Cuesheet). Ask students which job on the creative team they would like to do, and why.

Go Deeper:

Explore how a human actor can portray an animal on stage (using speech, simple costumes, movement) and ask students to choose an animal and try their ideas.

Cuesheet Performance Guide

What Makes a Dream Come True

A Show About Big Dreams

Get ready to go on a big adventure thanks to the even BIGGER dreams of a little girl in the new musical *Me...Jane*. This story has it all — actors, sets, lights, music, lots of singing and dancing, and the sweetest and funniest plush toy chimpanzee you'll ever meet. And one more thing makes the story extra special — it's about a real person named Jane Goodall. There'll be more on Jane later, but for now, let's learn about the story.

What Happens in the Show



It's the 1940s and you're in a small town in England. There, you'll bump into eight-year-old Jane — but to find her you might

have to look up in a tree or in the woods. That's because this budding young scientist is always outside taking notes and making drawings in her notebook. She also loves solving animal mysteries and dreaming about going all the way across the world to Africa to learn more about animals. The problem? Except for her Mum and animal friends, people around her think her idea is impossible. But Jane keeps trying to make her dreams come true, and finally learns something amazing from a very special friend.

Same Language, Sounds Different

If you listen carefully like Jane does, you'll notice that the actors speak a little differently than most people in the United States. That's the way people speak in Jane's home country of England (in the United Kingdom), and that's called an accent. You might also hear a few scientific names for animals. Actually, every kind of animal has its own scientific name, which often comes from an old language called Latin. These important names tell scientists all over the world what group the animal belongs to and what type it is. You might already know a few Latin names without even realizing it, like *Tyrannosaurus rex* (one of the largest dinosaurs).

The Characters

Mum, Jane's mother

Young Jane

Jubilee, Jane's beloved plush toy chimpanzee, whose name is another word for "celebration" in English

Mr. and Mrs. Crouch, Jane's neighbors

Chickens



Hen, a stressed-out chicken

Mr. Bixby, Jane's neighbor

Squirrels

Rusty, the charming family dog

Mr. Abercrombie, Jane's teacher

Naysayers, people who try to discourage Jane

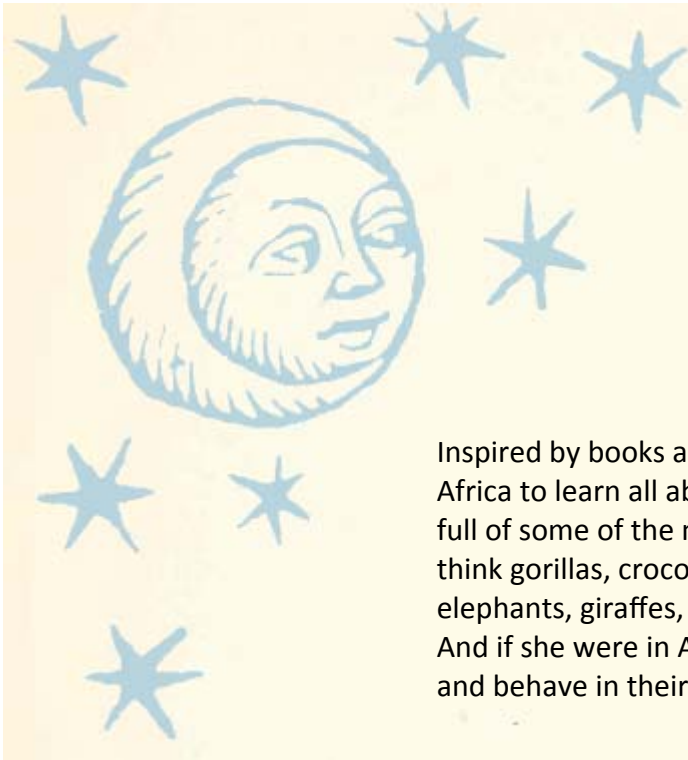
Big Dreams, Big Ideas

"If you have a dream, you should follow it." That's Mum's advice to Jane, and an important idea in Jane's story. Other ideas include the importance of being patient (being able to wait for what you want), closely observing the world around you, and not giving up. Think about how Jane doesn't give up and what she observes in the humans and animals around her.



Illustrations from *Me...Jane* by Patrick McDonnell. Copyright © 2011 by Patrick McDonnell. Used by permission of Little Brown Books for Young Readers.

Dreaming of Africa



Inspired by books and her love of animals, Jane wants to go to Africa to learn all about animals. It's a big place (just see the map!) full of some of the most interesting types of animals in the world; think gorillas, crocodiles, birds, chimpanzees, lions, cheetahs, elephants, giraffes, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses, and more. And if she were in Africa, Jane could see how these animals live and behave in their natural environment.



Meet the Real (and Grownup) Jane

She did it! When she was just 26 years old, Jane Goodall went to East Africa to study chimpanzees in the wild. That experience changed her life — and also changed the world of primatology (pronounced prahy-muh-TOL-uh-jee), the study of apes, monkeys, and humans.



Jane Goodall meeting an infant chimpanzee on her first trip to what is now Tanzania, Africa. Photo by Hugo Van Lawick/National Geographic Creative

Using patience and excellent observation skills, Jane made groundbreaking discoveries, including that chimpanzees use tools and form families. And by continuing her work at a time when women were discouraged from studying science, she inspired women (and men) to follow in her scientific footsteps.

Today, she still travels the globe 300 days a year teaching people about ways to protect the world's environment.

Jane's Inspirations



What inspired young Jane?

- ◆ Her mother encouraged her curiosity about animals.
- ◆ Rusty, the community dog, taught her that animals had personalities, emotions, and high intelligence.
- ◆ Story books about characters named Dr. Dolittle (a veterinarian who could speak with animals and went to Africa) and Tarzan (an English boy orphaned in Africa and raised by apes) made Jane want to go to Africa to study animals. By the way, "*Me...Jane*" comes from the Tarzan story, when American "Jane" Porter tries to teach Tarzan her name.



The real Jubilee with very young Jane.



The real-life Rusty and Jane when she was about 17 years old.



Behind the Words and Music



Author and playwright Patrick McDonnell with his dog Earl.

The Idea for Telling Jane's Story

Like Jane Goodall, illustrator and writer Patrick McDonnell loves animals. Years ago, he became friends with Jane, and sometimes even mentioned her in his comic strip, MUTTS (like the one below). Her story inspired him, and he decided to tell it through words and drawings in the children's book *Me...Jane*.



From Story to Stage

Patrick McDonnell, along with composer Andy Mitton and writer/ director Aaron Posner, thought the book *Me...Jane* could be told as a musical. But they needed to change it to be told on stage with live performers and music. They also wanted to add more about Jane's real-life story for audiences to enjoy.



Saying It in Song

The songs in *Me...Jane* tell you a lot about the characters and what's happening in the story. They can also help you understand what characters are feeling, such as love, determination, worry, discouragement, and wonder. Some of the songs include:

"Animals, Animals, Animals!"

Jane shows just how much she knows about animals in this song. After the performance, try to remember some of the interesting and surprising facts Jane shares.

"Be Still"

When Jane and Jubilee meet the Hen, Jane remembers Mum's advice and figures out a way to help.

"Trust Your Instincts"

Jane's best animal friend has some important lessons for her — what are they?



The Musical's Playlist

After the performance, think about the ways all the songs help tell the story.

"Jane and Jubilee"

"Animals Intro"

"Animals, Animals, Animals!"

"Far Distant Shore"

"What Are You Going to Do Today?"

"The Hen House"

"Be a Chicken"

"Be Still"

"The First Naysayer"

"Spring Feast"

"The Nut Caper"

"Spring Feast Outro"

"The Second Naysayer"

"Rusty"

"Just a Dog"

"Trust Your Instincts"

"Just Like You"

"The Way to Africa"

"A Reason for Hope"

Bringing Jane's World to Life

Meet the Creative Team

It takes a whole team of people to put Jane's world, imagination, and adventures together on stage:

The **playwrights** adapted (changed) a short picture book so it could be performed on stage with actors speaking and singing, and with lights, sets, objects, costumes, and music.

The **composer** wrote all the music and words that the performers sing in a way that helps tell the story.

The **set designer** decided how to create the world of the book and the story using real objects on stage.

The **choreographer** planned all the dance movements for the songs as well as how the characters move throughout the performance. One fun part of choreographing the show was creating movements for the actors playing Rusty, chickens, and squirrels so you can easily imagine them as animals.

The **costume designer** chose what all the performers wear, including clothes to help you imagine that they lived in 1940s England.

Animals on Stage

It would be pretty funny to have real animals on stage. But you know what? It's way more fun to have people—actors—pretend to be Rusty the dog, the squirrels, and the chickens. Unlike animals, actors

can talk, dance, and sing. Watch the way they become animals by changing their voices and movements and wearing simple costume parts, like noses and hats.



Enter Jane's Magical World

Setting the Stage

Before set designers build anything that appears on stage, they draw their ideas on paper or on a computer, or they create miniature models. Here's a sneak peek at one of the first models for *Me...Jane*. This set shows the neighborhood and the hen house, where Jane conducts an animal research project. Make sure to look for the trees on stage. Also, notice the tan, brown, and green colors like you would find in nature and the woods. During the performance, compare the actual set to this model to see whether it changed, and if so, how.



Set design by Paige Hathaway

Dress Up

If you were the show's costume designer and had to use ordinary clothes for Rusty the dog and the Hen, what items would you choose? Make a list or draw your ideas and share them with your friends and family. During the performance, watch to see how the costume designer dressed Rusty and Hen.

Design a Set Piece

On a piece of paper, draw and cut out something to go with this set design for *Me...Jane*. It could be some hay for the chicken house, more trees, or something else that matches the story and the scene.

Double Fun

Some of the actors play three or even four different characters in the story. Sound tricky? With the help of a few simple costume changes and by changing the way they move and talk, actors make this look so easy you might not even notice. When actors play more than one role, it's called doubling.



Your Part in Jane's Amazing Adventure



Watch for...

- how Jane and Jubilee speak with each other.
- photographs and drawings that help you learn more about Jane and Africa.
- a very special person who appears at the end of the show.
- large screen projections and how they help tell Jane's story.

Listen for...

- the different sounds of nature and animals throughout the show.
- many different facts about animals.
- how the music sounds like music you hear today even though the story happens in the 1940s.

Think About...

What is your dream for when you grow up? What can you do today to make it happen when you're a grownup?

Be...Jane

One of Jane's skills is being a good observer— watching, making notes, and learning. Try it—watch a pet or animal in your neighborhood (but never get close to any animal you don't know). Notice how it moves and acts. Make notes and drawings and share these with a friend. What surprised you the most?

Make a Difference...

Jane Goodall says, “The most important thing I’ve learned in all my years is that everyone counts. Every person, every animal, every living creature ... Everyone can make a difference. The only question is: “What kind of difference do you want to make?” How would you answer Jane?

Discuss your ideas with family and friends or write Dr. Goodall a letter. If you would like to learn more about Jane or contact her, visit the Jane Goodall Institute at www.janegoodall.org.



Photo by David Holloway

See...Jane

When Jane first went to the African jungle to study chimpanzees, all she had with her was her curiosity, determination, the support from famous scientist Louis Leakey, and grant money from the National Geographic Society to pay for her research. Can you imagine that?

Thanks to recently discovered film footage, you can actually share in her experience in the brand new National Geographic movie, *Jane*. By the way, throughout her life Jane has continued working with the National Geographic Society and became an Explorer-in-Residence (that’s a big deal). One of the many ways she’s made a difference is by founding the program Roots & Shoots to encourage young people (like YOU) and people of all ages to make the world a better place. Go to rootsandshoots.org and decide what kind of difference you want to make.

More Resources

These resources may help you in creating your own lessons or activities or compiling more information to share with your students.

Websites

The Jane Goodall Institute: www.janegoodall.org

Roots & Shoots: www.rootsandshoots.org

Books

I Am Jane Goodall by Brad Meltzer

My Life with the Chimpanzees by Jane Goodall

Articles

“How Jane Goodall Changed What We Know About Chimps” The cover story for the October 2017 issue of *National Geographic Magazine*, coinciding with the national release of the National Geographic documentary, *Jane*. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2017/10/becoming-jane-goodall/>

“50 Years of Chimpanzees” <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/16/science/16conversation.html>

“Jane Goodall’s Dog Blog—Rusty” <https://perfectpets.com.au/best-pet-blog/post/jane-goodall-s-dog-blog-rusty>

“When I Met Jane Goodall, She Hugged Me Like a Chimp” <https://www.theguardian.com/science/animal-magic/2014/apr/03/jane-goodall-80-chimp>

“Jane Goodall Is Still Wild at Heart” <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/15/magazine/jane-goodall-is-still-wild-at-heart.html? r=0>

Videos

“Jane: A Snapshot” — a short *National Geographic* video about Jane’s life <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4SpRnujdjg&feature=youtu.be>

“Jane Goodall, Illustrated” — a *New York Times* interview exploring two children’s books about Jane Goodall, featuring Jane Goodall, author/illustrator Patrick McDonnell, and author/illustrator Jeanette Winter <https://www.nytimes.com/video/books/review/100000000789861/the-books-of-jane.html>

“Jane Goodall’s Journey” — an interview by a Scholastic kid reporter <http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757121>

