

RioTintoAlcan

Unlikely Friends

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Introduction

Rio Tinto Alcan Stagecoach 2010-2011

Friendship comes in all shapes, sizes and unexpected forms.

A good example is shown through the unlikely and heartfelt bonds animals form with different species, and even prey.

- A baby hippo is washed ashore after a devastating tsunami and latches on to a 130-year-old giant tortoise.
- A lioness becomes the mother to a series of baby Oryx calves, grooming and even fending off outside predators.
- An elephant stands vigil below the room where her best friend, a dog, recovers from a spinal injury.

These unlikely friends defy the laws of nature and demonstrate an evolution in the animal kingdom that is inspiring and heartwarming.

These relationships show how connected we really are with everyone and everything. If animals are able to see past all obstacles and find a way to become life-long friends, despite obvious differences, we as a society should have the ability to learn from their example and open our hearts and minds to all – regardless of culture, race, religion or gender.

This year Stagecoach, instructed by our team of theatre artists, Roselle Healy, Jackie Blackmore, Susanne Moniz de Sá and Paul Moniz de Sá, will explore the idea of Unlikely Friends and how humans can learn and find inspiration from these profound animal interactions.



Unlikely Friends

Classroom Activity

Recommended Teaching Level K-7

Susanne Moniz de Sá, Paul Moniz de Sá, Roselle Healy, Jackie Blackmore

Students will:

- Show respect for others by being helpful and supportive
- Cooperate with students and instructors so everyone can be successful
- Actively participate in class to get the most from your experience
- Help celebrate everyone's successes through performance and exhibition
- Explore and experiment with creative expressions of various emotions
- Use mental awareness and physical control to move his/her body as directed
- Use his/her body and face to portray a self-chosen character

Activities:

1. **Introduction:**

- What is Arts Umbrella? Who are we? What is acting? What to expect and what is expected?

2. **Warm up – selection of the following:**

- Name and gesture
- Emotion and gesture
- Visual Telephone
- Human Knot
- Swamp

3. **Exploration:**

- Jump, Stop, Turn around
- Discussion about social responsibility
- Primary - Yes! Lets!
 - i. Action
 - ii. Emotion
 - iii. Animal
 - iv. Social Responsibility
- Intermediate - What are you doing?
 - i. What are you doing? (Action)
 - ii. How are you feeling? (Emotion)
 - iii. What are you? (Animal)
 - iv. What are you doing? (Social Responsibility)
- Wandering Characters (Animals)
 - i. Discussion about using your body to create characters
 - ii. Explore Leading from different parts of your body
 - iii. Explore the physical characteristics of different animals
 - iv. Explore and physicalize animal characteristics in a human form

4. **Sharing with the class (using music created by the students of the Sarah McLachlan Music Outreach Program - An Arts Umbrella Project):**

- Students will present a silent scene to music in pairs – each will enter from the opposite side of the stage – meet in the centre – interact and leave as “unlikely” friends

5. **Time for reflection**



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Resource Materials:

Websites:

www.animal-education.org/newsasp

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/episode/unlikely-animal-friends-4317/Overview>
(short video stories of unlikely animal pairings)

Google:

Animal Friends in the Wild

Unlikely Animal Friendships

Books:

Weird Friends: Unlikely Allies in the Animal Kingdom
By Jose Aruego and Arién Dewey
Harcourt Inc. NY, NY 2002
ISBN 0-15-202128-0

Owen & Mzee: Best Friends
Told by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff and Dr. Paula Kahumbu
With photographs by Peter Greste
Scholastic Inc. NY, NY 2007
ISBN 0-439-92872-9

Owen & Mzee: A Day Together
Told by Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff and Dr. Paula Kahumbu
With photographs by Peter Greste
Scholastic Inc. NY, NY 2008
ISBN 0-545-03766-2

Mole and Baby Bird
By Marjorie Newman
Illustrated by Patrick Benson
Bloomsbury NY, NY 2004
ISBN 1-58234-914-2

Related Activities:

1. **Museum** – a type of museum (i.e. animal, dinosaur, circus, beach, school) is selected by a teacher and every student makes a statue of something (person, animal, food, object) from that idea or place – a night watchperson (teacher or selected student) walks around the museum – statues are encouraged to move in the way his/her chosen idea would when the night watchperson is not looking – when the night watchperson is looking, the statues must stay completely still – if the night watchperson sees a statue move that person sits down and waits for the next museum. Focus on big movements when night watchperson is not looking. The last statue left in the museum chooses the next museum theme and becomes the next night watchperson.

2. **Where Are We?** – tableaux – 2-4 students leave the room; the teacher picks a place for everyone to be (fictional place, zoo, jungle, ocean, etc.) – each student picks something to be (person, animal, food, object) from the chosen place – then each student creates a frozen statue of his/ her choice – the ‘guessing’ students come back in the room and look at the ‘frozen picture’ – the students try to figure out “where” everybody is – then the students in the ‘frozen picture’ are brought to life (by the teacher) with sound and movement (no words) and the ‘guessing’ students watch them move and listen to their sounds – as a group the ‘guessing’ students try to figure out the place.

3. Invite students to bring in music from his/her own culture and discuss what images come to mind when he/she hears the music. Create a tableau for those images.



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Glossary of Terms:

Cast – the actors taking part in a scene, play, movie, or other production

Character – a person in a novel, scene, play or movie; part portrayed by an actor

Character objective – the goal or desire towards which the character, through actions, expressions and sometimes dialogue, is working

Create – bring into existence; cause something to happen as a result of one's actions; originate a role by playing a character for the first time

Community – a body of nations unified by common interests; a group of animals, or plants, living, or growing together, in the same area

Community Centre – a place providing social facilities for a neighborhood

Exercise – a process or activity carried out for a specific purpose, especially one concerned with a specified area or skill

Gesture – an action

Improv—Improvisation – a theatrical technique; the invention of dialogue and action spontaneously, based on an understanding of a role or a situation

Instincts – a natural or intuitive way of acting or thinking; a natural propensity or skill of a specified kind

Intuition – the ability to understand something immediately, without the need for conscious reasoning, a thing that one knows or considers likely from instinctive feeling rather than conscious reasoning

Mime – the theatrical technique of suggesting acting, character, or emotion without words, using only gesture, expression, and movement

Physical – of or relating to the body as opposed to the mind; involving bodily contact or activity

Present – ready to hand; ready with assistance; in the moment

Regal – royal; magnificent

Respect – attention to or consideration of others; treat with consideration; regard with esteem or honour

Role – an actor's part in a play, movie, etc.; the function assumed or part played by a person or thing in a particular situation

Role-playing – the acting out or performance of a particular role

Scene – a sequence of continuous action in a play, movie, opera, or book; a subdivision of an act of a play in which the time is continuous and the setting fixed, and which does not usually involve a change of characters.

Social Conscience – a sense of responsibility, or concern, for the problems and injustices of society

Social Responsibility – being aware of your actions and how they affect others; being morally accountable for one's actions

Stage – the area on which actors, entertainers, or speakers perform

Tableau – a frozen picture

Vocal – of or relating to the human voice

Warm-up – a period or act of preparation for a performance, involving practice

