

TAPROOT THEATRE



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PIRATES, PARROTS AND BULLYING PREVENTION: TOURING ACTORS VISIT SCHOOLS AROUND ‘TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY’

Taproot Theatre’s Road Company presents pirate-themed *Treasure Ally*

SEATTLE – September 2, 2010 – Swashbuckling scallywag! If anyone knows a thing or two about bullying, it’s a pirate. In the days surrounding International Talk Like A Pirate Day on September 19, Taproot Theatre’s Road Company brings its pirate-themed touring play, *Treasure Ally*, to school assemblies across the Puget Sound region. Understanding that the back-to-school season can cause anxiety for students who know the pain of being bullied, the Road Company actors are excited to help prevent bullying with their educational and entertaining play. The *Treasure Ally* schedule around International Talk Like A Pirate Day follows (private performances for schools); additional performances take place throughout the school year.

- Monday, September 13 – Lockwood Elementary (Bothell)
- Tuesday, September 14 – Hilltop Elementary School (Highline)
- Wednesday, September 15 – Maplewood Heights Elementary (Renton)
- Thursday, September 16 – Island Park Elementary (Mercer Island)
- Friday, September 17 – Stanwood Elementary (Stanwood)
- Friday, September 17 – King’s Elementary (Shoreline)
- Monday, September 20 – Black Diamond Elementary (Black Diamond)

In *Treasure Ally* by Bethany Wallace—one of four plays in the Road Company’s 2010/2011 repertoire—the good ship *Buccaneer* has a bad case of the bullies, and it’s much worse than our hero Louis ever experienced on the playground. The pirate captain calls him names and won’t even let him off the ship in time to get to class! And that’s not all; it turns out the captain is being bullied himself. Can Louis and his fellow crew members teach their captain a few things about standing up to bullies before the next full moon? Or will Captain No-Beard come to pick on them and steal their map to the treasure?

The Road Company's plays are guided by Seattle-based Committee for Children's acclaimed bullying-prevention curricula and teach students how to respond to—and even prevent—bullying and cyberbullying. The Road Company has performed for over one million students since it began touring social-issues plays in 1985.

About Taproot Theatre's Road Company

Taproot Theatre's Road Company has been touring dynamic social-issue plays to students throughout the Pacific Northwest since 1985. The Road Company reaches tens of thousands of students each year with productions that address relevant social issues and provide youth with safe steps to approach them. In addition to the touring productions, Taproot Theatre provides teachers' guides and resources to facilitate classroom discussion and increase the effectiveness of the message. The actors are also available for individual classroom visits. To book a show, contact Taproot's Director of Outreach at 206.529.3669 or touring@taproottheatre.org.

About Taproot Theatre

Taproot Theatre Company is a professional, non-profit theatre company with a multi-faceted production program. Founded in 1976, Taproot Theatre serves the Pacific Northwest with Mainstage Productions, Touring Productions and Acting Studio. Taproot exists to create theatre that explores the beauty and questions of life while bringing hope to our search for meaning. Taproot Theatre Company is a member of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), Theatre Puget Sound (TPS), and the Greenwood-Phinney Chamber of Commerce.

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SCHOOL TOURING PLAYS

***Treasure Ally* by Bethany Wallace**

For Grades K-6

Swashbuckling scallywag! The good ship Buccaneer has a bad case of the bullies, and it's much worse than our hero Louis ever experienced on the playground. The pirate captain calls him names and won't even let him off the ship in time to get to class! And that's not all; it turns out the captain is being bullied himself. Can Louis and his fellow crew members teach their captain a few things about standing up to bullies before the next full moon? Or will Captain No-Beard come to pick on them and steal their map to the treasure?

Education Goals: Bullying Prevention and Friendship

Recognize, Refuse and Report | How to be an Ally | Initiating a friendship

***Super School* by Bethany Wallace**

For Grades K-6

It's back to school at Asteroid Academy, and the first rule is, no superpowers on the playground. But when Danrelle uses her invisibility powers to steal Tilly's toy and tries to get her to explode in anger, the students risk detention or even being suspended. Your students' favorite superheroes from *Camp Super Friend* are back with all-new challenges and experiences. Will they use their superpowers for good or for evil? Only a visit to Asteroid Academy will tell!

Education Goals:

Problem Solving | Empathy Training | Emotional Management | Bullying Prevention

***Don't Tell Jessica...* by Josh Hornbeck**

For Grades 6-12

A play about gossip, rumors and cyberbullying.

It all started with a rumor—or was it the truth? In an age when gossip spreads like wildfire, a seemingly harmless message can destroy friendships, reputations and lives. At Clements High, homecoming is just around the corner and the stakes are high as a group of friends discovers the danger of jealousy when it is wielded like a weapon in e-mails and social networks. The drama will resonate deeply with students, who will see their classmates—and themselves – in the characters played out on stage.

Education Goals

Cyberbullying prevention | Understand the consequences of gossip and rumors

***New Girl* by Josh Hornbeck**

For Grades 6-12

A play about the faces of harassment and the function of community.

Rachel is the new girl at Clements High. She wants to fit in and get along with everyone. But when two of the school's popular kids attempt to sabotage her friendships with two of the school's outcasts, Rachel learns that the way she treats others can have serious consequences.

From cyber-abuse through instant messages and online social networking sites to verbal abuse in the halls, *New Girl* looks at the consequences of our actions and the need to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Education Goals

Examine various forms of bullying and harassment, both subtle and overt | Learn importance of respect | Explore the dangers of cliques | Understand personal and social responsibility