MATTHEW THREE HORN
Study guide

Co-Winner of the Anna Zornic Children’s Theatre Award

Matthew Three Horn
Written by Adam Eugene Hurst

PRESENTED BY UNH ArtsReach 2023
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DIRECTOR’S NOTE

Children’s Theatre is a long-standing tradition in UNH’s Department of Theatre and Dance. *Matthew Three Horn* by Adam Eugene Hurst was submitted to and chosen as co-winner of the 2021 Anna Zornio Memorial Children’s Theatre Playwriting Award (see Zornio information for details). We particularly liked the message of *Matthew Three Horn* because kids often have to deal with bullying. Through the whimsical lens of characters who are monsters, we see a poignant journey of a boy who is different from everyone else. Matthew learns how to deal with conflicts with the help of an ally, and his bully also learns and grows as well. Everyone learns to accept differences as strengths, and they all end up celebrating those differences. Live theatre allows students to observe particular behaviors and consequences, which helps them build empathy for peers who might be in the same situations. *Matthew Three Horn* in particular is a great way for students to see the impact of bullying along with constructive ways to resolve conflicts.
ARTSREACH

Artsreach is a program through the theatre and dance department of University of New Hampshire, comprised of the undergraduate theatre and dance students. Artsreach is a children’s theatre performing troupe that tours all around New Hampshire and surrounding areas for children. Mainly, they perform at schools, children’s hospitals, and churches. These Shows may feature a talk-back after the performance for a chance for students to learn a bit more about the show’s content and much more. This spring tour started in February of 2023 and will end this coming May. On May 7th, there will be a performance of Matthew Three Horn on campus, where the playwright will be attending to answer questions!

https://cola.unh.edu/paul-creative-arts-center/purchase-tickets/theatredance-season

THE LITTLE RED WAGON

The little red wagon is a children’s theatre touring troupe that consists of undergraduate theatre and dance students at UNH and takes place during the summer. The troupe performs at camps, libraries, churches, festivals, fairs, and so much more all throughout New England! Though the group tends to create content for ages K-6, it’s sure to be a fun time for children of all ages! This summer, the troupe is available from June 7th until August 18th. This summer, they will be performing Molly McFolly and the Littlest Leprechaun, a show about unlikely friends and learning lessons the hard way. To book a performance, fill out the tour request form! (https://cola.unh.edu/theatre-dance/tour-request-form)
MEET THE CAST

RYAN TIERNEY AS MATTHEW
FRESHMAN: THEATRE EDUCATION
A NORMAL MONSTER WHO LIKES READING BOOKS. HIS FAMILY JUST MOVED TO A NEW TOWN, WHERE DISCOVERS HE’S A BIT DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER MONSTERS.

MARISSA CONROY AS ANNE
FRESHMAN: MUSICAL THEATRE
THE ONLY MONSTER WHO TRIES TO GET TO KNOW MATTHEW. AMANDA’S BEST FRIEND.

EMMA SWAIN AS AMANDA
FRESHMAN: COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS
ANNE’S BEST FRIEND. ENJOYS BRAIDING HAIR.

MORGAN ELDREDGE AS THRASH
FRESHMAN: THEATRE EDUCATION
THE SCHOOL BULLY.

TESS HORNBECK AS GABE
JUNIOR: MUSICAL THEATRE
THRASH’S BEST FRIEND AND SIDEKICK.

JAMIE MARQUIS AS THRASH’S MOM
JUNIOR: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES
THRASH’S MOM WHO HAS AN AFFINITY FOR MIXED BERRY SMOOTHIES.

CELIA LOHMANN AS MRS. SHADDUCK
FRESHMAN: COMPREHENSIVE THEATRE & COMMUNICATION
A WHIMSICAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER.
MEET THE DIRECTOR AND STAGE MANAGER

Raina Ames the Director
Chair of the Theatre and Dance Department
Raina is in charge telling everyone what to do

Juliana Desnoyers the Stage Manager/Swing
Freshman
Juliana makes sure the show runs smoothly and is ready to step in if any of the actors can’t perform

MEET THE DESIGNERS

Catie Sneath the Sound Designer
Manager of Theatre Operations
Catie put together all of the sound effects and music in the show

Sydni Furtado The Costume Designer
Senior: Theatre Education and Design/Theatre Technology
Sydni designed all of the costumes the actors wear in the show
THE ANNA ZORNIO CHILDREN’S THEATRE PLAYWRITING AWARD

The Anna Zornio Children’s theatre playwriting award is an award presented by the University of New Hampshire to honor the late Anna Zornio, a UNH alumna, dedicated and inspirational children’s theatre playwright. Contestants of all ages are eligible to enter their 60 minute plays in the competition. Adam Eugene Hurst, the playwright of Matthew Three Horn, was awarded a cash prize as well as a staged production of his show. Donna Hoke was the co-Winner of this award with her adaptation of Anne of Green Gables.

THE CREATION

The UNH ArtsReach tour was created to provide an easy and accessible way to bring theatre to children. ArtsReach performs at public and private schools, libraries, etc. As aforementioned, Matthew Three Horn is the co-winner of the Anna Zornio Children’s Theatre Playwriting Award, and with that the playwright was promised a UNH Theatre and Dance production of their show.
THE REHEARSALS

Auditions for *Matthew Three Horn* were held prior to winter break, and the rehearsal process began shortly after. Director Raina Ames blocked the entire show during the first two rehearsals, leaving room for character work and polishing when actors returned to UNH from break. The actors had the ability to explore and play with how their characters walked, talked, and presented themselves in a way that they felt made the most sense to the actor and their vision of the character. The actors also worked on appropriately portraying their characters’ ages, and finding an appropriate balance between human and monster to best fit the show.

The *ArtsReach* Tour is different from a normal stage play done by UNH Theatre & Dance because technical elements were additional skills the actors had to rehearse during this process. Tech elements in this tour included loading in and setting up and striking the sound rig, face microphones, set, and various props used throughout the show in a timely manner. These factors may be new and/or different to a typical rehearsal process for some actors, but it is an immersive way to build more technical skills, and it is extremely important training used to keep each show running smoothly.

THEMES

*Matthew Three Horn* focuses on an array of themes that are important to recognize and acknowledge. These themes include, Bullying, friendship, Bravery, and it’s okay to be different. As Matthew navigates his way through 4th grade, he has some struggles with the school bully, but makes a meaningful friend along the way. With a little bravery and help from his peers, Matthew soon learns it’s okay to be different. Although there are representations of mean language, be a buddy not a bully!
THEATRE TERMS

A play: A story written specifically for the stage, usually containing one or more characters, dialogue, and a story arc.

Blocking: The path the actors take onstage as decided upon by the actor and director.

Props: Any inanimate object that an actor interacts with in a play.

Fourth wall: The imaginary wall through which the audience views the play.

Audition: Process where the director or casting director of a production asks actors / performers to show them what they can do.

Monologue: A long speech made by one actor; a monologue may be delivered alone or in the presence of others.

Upstage: The back of the stage farthest from the audience.

Downstage: The front of the stage closest to the audience.

Directions: Standing on the stage facing the audience, your right is stage right, your left is stage left.

Director: The captain of the ship, ultimately responsible for all creative and artistic decisions in the production.

Swing: Usually off-stage, the swing is a multi-talented performer who’s responsible for learning many ensemble tracks so that they can “swing on” when someone is ill, injured, or missing the performance for any reason.

Stage manager: Responsible for coordinating every aspect of the production from scheduling to calling all of the cues during a performance to maintaining the director’s artistic vision of the show once performances have begun.

Cast: The list of characters in a play and the actors who play them.
PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

1. ARRIVE ON TIME
2. USE THE BATHROOM BEFORE THE SHOW STARTS OR WAIT TILL AFTER IT IS OVER
3. KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE PERFORMANCE
4. STAY SEATED UNLESS THE ACTORS REQUEST PARTICIPATION
5. APPROPRIATE REACTIONS AT THE END OF A SCENE COULD BE LAUGHING OR CLAPPING
6. LET THE ACTORS DO THE TALKING, UNLESS AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION IS REQUESTED BY THE PERFORMERS
POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

Creating your own monster:

1. Using the attached template, have students draw what they want their monster to look like, have them focus on physical attributes that would make their monster different from others.
2. Ask students to come up with a name and personality traits for the monster. What is their favorite food? What do they do when they get home from school?
3. Once the students have the monster’s personality traits flushed out, ask them to bring the monsters to life. What do they sound like? How do they walk?
4. Next, ask the students to introduce themselves (as their monster) to other students in the class. Ask them to meet three other monsters.
5. After they have completed their greetings, and got to know the other monsters a bit, students have to sit down and begin a discussion. What attributes did the monsters have in common? What made some monsters different from others? Discussing similarities and differences in their monster forms can help students understand that our differences are what make us unique and special. There is nothing wrong with being different.

By: Sydni Furtado
Create your own monster template
Monster Puzzle:

Have students use skills like teamwork and communication to complete this fun monster puzzle!

Link To Puzzle for computer assembly:


OR cut out puzzle pieces below and have them do it themselves!

By: Morgan Eldredge
Mrs Shadduck monologue blocking bully costumes Thrash friend Mom props Matthew Anne audition Amanda Gabe

By: Celia Lohmann
MONSTER CONNECT THE DOTS


By: Chloe Ferraro
Human Bingo

- Students will get a bingo sheet with different facts written down about the people in the room.
- They will be able to walk around the room and mingle until they find people that match the facts listed on a bingo-style sheet.
- It can have anything listed from “find someone wearing green shoes” to “find someone who likes to sing” to “find someone who has the same favorite game as you”
- The goal is for students to connect with others and find things that they have in common, but also discover things that are unique about everyone
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Favorite color is red</th>
<th>Has a little brother/sister</th>
<th>Enjoys country music</th>
<th>Plays football</th>
<th>Likes to camp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wears glasses</td>
<td>Likes to draw</td>
<td>Likes pepperoni pizza</td>
<td>Has a celeb's autograph</td>
<td>Can touch their nose with tongue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likes chocolate ice cream</td>
<td>Favorite subject is math</td>
<td>FREE</td>
<td>Is the oldest child</td>
<td>Born same month as you</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoys reading</td>
<td>Has a Nintendo Wii</td>
<td>Likes to collect things</td>
<td>Has curly hair</td>
<td>Bites fingernails</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has 2 or more pets</td>
<td>Likes going to the cinema</td>
<td>Can touch their toes</td>
<td>Plays an instrument</td>
<td>Is vegetarian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By: Madalinein Demler
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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CHILDRENS-THEATRE-PLAYWRITING-AWARD

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