

# THEATERWORKSUSA PRESENTS:



## STUDY GUIDE

Welcome to the **grooviest** place in the world!

This is an activity packet that will help you learn about theater, friendship, and how to be the coolest cat around!

# ABOUT THE SHOW

## Lights...Camera...Action!

When Pete the Cat and his buddy Callie the Calico sneak into Hollywood Studios, they get lost in the world of the movies. Join Pete, Callie, and their new friends for this rockin' new musical adventure that features several fun-filled Pete the Cat books including: **CAVECAT PETE, PETE THE CAT AND THE TREASURE MAP**, and **PETE THE CAT AND THE COOL CAT BOOGIE.**

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Play:** A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience.

**Musical:** A story told live on stage by actors in front of a live audience that also involves singing and dancing.

**Adaptation:** a piece of writing that is used to inspire a retelling of that story in a new way. For example, the PETE THE CAT book series inspired the creation of the stage musical, PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE. Many of the characters and plots are the same, but the musical version of the story is told live on stage instead of in a book. The musical is an adaptation of the books.

**Theme:** The message or main idea of a story. This can be a word or a sentence that links a big idea about our world with the story.

**Genre:** The style of a play.

**Plot:** The timeline of actions in the story from beginning to end.

**Setting:** Where a story takes place.

**Characters:** Who the story is about.

**Conflict:** A problem that the characters in the story have to face and overcome. A conflict arises when a character wants something but something else gets in their way.

# THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Objective:** What a character wants to achieve or solve in the story. In other words, a character's goal.

**Protagonist:** The story's hero. This is the character who is out to accomplish a goal or find purpose.

**Antagonist:** The story's villain. This character is usually against what the protagonist(s) needs to accomplish their objective or goal.

**Dialogue:** a conversation between two or more people in a play or musical.

**Moment Before:** an acting term that encourages actors to consider what is going on in their character's life just before the present moment. Ex: If the scene begins with a character entering a room feeling excited, the actor may want to explore what made them feel that way in the "moment before" they entered the room.

**Blocking:** Movement the director give to the actors to show them where to go on the stage and when.

**Choreography:** A sequence of dance moves assigned to a dancer in a musical number (song) that are used to help tell the story.

**Cue:** In theater, a cue signals when another action should begin. For example: The actor's cue to enter the stage might be after they hear the thunder sound effect.

# THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Author:** a writer of a book or article. The authors of the PETE THE CAT books are James Dean and Kimberly Dean.

**Playwright:** The writer or writers of the play. Playwrights write the dialogue between characters in a play.

**Composer:** The artist who writes music for a musical. Will Aronson is the composer of PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE.

**Lyricist:** the artist who writes words to the music in a musical. Sarah Hammond is the lyricist for PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE.

**Actor:** the artist who embodies or puts themselves "in the shoes of" a character or characters in a play or musical to tell that character's story to the audience.

**Audience:** a group of people who attend a live event like a theatre performances to watch, listen, and respond to the event on stage.

**Director:** the artist who works with the writers, actors, and designers to tell a clear story on stage for the audience. It is the director's job to have a creative vision for how to tell the story and make sure everyone is working together towards the same goal. PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE is directed by Christine O'Grady Roberts.

**Stage Manager:** The artist who manages the onstage and backstage areas before, during, and after a performance. They set up the schedule for the actors, cue the lights and sound during the show, and make sure the set, props, and furniture stay in good shape throughout the show.

## THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Design:** An idea that is sketched, drawn, or molded to artistically show how the world of a play will take shape on stage.

**Set Designer:** The artist who creates what the world of a story will look like on stage. This can include furniture and scenery that can help tell the audience where the story takes place.

**Costume Design:** A costumer designer chooses and creates the articles of clothing that characters wear on stage to help tell the audience who the characters.

**Sound Designer:** an artist that creates the mood or atmosphere of the play through the use of sound, sound effects, and music in a play or musical.

**Props:** Objects used by a character on stage to help tell the story. Ex: A character may use a prop like an umbrella on stage if it is raining in that scene of the play.

**Make-up:** Artistically designed cosmetics to enhance an actor's portrayal of a character. Ex: make-up can be used to show a character's age and/or personality.

**Broadway:** Theatre performances that are presented in 41 theaters in the theater district of New York City in theaters with more than 500 seats.

**Box Office:** Where audience members pick up their tickets to the show.

**PETE PHILOSOPHY:**  
**"DANCING IS LIKE MAGIC,  
EVERYONE CAN DO IT!"**

**What is a philosophy?**

**A philosophy is a way of thinking about the world.**

**Another example of a "PETE PHILOSOPHY" in the show is:**

**"Pete Philosophy: A party is better when everyone is invited."**

**Write your own philosophy!**

\_\_\_\_\_ **"S PHILOSOPHY:**  
**(Your Name)**

A large rectangular box with a thick black border and horizontal dashed lines for writing.

**PETE PHILOSOPHY:**  
**"DANCING IS LIKE MAGIC,**  
**EVERYONE CAN DO IT!"**

Little Squirrel says "Oh everyone knows **cats don't dance.**"

Has anyone ever said you can't do something that you wanted to try?  
How did it make you feel?

Handwriting practice area with five horizontal dashed lines.

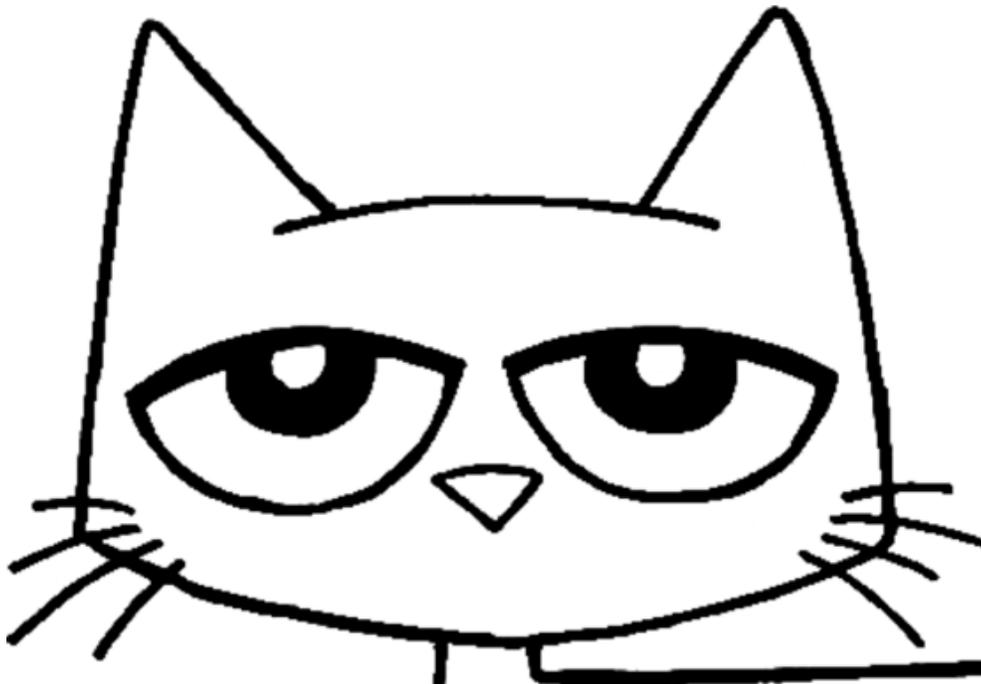
What would you say to a friend to encourage them when they feel like they can't do something?

Handwriting practice area with five horizontal dashed lines.

## CAST OF CHARACTERS!

**PETE THE CAT:** Pete the Cat is a super zen rockin' cat with blue fur. He's always excited for adventures but can get easily distracted. He is the life of the party but sometimes gets carried away. His best bud is Callie the Calico.

**CALLIE THE CALICO:** Callie the Calico is a kind and brainy cat who loves the movies. She is very smart in a variety of subjects. She is always on time and very focused on her activities and goals. Her best bud is Pete the Cat.



## CAST OF CHARACTERS!

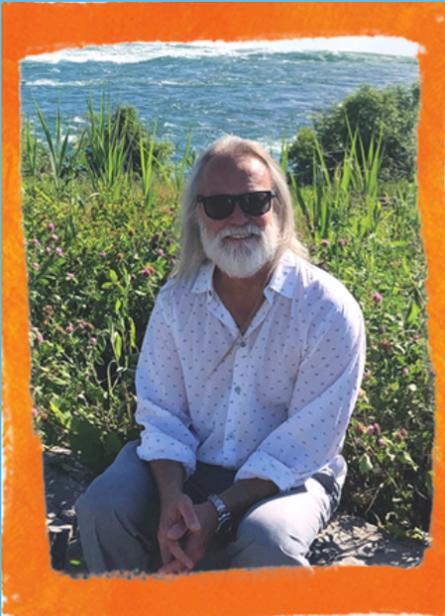
**ETHYL:** Ethyl is a shy dinosaur who opens up to Pete and Callie on their adventure. She sings a song about her favorite thing in the world...vegetables!

**SECURITY GUARD:** A strict security guard who loves Hollywood and guards the Hollywood sign. This character also has another secret job that is revealed in the musical!

**ROBO-PETE:** Pete' the Cat's super excited robot friend who is the "BEST" at everything he does.



# CREATORS



James Dean is the original creator and illustrator of the PETE THE CAT books. He is a self-taught artist originally from Fort Payne, Alabama.

He worked as an electrical engineer before he decided to pursue his art full-time and began selling his work at art festivals around the Southeast. It was during this time that he began creating paintings and drawing of his cat, Pete.

There are now more than 20 published PETE THE CAT books! James is humbled every day by the success that this groovy blue cat has brought him.

Kimberly Dean is a children's author, artist, and yoga enthusiast best known as a New York Times bestselling author and co-parent of children's book character, PETE THE CAT.

In 2004, she began collaborating with fellow artist James Dean to write children's books about Pete the Cat. She also started another book series starring her own characters, Willow and Oliver.



# CREATORS



**SARAH HAMMOND** is a playwright and musical theatre writer originally from South Carolina, now based in South Philadelphia. She wrote the book and lyrics for **PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE**. Sarah's honors include the Kleban award for lyric-writing, the Richard Rodgers Award, the Loewe Prize, and a residency at New Dramatists. Some of her plays include: **GREEN GIRL**, **HOUSE ON STILTS**, and **KUDZU**. Some of Sarah's other musicals include: **STRING**, **BAREFOOT PERSEPHONE**, and **PETE THE CAT**.

**WILL ARONSON** is a composer and writer for theater. He is the composer of **PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE**. Some of his other writing work includes: **MAYBE HAPPY ENDING** (Richard Rodgers Award), **HANSEL & GRETEL**, **PETE THE CAT**, **MOTHER, ME & THE MONSTERS** (Boston Globe Critic's Pick), **MY SCARY GIRL** (Best Musical, New York Musical Festival), and **BUNGEE JUMP**, cited by The New York Times in 2013 as Korea's "most popular original musical." Will is also the recipient of a Fulbright Grant, the ASCAP Frederick Loewe Award, and three Korean Musical Awards.



# CREATORS



**CHRISTINE O'GRADY ROBERTS** is the Director & Choreographer for **PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE**. She is a NYC-based Director, Choreographer, and Educator. Christine has worked on Broadway National tours, off-Broadway, and at regional theaters across the country. She was the Associate Director/Choreographer on the International Tour of **HAIR**, and did Musical Staging on the award-nominated off-Broadway production of **THE HELLO GIRLS**.

Christine loves working on new musicals and developing a fresh take on musical theatre favorites. She has received several awards for her work as a director and choreographer including: SDCF's Charles Abbott Directing Fellowship (with Joseph Haj on **WEST SIDE STORY** (at The Guthrie) ,and the NYIT Award for Outstanding Choreography: **The Drowsy Chaperone** (at Gallery Players).

# CREATORS



**ROB ODORISIO** is the **SET DESIGNER** for **PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE**. Rob has designed several shows with TWUSA including **PETE THE CAT**, **BUNNICULA**, and **SKIPPY JON JONES** to name a few. Rob also designs for television, film, and other theaters across the country. Some of his television design credits include work on: **CBS This Morning**, **Sesame Street**, **The Stand Up (ABC After School Special)**, **The Guiding Light for 10 years (3 Emmy nominations for Outstanding Art Direction)**, and **Super Bowl XLIV-2010**, as well as work for **BET**, **Fox**, **Comedy Central**, **Discovery Channel**, **WE Network**, **Wedding Central**, and **MTV**. His theatre design career in New York has flourished with designs at numerous Off-Broadway companies, and he was the American designer on "STOMP". Rob was also nominated for a **Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Set Design** for the play, "An Empty Plate at the Cafe du Grand Boeuf".

**DUSTIN CROSS** is the **COSTUME DESIGNER** for **PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE**. He is a New York based designer who has been designing on and off Broadway and across the country for the last 10 years. Dustin also designed the costumes for **DRAGONS LOVE TACOS & OTHER STORIES** at TheaterWorksUSA. His designs have been called "...Spot on Perfect" by **Artes Magazine** and "Excellent!" by **The New York Times**. Dustin began his career on stage as an actor before he became a costume designer. All of Dustin's designs pay close attention to making the actor comfortable while meeting the needs of the play. Dustin has designed dozens of plays and musicals across the country and he has received a variety of awards and nominations for his costume work.



## **BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW!**

Being an audience member at a live theater performance is a special experience that we're excited to share with you!

Since this is a live performance, the performers can see and hear you in the audience. Please be mindful of the performers and other audience members around you by paying close attention to the story being shared on stage.

The energy of the audience is essential to the live theater experience, so please know you are encouraged to react and laugh at moments you find funny, applaud after musical numbers, and cheer for the performers at end of the show! Just remember to be respectful of the performers (so they can focus on their jobs!) and other audience members (so they can enjoy the story too!).

We hope you will enjoy your experience as an audience member at **PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE!**

# BEFORE & AFTER THE SHOW!

Theater is a community experience. We encourage you to discuss the theater performance as a class before and after the show to prepare for and reflect on your experience.

## Discussion Points: Before the Show!

- Can anyone define what a PLAY is? How about a MUSICAL?
- Have you ever attended a play or musical? If so, what do you remember about your experience?
- Is this your first time experiencing a play or musical? If so, what do you think the experience will be like?
- What do you think the show is going to be about?
- What is the job of the audience at a live theater performance?

## Discussion Points: After the Show!

- What was your favorite scene or moment in the show and why?
- How did the sound, costumes, or set help make that moment special for you?
- Which character do you relate to most and why?
- What was the main problem or conflict in the musical? How did the characters solve that problem?
- Was there a lesson or moral in the musical? How can we use that lesson in our classroom or with our friendships?
- Was there a moment in the story that surprised you?
- If you had to summarize your theatre experience at PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE in three words, what would they be?

# CREATE YOUR OWN MARQUEE



**MARQUEE:** A brightly lit sign that hangs over the entrance of a theater and displays the name of the movie, play, or musical playing there.

**ACTIVITY:** Imagine you are a big Hollywood movie producer!

- What is the name of your movie?
- What is it about?

Use the space below to design a **MARQUEE** for your movie:

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# HISTORY ACTIVITY: LANDMARKS

What is a **landmark**?

A **landmark** is an object, a piece of land, or a town that has importance or makes a place easily recognizable.



**The Hollywood Sign:** The Hollywood Sign is a U.S. landmark located in Los Angeles, CA. It is approximately 50 feet tall. That's as tall as two and a half giraffes! This sign used to be a sign for a neighborhood that was going to be called, "Hollywoodland." Now it is the symbol of the movie industry. It represents place where magic is possible and where dreams can come true!

# HISTORY ACTIVITY: LANDMARKS

**The White House:** The White House is another U.S. landmark. It was built in 1792 and is the official residence and workplace of the president of the United States. It is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW in Washington, D.C.



**The Statue of Liberty:** The Statue of Liberty was a gift of friendship from the people of France to the United States and is known as a symbol of freedom. It is located on Liberty Island, off the coast of New York City. The official name of the statue is "Liberty Enlightening the World", but she also goes by "Lady Liberty."

**\*Fun Fact!\*** The steel framework for the Statue of Liberty was constructed by Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who also built the Eiffel Tower in France. Lady Liberty's clothes and skin are made from larger copper sheets, the same metal used to make pennies. The Statue of Liberty was dedicated to the U.S.A. on October 28, 1886.



# HISTORY ACTIVITY: LANDMARKS

**The Johnson Space Center** is owned by NASA and is the home of astronaut training and Mission Control. Mission Control is an office filled with computers and screens that monitor weather across our galaxy and others. The workers at the Space Center manage communication between Earth and space missions. The Space Center is located in Houston, TX.



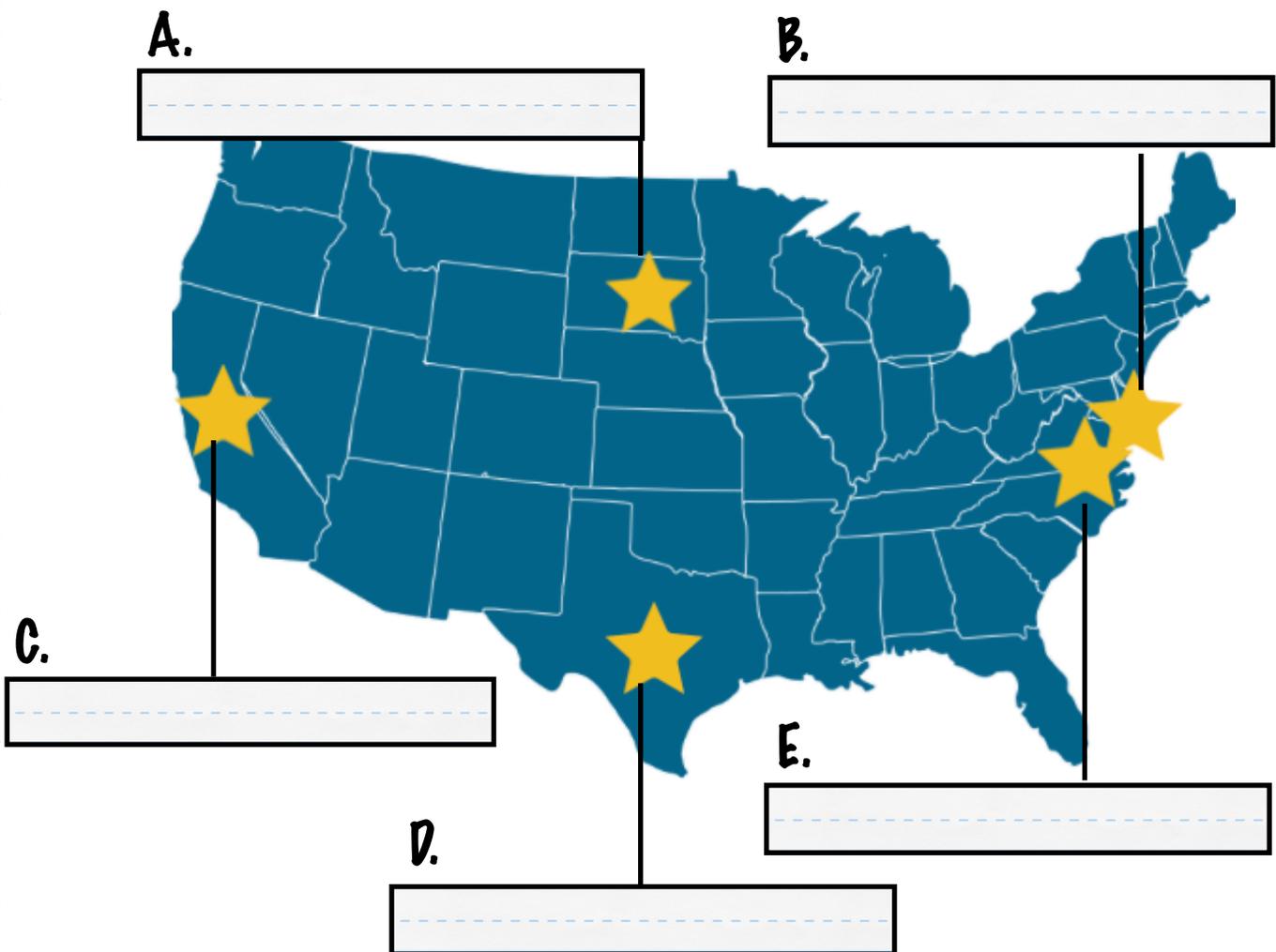
**Mount Rushmore National Memorial** is a massive sculpture carved into Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. Local leaders asked an artist named Gutzon Borglum to carve the faces of four United States Presidents into Mount Rushmore. The monument is 60 feet high! The faces in the monument are: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The project took almost 14 years to complete!

# HISTORY ACTIVITY: MAP IT OUT!

Using what you know about landmarks and geography to label the landmarks on the map below!

## Landmark Key:

- The Johnson Space Center
- Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- The Statue of Liberty
- The White House
- The Hollywood Sign



# PETE THE CAT'S BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE!



Photo by Jeremy Daniel. L-R: Gabbie Pisapia, Mukta Phatak, Dan Zimberg, Kelly Grago, Gabe Hernandez

We hope you groovy cats enjoyed **PETE THE CAT'S  
BIG HOLLYWOOD ADVENTURE!**

We hope to see you back at theater again soon!

For more information: [www.TWUSA.org](http://www.TWUSA.org).

ANSWER KEY FOR PAGE 21 A. MOUNT RUSHMORE B. STATUE OF LIBERTY C. HOLLYWOOD SIGN D. SPACE CENTER HOUSTON E. THE WHITE HOUSE