

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION::

DOG MAN: THE MUSICAL

Show and theater company:

- *Dog Man: The Musical* by TheatreWorksUSA

Art form:

- A musical (a play with songs)

Context:

- *Dog Man* is a book series written by Dav Pilkey, also known for his Captain Underpants series.
- Dog Man is a superhero. He was created when a police officer and his dog were both injured on the job, so the healthy dog head and the healthy human body were combined to create a new half-dog half-human superhero!
- This stage version was created by Kevin Del Aguila and Brad Alexander, who wrote both the songs and the “book” (the non-singing parts).

Main characters:

These are some of the main characters in the Dog Man book series – watch to see how many of them show up in the musical!

- Dog Man, the main character. He’s a police officer with the head of a dog and the body of a man who still has some dog qualities!
- Petey, an evil cat that tries to take over the world.
- Grampa, Petey’s father, one of the main series villains.
- Zuzu, a poodle who is one of Dog Man’s best friends.
- Sarah Hatoff, Zuzu’s owner and a reporter who helps Dog Man save the world on many occasions.
- Chief, the local police chief and Dog Man’s boss. He’s a good person but doesn’t like when Dog Man jumps on him.

Special things to look for:

- This is an adaptation of a book series, so they may change it a little bit to make it a better play.
- ? If you’ve read any of the books, what are some similarities? What are some differences?
- ? Do you know the name of the special clothes actors wear to make them look like a character? (costume)
- ? George and Harold like to write comics and now they’re writing a musical. What is something you can do in a musical play that you can’t do in a comic?

Virtual Theater Etiquette:

As you watch this show, try to immerse yourself as you would if you were at the theater in person.

- Find a quiet space to watch.
- Respect your space – in the theater, we don’t put our feet on the seats in front of us or jump and down in our chairs; wherever you’re watching this, treat your space with the same level of respect.
- Limit distractions.
- Use the restroom before the show starts so you won’t miss anything.
- Put any other electronic devices away.
- Clap when you see something you love!

Show info: *Dog Man: The Musical* • Oct. 24 – Nov. 21, 2021 • Grades 1-5