

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: GIRAFFES CAN'T DANCE – THE MUSICAL

Show & Theater Company:

- *Giraffes Can't Dance – The Musical* by Wishing Star Productions, based on the book written by Giles Andreae and illustrated by Guy Parker-Rees.

Art Form:

- Musical Theater (a play with songs)

Context:

- This show is based on a popular book, also titled *Giraffes Can't Dance*.
 - ? Has anyone read the book? What's one thing you remember from it?
- In this story, many animals gather to sing and dance, but Gerald the Giraffe has trouble dancing and needs help from his friends.
 - ? Is it more fun to dance by yourself or with other people?

Main Concepts:

- Celebrating African cultures: The animals in the story express themselves through a variety of languages, musical instruments, and dance styles from a many African regions and cultures.
 - ? What's a type of music your family loves? How is it similar to other types of music?
- Understanding our differences: Gerald has trouble doing what others do, and has to find the ways that his unique qualities make him good at different things than the other animals.
- Celebrating African cultures: The animals in the story express themselves through a variety of languages, musical instruments, and dance styles from a many African regions and cultures.
 - ? What's something that you're good at? How do you feel when you get to do it?

Special Things to Look for:

- Consider how the different characters feel at different points in the story. Ask yourself how you might feel if you were in the same situation as Gerald or one of his friends.
 - ? What's something that you're good at? How do you feel when you get to do it?

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, one person to a seat, limit bathroom breaks, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), and turn off cell phones/no texting.
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - We can't pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater.
 - Live theater is exciting because each performance is unique.
 - Students are in the same room as the performers. Moving around and making sounds can affect the performers and other members of the audience.