AFTER
BEFORE
BEYOND

BEFORE provides teachers engaging, ready-to-implement classroom activities that explore the themes and art form of the show prior to travelling to 42nd Street. Utilize this tool in order to integrate the content of the production into your curriculum in a hands-on experiential way, while building student anticipation and overall impact for the upcoming performance. This section also includes Creativity Pages that provide students the opportunity to personally connect to the show content.

WHAT IS “BEFORE” CIRCUS OZ?

BEFORE provides teachers engaging, ready-to-implement classroom activities that explore the themes and art form of the show prior to travelling to 42nd Street. Utilize this tool in order to integrate the content of the production into your curriculum in a hands-on experiential way, while building student anticipation and overall impact for the upcoming performance. This section also includes Creativity Pages that provide students the opportunity to personally connect to the show content.

MAKING CONNECTIONS TO LEARNING STANDARDS

New Victory School Tool Resource Guides align with the Common Core State Standards, New York State Learning Standards and New York City Blueprint for Teaching and Learning in the Arts. We believe that these standards support both the high quality instruction and deep engagement that The New Victory Theater strives to achieve in its arts education practice.

COMMON CORE
Speaking and Listening: Standard 3

NEW YORK STATE STANDARDS
The Arts: Standard 1; Standard 4
English Language Arts: Standard 1; Standard 4

BLUEPRINT FOR THE ARTS
Theater: Theater Making;
Making Connections
ACTIVITY 1: A FIGHT AGAINST GRAVITY

Do this activity with your students to get them working as an ensemble and send them into the air!

1. Gather your students into a circle.

2. On the count of three, instruct them to jump simultaneously (“1, 2, 3, JUMP!”). Practice jumping together with counting a few times so that the group gets used to this action.

3. Once they have accomplished this, try jumping together simultaneously without counting. Ask them to try and jump at the exact same time by sensing the energy of the group.

4. Take the game one step further and have your students complete a “ripple jump.” One student should start by jumping in the air. The moment that student has left the ground, the student to his or her right jumps in the air. The action continues around the circle to create a “ripple” effect.

5. Finally, add some circus “style” to the game! Tell your class that the members of the CIRCUS OZ “Mob” present their acts using their own unique style. Tell them to find a pose to strike in the air that they feel represents their personal style. Give your students 30 seconds to explore and choose their own style pose.

6. Repeat simultaneous jumping and ripple jumping – only this time, when the jump is completed, instruct the students to strike their individual style pose!

BONUS: You may also try having them jump at the same time with their eyes closed! They may have to try it several times before they can do it together, but this activity challenges the group to work together non-verbally.
ACTIVITY 2: SCENE ATOP A SKYSCRAPER

In this activity, your students will get a chance to create a scene inspired by the classic photograph that inspired CIRCUS OZ to create From the Ground Up, the show you will see at The New Victory.

1. Complete the Creativity Page with your students, either individually or in groups (see next page).

2. Now, put your students in groups of 5-7.

3. Using their responses as a starting point, ask each group to discuss what they think is happening in the photo, and what the characters might be thinking.

4. Ask them to brainstorm how the characters arrived on the beam for lunch, and where they went after the photo was taken.

5. Instruct each group to create a short scene that brings their idea to life. Encourage your students to create the scene physically and without words, allowing their actions to tell the story.

6. Their scenes should have the following structure:
   a. Entrance
   b. A frozen physical image of the photograph
   c. Conflict (how they get off of the beam)
   d. Resolution
   e. Exit

7. Once they have had time to create and rehearse, ask the students to title their scene.

8. Perform the scenes for the rest of the class, and allow each group to share.

REFLECTION

What similarities did you see in the different scenes?

What was surprising about your classmates’ creations?

How did you know what was going on in each scene even though no words were used?

How do you think CIRCUS OZ was inspired by this photo?

What do you think you will see in the show based on this image?

BONUS:

As a full class, re-create the image in the photograph. Encourage your students to be as imaginative as possible in composing it, just as CIRCUS OZ did when they reimagined the photo (see their version on the next page).

If you can, send a picture of what you’ve created back to The New Victory Theater at Education@NewVictory.org.

We would love to see it!
CIRCUS OZ was inspired by the picture below when creating their performance, From the Ground Up.

What do you think these workers are thinking while they’re up on a skyscraper? Fill in the bubbles so that we can read their thoughts!

What do you see in this photo that might have inspired the show? What do you notice that is different in the cast’s version of the photo below?

BONUS: Can you re-create this image as a class? Be as imaginative as possible in composing it, just as CIRCUS OZ did when they reimagined the photo (see their version on the left). If you can, ask your teacher to send a picture of what you’ve created back to The New Victory Theater at Education@NewVictory.org. We would love to see it!

Photos: Charles C. Ebbets, Rob Blackburn