



Columbus Children's
THEATRE



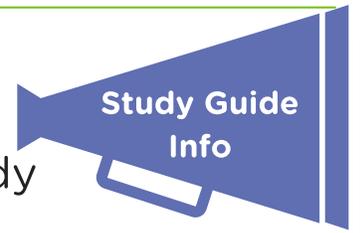
**BRING
IT ON**

the musical

Study Guide

August 8 - August 25,
2019

Why A Study Guide?



Welcome to Bring It On: The Musical! Within our study guide you will find helpful tips to prepare your students to experience and talk about the performance. Use this guide to:

- Introduce students to theatre etiquette
- Introduce students to the roles of a theatrical production
- Share insider knowledge about the world of the show
- Explore themes of Bring It On: The Musical
- Further discuss the show after seeing a performance
- Connect Bring It On: The Musical to your classroom curriculum, across a number of subject areas
- Dive into further readings to learn even more!



For more information about Columbus Children's Theatre and how we inspire, enrich and empower the imaginations of children and their families through live theatre and theatre education, visit our website at www.columbuschildrenstheatre.org



About Bring It On: The Musical

Inspired by the hit film of the same title, Bring It On: The Musical will take audiences on a high-flying adventure of the cutthroat experience that is competitive cheerleading. Campbell's senior year cheer plans are flipped upside-down as she must transfer from her A-list status at Truman High School to the rough school of Jackson High. Campbell and dance crew leader, Danielle, team up and take on the National Championship together, despite their differences. Bring It On The Musical features a story by Tony Award winner Jeff Whitty about friendship, determination, and what it means to really be a winner and showcases music and lyrics by Tony Award-winning Lin-Manuel Miranda

Theatre Etiquette



Theatre etiquette is a simple set of rules to help audience members fully enjoy the show, and for actors and the backstage crew to safely perform their work for you! Here are some important elements of theatre etiquette at CCT:

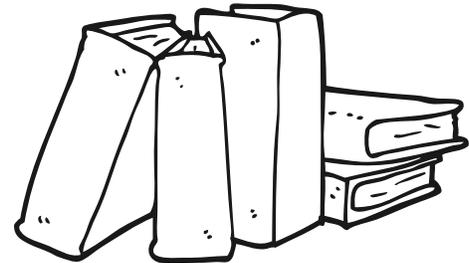
- Arrive on time
- For the safety of the actors and the audience, please stay seated for the performance
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins
- The use of electronic devices (other than access devices), is strictly prohibited
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance
- If you like something that you see, clap or laugh!

Suggested Reading

Exit, Pursued by a Bear

By, E.K. Johnston

Grades 8th - 12th



I Was a Non-Blonde Cheerleader

By, Kieran Scott

Grades 8th - 12th

The Ultimate Guide to Cheerleading:
For Cheerleaders and Coaches

By, Leslie Wilson

Grades 6th - College

Theater Location

The Garden Theater
1187 N High St,
Columbus 43201

Who Is Involved In A Theatrical Production?



Performances at Columbus Children's Theatre are the result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what actors are - the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know that there are more people working hard "behind-the-scenes" to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people.

The Director:

Responsible for the overall concept of the show - they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist. Works with the actors to help them interpret their characters and move on stage. Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props -basically, everything you see on the stage.

The Choreographer:

Directs the dances on stage and designs dance moves that help tell the story of a musical. They also teach the dances to the actors!

The Designers:

Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

The Stage Manager:

Organizes every aspect of the production - schedules, resources and communications. In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance. Guarantees the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

The Crew:

There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

The Cast:

The Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

The Audience:

This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.

Who Are The Characters?



- **CAMPBELL**- A senior head cheerleader whose world gets turned upside-down when she transfers schools. She is constantly working towards the goal of a championship and her "one perfect moment". After using her friends to exact revenge, she realizes that friendship is much more lasting than a trophy.
- **DANIELLE** - The head of the Jackson dance crew. She has fought her way from nothing to make a name for herself, which leads her to not put a lot of stock into people like Campbell. But she has a tendency to bring down her walls and embrace a true friendship.
- **NAUTICA** - One of the Jackson dance crew. Not the sharpest person on the squad, but is loud enough to make up for it.
- **RANDALL** - Jackson's school DJ, mellow and friendly. A true Cinderella story, working his way from a dorky freshman to a smooth senior. He becomes attracted to Campbell for her heart, bravery, and determination.
- **LA CIENEGA** - A transgender woman. Any ethnicity. Her gender is simply not an issue, accepted by her friends, barely referred to. BFFs with Nautica and Danielle. Has a wicked tongue but a generous spirit.
- **STEVEN** - The only male cheerleader on the Buccaneers and Campbell's boyfriend. Tender and comforting, but not the most adept to his surroundings.
- **KYLAR** - One of the Buccaneers cheerleaders. An extremely loyal follower of Skylar who keeps her intelligence hidden under a bushel.
- **EVA** - Campbell's neighbor and the newest member of the Buccaneers cheerleaders. Her initial impression is one of naiveté and meekness. But she proves to be a social climber who schemes to take over Campbell's life at any cost.
- **TWIG** - One of the Jackson students and a hip-hop artist. His hormones make him lust after Bridget.
- **BRIDGET** - The mascot for the Buccaneers. Nerdy and out of shape, but she strives for a place on the cheerleading team. Despite being an outcast, she has a good heart and a great spirit.
- **SKYLAR** - One of the senior Buccaneers cheerleaders. Her popularity has given her quite the mean streak, though she does not have the brains to make up for it.
- **CAMERON** - One of the Jackson students, a hip-hop artist. A combination class clown and attempted ladies' man, but he strives for fame and fortune.

Themes From Bring It On: The Musical



Competitiveness & Leadership Aren't Gender Specific

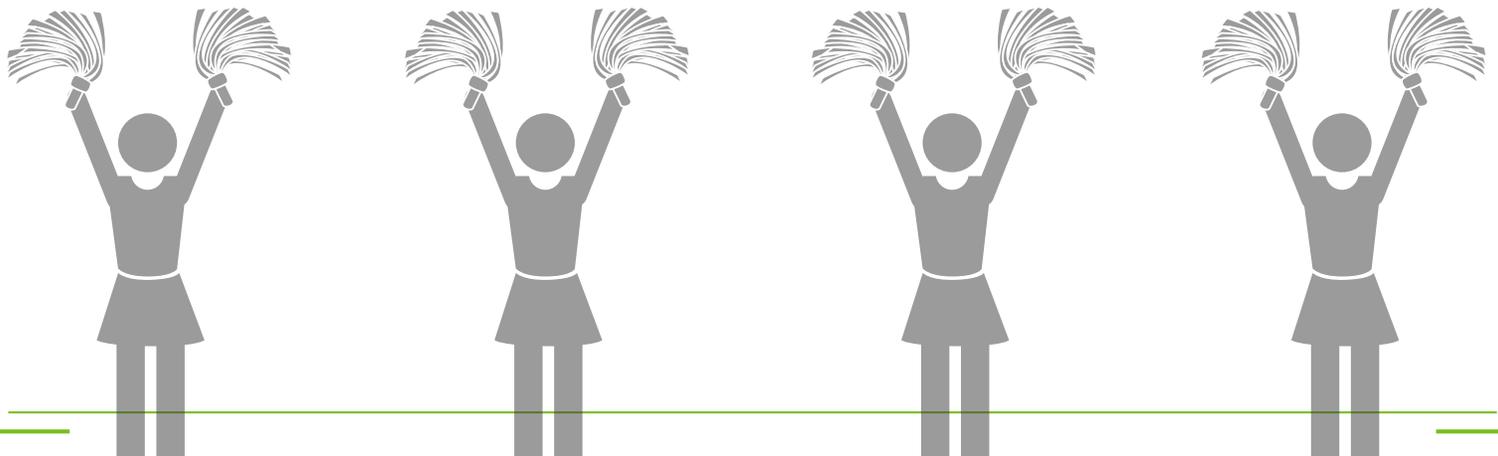
Rivalry, outside of beauty and romance, is not a trait traditionally fostered in girls. In fact, even today women are still vilified for being competitive in sports and demonstrating the same level of passion for their field as men. Bring It On was exemplary for demonstrating both skilled competitors and effective leaders in a very athletic environment.

The Complexities of Friendship

In Bring It On, we see that there is a complex relationship between Danielle and Campbell, as well as between Skylar and Kylar. The complexities and severity of differences between the two relationships seem to be different. Danielle and Campbell are able to find common ground and work through their differences to become a solid team and good friends. However, Skylar and Kylar seem to only get along because Kylar hides her intelligence, and does what Skylar says. Knowing this, are there instances when working through differences isn't the best option? What do you think?

Jealousy

Bring It On shows the ugly side of jealousy through Eva's aggressive attempt to climb up the social ladder. Eva does whatever she can to gain high status, become the head of the Truman High Cheerleading Squad, and win at Nationals. However, we see at the end of the musical that winning and a high social status isn't what's most important, and definitely isn't worth hurting other people for. Instead, applying yourself, trying your hardest, and maintaining sturdy friendships is what we should all strive for.



What's Next?

Use these questions to spark conversation on the way back to school from the theatre, in your classroom the next day, or as writing prompts for students' journals!

- Have you ever wanted something as badly as Campbell and Eva do? What strategies did you use to accomplish your goal? What could Eva or Campbell have done differently to accomplish their goals?
- Bullying is unfortunately common in schools, and even adults can experience it. Have you ever encountered or seen someone being bullied? How do you handle bullying?
- Have you ever known someone that is different than you? What similarities do you share?
- Have you ever experienced school-related pressure or stress? What have you found to be the most effective strategies for taking care of yourself when you're feeling the pressure?
- Campbell and Bridget have to adapt to his new living situation. Does adapting mean giving up your principles?
- Think of a time when someone close to you hurt you and you forgave them. Are you glad that you forgave them? Why?



Activity Time!



Use these activities with your students to deepen their understanding of the story, and to add enrichment across content areas!

Narrative Writing

Imagine you are an old friend of Campbell's from Truman High. She has sent you a text explaining her change to a new school and Eva's coincidental social climb. Disheartened, she asks you for advice. What advice would you give to her?

Have a Debate

A commonly debated topic is whether or not children and young adults should be given participation trophies at competitive events. In *Bring It On*, both cheerleading squads fiercely compete to win first place at Nationals, but only one squad wins. Some say that this kind of competition is healthy for young people, while others say it can hurt their pride. There is a wealth of information supporting either notion. Research the topic through studies that have been done and have a teacher moderated debate in the classroom.



Express Yourself!

La Cienega chooses to express herself and be exactly who she is, despite those who may not support her. Have students bring in an item or two that closely describes who they are. Have the students explain the significance of their item to their identity to each other.

Activities Continued!



Persuasive Writing Project

Competition can often be woven into many aspects of our lives, but is it possible to be too competitive? Weigh the costs and benefits of competition in our day to day lives, and spend some time researching both sides of the argument. From your research, write a thoughtful essay supporting your opinion.



**We can't wait to
perform for you!
See you at the
Theatre!**