



## Teacher Resource Booklet

# The Animal Undie Ball



[www.capitale.org.nz](http://www.capitale.org.nz)



## The Show

This dance piece for the young and very young tells the tale of the animals and their many differences. As well as exploring animal characteristics, it highlights the value in accepting who we are, and not trying to be like someone else just because we think we should. In the story, told with humour that will appeal to young and old alike, Ruth Paul's characters cavort at the annual Animal Undie Ball, but there are four animals who can't participate and they protest. How can an elephant, a snake, a hen and a spider possibly find underwear to fit? It's just not fair. So it is decided that from now on the ball will be held with all the animals dressed as nature intended - in their birthday suits.



## The Writer

Ruth Paul is a New Zealand Author and Illustrator, based in a straw bale office at the back of a garage in the middle of a paddock very close to Wellington. She holds a Visual Communications Design Diploma from Wellington Polytechnic and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Victoria University.

An experienced and versatile practitioner, her portfolio includes advertising, packaging, corporate, magazine and children's book illustration. Ruth's original children's book illustrations are becoming highly sought after and are now held in private collections both in New Zealand and the United States.

Animal Undie Ball is one of a number of children's books she has written.

## The Performance Company

Java Dance Company is a vibrant contemporary dance company creating dance works for the general public as well as children's performances and commercial shows. Java's trademarks are theatricality and extreme physicality. A vibrant Wellington based contemporary company, Java was founded in 2003 by graduates of the New Zealand School of Dance. Java Dance Company performs regularly in Wellington to rave reviews. Java also tours throughout the year, performing to audiences all over the country. 2007 will mark Java Dance Company's fifth year and is set to include a major new work, a children's show for the Capital E Arts Festival, a season at The New Plymouth Festival of lights, a school's tour, a national tour and various other projects.



## Curriculum Links

### Te Whariki

Wellbeing - children develop a capacity to maintain attention, concentration and be involved  
- children develop a sense of personal worth

Belonging - children develop an ability to take on the role of audience in a theatre context

Contribution - children develop ability and interests in spatial, visual, physical and creative domains

Communication - children develop an expectation that dance can amuse, delight, comfort, illuminate, inform and excite them

Exploration - children develop confidence with moving in space and moving with rhythm

### Health and Physical Education

Students will analyse attitudes and values and take action that contributes to their personal esteem.



## Suggested Activity

Teachers may find the themes in *The Animal Undie Ball* leading their students into work on self-worth, particularly at this early stage of the year. If you are working with your class on autobiographical concepts such as All about me—Why I like me—Differences and Similarities etc, this book and performance will be excellent discussion starters and focusing tools.

The activities contained here relate to the dance focus of the performance, and how the animals characteristics can be used to drive exploration.

### ACTIVITY 1

#### Brainstorm – Animals in the jungle

What animals did we see in “The Animal Undie Ball”? What other animals might we see in the jungle? In groups get children to focus on how the animals in the jungle would move. Come together and share ideas. Put these ideas on a chart for the class to use to develop their “Jungle Dance.” Eg.

Snake	Tiger	Elephant	Lion	Monkey	Crocodile
Slippery	Nimble	Big	pouncing	Light	sneaky
Sliding	Quick	Heavy	Leaping	swinging	Hiding
Etc.	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.	Etc.



Add to the chart any other animals the children think of.

#### Warm-up

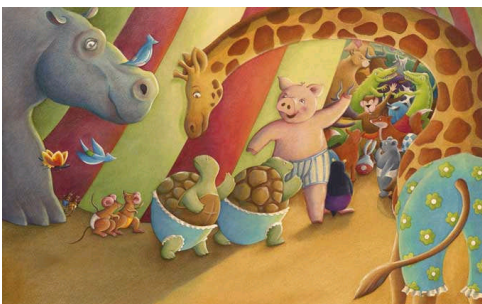
Follow the leader – in pairs, one child is the leader, the other is the follower. The leader makes a movement, the follower copies. When the leader turns to face the follower, the roles change, with the follower becoming the leader, and the leader the follower. Get the class to focus on the movements from the chart. The leader needs to make the movements simple and clear, and repeat them at least 4 times. The leader should use differing pathways, levels and energy.

#### Guided exploration

Guide the children to move like different animals in the jungle. Call out each animal and ask the children to move like that animal. Encourage them to use differing energy and pathways to show how each animal moves.

#### Making – exploring moving as animals in the jungle

In groups of five. Each group chooses an animal. They will focus on this animal and how it moves. Creating a group of movements to present to the class. Give each group a few minutes to choose their animal. They then tell the class which animal they are going to explore. Make sure each group has chosen different animals. They mustn't change their minds. Each group will perform their animal movements. The class will observe, interpret, respond to and offer feedback. Focus on looking at shapes, weight, energy, pathways, levels, locomotion.



#### Warm down

Direct instruction – copy teachers movements- Walk around the room stretching tall then reaching low. Swing arms to the side, rotate hands. Rotate head, then body. Concentrate on each movement. Do the movements slowly and precisely. Move without sound.

#### Extension/Integration Ideas

Decorating the class as an African jungle; Making masks for performance; Writing stories and plays about the jungle; Learning about Africa.

Acknowledgements: Kerri Swain, Sara Whitaker

#### For More

About the Author: <http://www.ruthpaul.co.nz/>

About the Company: [http://www.danz.org.nz/directory.php?section\\_id=1](http://www.danz.org.nz/directory.php?section_id=1)  
<http://www.wellingtonorchestra.co.nz/content/view/57/76/>

Arts & Dance Resources: <http://arts.unitec.ac.nz/resource-exchange/>

Animal Costume: <http://www.kinderart.com/seasons/easyanimal.shtml>



## The Animal Undie Ball Game

This game gets children of all ages thinking of characteristics of animals, and roleplaying with a focus on positive qualities.

After reading the story, introduce the activity like this: "Everyone knows that the animals have a big ball each year, in a big tent in the jungle. But did you know that not just anyone can walk into the tent? Animals want to be around friends, who they can trust and have fun with. That's why they let you in. What qualities would help you to get into the ball?"



Discuss this question. Students usually come up with "strong," and "brave," and "helpful." With a little coaching they are usually able to add "kind," and "loyal," and "clever." After the group accepts each new adjective, ask them to think about which animals match that quality. (For example, elephants are strong and helpful, monkeys are funny and clever, cats are clever and curious, horses are strong and fast, etc.) Discuss the sort of animals who would make good guests until a fairly sizeable list has been generated.

Next, tell the students that the mat will be the big jungle tent. Each student chooses an animal to portray. (It need not necessarily be one that was mentioned earlier, although of course most will be). The first time you play, the teacher can be the Lion, who calls each "animal" forward. "You, animal. Come forward into the presence of the King." The animal moves forward. "What sort of animal are you?" The student announces what animal he or she is portraying. With older students get them to use an appropriate animal voice. "Why should I have a (blank) at the Animal Undie Ball?"

The student then describes the qualities of her/his animal that make that animal a good guest, or offers something that his/her animal could do to help. The Lion responds, "Wonderful! You may come into the Ball."

Obviously everyone must be invited to join—even snakes and spiders. This is a great game to play to transition everyone down to the mat from a desk or table based activity.

End this game by having a grand dance in the 'tent', with each animal moving according to its way. Then the whole group (if the walls are sufficiently thick) "roars"—each according to species—to finish this year's Animal Undie Ball with a bang.

After the first time, the children love to take turns in the role of the Lion.

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## Notes for Teachers

This resource is one of a series developed for the Capital E National Arts Festival. It has been written to provide some suggested curriculum linked learning exploration which may be used to enhance your students' experience of a festival performance. The activities and ideas contained within this booklet have been collated from a number of freely available sources, and Capital E makes no claim to ownership or copyright of this material.

As far as possible, activities have been selected which can be used or easily adapted across a wide range of ages and abilities. In all cases, individual teachers will know best which activities and their variants will be most suitable for their own classes. Please feel free to copy, adapt and explore further sources contained within this booklet to best fit your learning requirements.

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