Flutter: A Discovery Play for Babies

Ages 6 months – 3 years
 ABOUT THE SHOW

Treehouse Shakers' **Flutter** is a new play for babies ages 6 months to 3 years old and their caregivers. It is a stunning new discovery play that introduces the very young to the four seasons.

Conceived and written by Mara McEwin, with choreography by Emily Bunning, the piece is presented by three performers, who are the dancers, puppeteers and play-makers. Flutter explores the seasons through a sensory experiential journey of visuals, sounds, objects, some language, and an open concept of play. Using a non-traditional theatrical set-up, the audience is immediately transformed into a nurturing and welcoming space created by the feeling and ambience of the piece. As the piece begins, caregivers and babies are seated in the round, with the performance in the center. Using original music creates the seasons’ tone and provides ambience, music being the first language for the very young mind. Babies and toddlers will have the freedom to crawl, walk, and move within the space. They can also investigate hands-on textures while experiencing the language/sounds/music, and the engaging visuals.¹

**WATCH**

https://vimeo.com/728678033

Treehouse Shakers’ (THS) mission is to create original dance-plays, workshops and artistic experiences that encourage multi-generational audiences to create a greater connection to their community. Since our 1997 NYC founding, we have created 20 original works that explore narrative styles through universal themes. Our roster addresses every age level within youth programming, from babies to teens. Helping solidify our role in the American theater scene, we were the first U.S. company to tour a dance-play specifically for babies, *Hatched*, in 2012. We remain one of the few companies making work for the Very Early Years. Our work is sometimes the first performance many young people experience. With each new performance, we aim to set the artistic bar higher, challenging our artistic process and the thinking of young audiences.

Increasing the reach of our work, we tour nationally and partner with local schools, community organizations, and non-profits to provide thousands of free and low-cost tickets and programming to underserved youth and families. As a complement to performances, THS provides teacher trainings and residencies for students which focus on the art of storytelling through dance, music theater, and writing.²

EXPLORE// Classroom Workshops

**Bugs Move & Groove!**
*Ages newborn to 3 years old*

In this workshop, children will learn new versions of familiar nursery rhymes with integrated movements, and explore unfamiliar music with repeated phrases and rhythms! Children will sing along, using their voices and movements to appropriately tell the story of different bugs and their unique features.
[Click here for the lesson plan](#)

**Baby Wipe Butterflies**
*Ages 6 months to 3 years old*

In this workshop, children will utilize rough motor skills to create artistic models and learn about the life cycle of butterflies, while working collaboratively with their adult companions to create their interactive masterpieces!
[Click here for the lesson plan](#)
VISIT

Take a trip to Bee City Zoo
Bee City Zoo is a family-owned-and-operated bee farm and interactive zoo! They have a strong focus on educating the public on the importance of the honeybees, and on the many other furry friends that you can also find at Bee City Zoo!

For more information and to plan your trip to the Bee City Zoo, click here.

Take a trip to Cypress Gardens’ Butterfly House
Children will have the opportunity to explore the different stages of the butterfly's life cycle, and may even get to experience the butterflies actively feeding and laying eggs!

For more information and to plan your trip to the Butterfly House, click here.

EXTENSION// All About Bugs

WATCH
Songs About Bugs!
Butterfly Ladybug Bumblebee
Finger Family
Crawl Like a Caterpillar

ACTIVITIES
Egg Carton Caterpillars
Throughout the year (every 365 days), the Earth tilts on its axis and orbits around the sun. **Seasons** are the result of Earth's changing position as it rotates on its orbital journey. This journey affects the amount of sunlight each location on the planet gets during the day and causes the seasons.

“We divide up the year into four seasons: spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Each season lasts 3 months with summer being the warmest season, winter being the coldest, and spring and autumn lying in between. The seasons have a lot of impact on what happens on the earth.”

Spring is a season in which flowers bloom and animals are born. The climate is slightly chilly and the hours of daylight are longer than in winter.

Summer is a season in which the temperature increases and the weather outside becomes hot. Kids are usually out of school and everyone enjoys keeping cool with activities like eating ice cream and swimming.

Autumn (also known as fall) is a season that marks the transition into winter. During this time, animals go into hibernation and the leaves begin to change color before shedding off of trees. The days become shorter and temperatures begin to get chilly!

Winter is our coldest season! The temperature drops low, and in some places, it may even snow. The daylight is very short and the sun may even set before 4 p.m.

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CONNECT // Seasons

**ACTIVITIES**
- The Seasons of Arnold’s Apple Tree Activity
- Four Seasons Sorting Activity
- Four Seasons Playdough Mats Activity
- Four Seasons Light Play Tree Cups

**WATCH**
- All About Seasons for Kids

**READ**
- *Mouse Seasons*
  By Leo Lionni
- *Do I Have to Wear a Coat?*
  By Rachel Isadora
- *My Tree and Me: A Book of Seasons*
  By Jo Witek
CONNECT // Weather and Climate

“The term ‘weather’ refers to the temporary conditions of the atmosphere, the layer of air that surrounds the Earth.” The weather affects us in many ways and it doesn't just stay in one place. Hour by hour throughout the day, weather patterns travel over large distances.

“Over many years, certain conditions become familiar weather in an area. The average weather in a specific region, as well as its variations and extremes over many years, is called climate. For example, the city of Las Vegas in the U.S. state of Nevada is generally dry and hot. Honolulu, the capital of the U.S. state of Hawaii, is also hot, but much more humid and rainy.”

There are five main types of weather: sunny, cloudy, windy, rainy, and stormy.

When the weather is sunny, there are no clouds in the sky to block the sunlight and the temperature is warm. Sunny days are most common in spring and summer, but they can also happen in fall and winter.

Cloudy weather means that there are lots of clouds in the sky. On cloudy days, not much sunlight reaches the Earth's surface, so these days are typically a bit colder. Cloudy days are most common in the fall and winter, though they are not exclusive to that time of year. “Sometimes clouds can completely cover the sky; this is called overcast weather. Rain will often happen on cloudy days, but not always.”

Rainy weather is very wet! These days occur when large rain clouds form in the sky. “Cloudy days can become rainy days if the clouds get large enough and there is a lot of precipitation.”

Snowy weather is most common in the winter. Snow occurs when freezing temperatures cause the precipitation to fall as snow instead of rain! Snowy weather is not typically found south of the Earth's Equator due to climate conditions.

Stormy weather, also known as severe weather, can be categorized into six types of conditions: thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes and typhoons, winter storms, blizzards, and droughts. To learn more about stormy weather, click here.

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CONNECT // Weather and Climate

ACTIVITIES
Weather Mobile for Kids
Magnetic Weather Station
DIY Rain Clouds Science Experiment
Rainbow Rice Sensory Bin

WATCH
Introduction to Weather

READ

The Meteorologist In Me
By Brittney Shipp

Wally Takes A Weather Walk
By Bree Sunshine Smith
CONNECT // Seasonality of Bugs

Just like the changing of weather conditions, seasonal changes affect bugs. Most flying insects typically come out during the warmer seasons of spring and summer when their wings are dry and able to flutter. During the winter and fall, we often see earthbound bugs appear in warmer and even indoor spaces as they seek shelter from outside’s harsh temperatures and conditions.7

WATCH

All About Insects for Kids
Insects and Arachnids for Kids

READ

The Big Book of Bugs
By Yuval Zommer

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
By Eric Carle

EXPLORE // Rare and Unique Species of Bugs

There are lots of bugs that we see everyday, but with over 900,000 species of insects found around the world, there are a plethora of unique and rare bug species that defy everything we know about insects and butterflies!8

Orchid Mantis
The orchid mantis is an elusive species of praying mantis that uses “mimesis,” in this case, the imitation of orchid flowers, to attract its prey. Orchid mantis prey on pollinators, so by camouflaging as a flower, they can effectively “sneak up” on the unsuspecting bugs. Fun fact: orchid mantises are the only animal on record to use this tactic!9

Green Lacewings
Green lacewings are unique nocturnal insects that are often used as “pest control” enforcers against unwanted bugs. Green lacewings defend themselves by emitting a terrible smell to ward off predators. They also have “ears” at the bottom of their front wings. These “ears” allow for them to hear sonar bat communications.10

Man-Faced Stink Bug
Man-faced stink bugs are rare stink bugs with a unique feature “an unusual color pattern that bears a remarkable resemblance to a human face!” These stink bugs are from southeast Asia and while they are similar to the stink bugs that we most commonly see, they come in a variety of four different colors: red, orange, yellow, and cream. These colors warn predators that along with their foul odors, man-faced stink bugs are also quite poisonous!11


Figure 2 Chien Lee, “Orchid Mantis,” flickr.com, uploaded June 15, 2018, https://www.flickr.com/photos/25872797@N02/42090007244.


Figure 4 “Catacanthus Incarnatus,” Reddit, accessed February 28, 2024, https://www.reddit.com/r/ac_newhorizons/comments/q3zn0l/a_manfaced_stink_bug/?rdt=46156.
EXPLORE // More Resources

WATCH
10 Interesting Insects
Unusual Insects Song

READ

Good Trick, Walking Stick!
By Sheri M. Bestor

Where Do Stink Bugs Go?
By Steve Kukla

Holy Moly Roly Poly:
A Story of Awareness and Empathy
By Deb Mills
Flutter: A Discovery Play for Babies

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