



DIGITAL ACTIVITY PACK

**Bass Performance Hall • Fort Worth, TX
January 18-29, 2023**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome to the digital activity pack for THE LION KING! Throughout this pack, you'll find information and activities for your family to use before and after seeing the show.

STORY SYNOPSIS 01-02

CHARACTER GUIDE:
WHO'S WHO 03

SCREEN TO STAGE:
BRINGING *THE LION KING* TO LIFE 04

MUSIC:
THE SOUND OF THE PRIDELANDS 05

CHOREOGRAPHY:
MOVEMENT AND DANCE 06

IN-THEATER ACTIVITY:
PRE-SHOW TURN & TALK 07

SHADOWPUPPET ACTIVITY 08



STORY SYNOPSIS: ACT ONE

PRIDE ROCK Sunrise on the Savanna. Rafiki, a wise old baboon, calls the animals to Pride Rock to welcome the newest member of the kingdom's royalty ("Circle of Life"). She lifts the newborn prince, Simba – son to Mufasa, the Lion King, and Sarabi, the queen – for all to see. Meanwhile Scar, Mufasa's brother, resents the young cub who will replace him as heir to the throne.

THE PRIDELANDS As time passes, Simba grows into a young, headstrong cub. Mufasa reveals to his son that one day Simba will rule the Pridelands and advises him to use his power wisely. When Simba inquires about a distant land, Mufasa warns him never to go beyond the Pridelands' boundaries.

Zazu, a hornbill bird and Mufasa's major domo, arrives to give the king the report on all activities in the Pridelands. Playing on Simba's curiosity, Scar tells his nephew that the forbidden land beyond the border of the Pridelands is an Elephant Graveyard.

Simba invites his best friend Nala, a young lioness, to explore a mysterious new place. On orders of Queen Sarabi, Zazu serves as chaperone to the two mischievous friends. As Simba joyfully describes how he will someday rule the kingdom ("I Just Can't Wait To Be King"), he and Nala are able to slip away from the hornbill.

ELEPHANT GRAVEYARD Now alone, Simba and Nala explore the creepy Elephant Graveyard. Zazu catches up and begs them to leave. Too late! Three of Scar's hyena followers – Banzai, Shenzi and Ed – surround them and gloat over their prey ("Chow Down"). Suddenly Mufasa appears, beating the hyenas back. The king takes Simba, Nala and Zazu back to the Pridelands.

UNDER THE STARS Mufasa is very disappointed in Simba; Simba tells his father he was only trying to be brave, like Mufasa. When Simba asks his father if they will always be together, Mufasa looks up at the night

sky and tells Simba that the great kings of the past will always be there to guide him ("They Live In You"). Meanwhile, Scar tells Shenzi, Banzai and Ed to be prepared for the death of Mufasa and the coming of a new king – himself ("Be Prepared").

THE GORGE Scar brings Simba to the gorge to meet his father. As Scar leaves, the hyenas start a stampede of wildebeests and Simba runs for his life. Mufasa enters and manages to get Simba to safety, but Scar throws Mufasa beneath the hooves of the stampede. When the dust clears, Simba finds Mufasa's lifeless body. Scar convinces Simba that he is to blame for Mufasa's death, instructing him to leave the Pridelands and never return. Scar climbs to the top of Pride Rock with the hyenas to assume the throne ("Be Prepared" Reprise).

THE DESERT/THE JUNGLE While wandering through the Desert, a heartbroken Simba encounters Timon, a wise-cracking meerkat, and Pumbaa, a big-hearted warthog. The unlikely trio become fast friends and Timon and Pumbaa teach Simba their philosophy of life, "Hakuna Matata." This simple yet powerful phrase meaning "no worries" guides Simba as he grows from a cub into a young lion ("Hakuna Matata").



STORY SYNOPSIS: ACT TWO

THE PRIDELANDS The chorus welcomes the audience back to its seats with a song (“One By One”). But as the song ends, the beautiful birds are replaced by buzzards and the skeletons of gazelles. Under Scar’s rule, the Pridelands have become dry and lifeless. He has ignored the Circle of Life. Scar is haunted by the memory of Mufasa, and decides to secure his immortality by having children. Having matured, Nala enters to protest his rule, but Scar only notices her beauty. Rather than submit to Scar, Nala leaves – vowing never to forget her pride (“Shadowlands”).

THE JUNGLE Simba begins to feel the restlessness of adolescence and roughhouses with his new friends. When Timon needs the young lion to rescue him from a dangerous waterfall, Simba fails to act, paralyzed by the memory of his father’s death. That evening, still troubled, Simba looks up to the night sky, remembering Mufasa’s promise to always be there for him (“Endless Night”).

As a lioness chases Pumbaa for lunch, Simba intervenes to protect him and defends against the new predator. Simba struggles with the agile foe only to recognize the lioness as Nala, his childhood friend. Nala is shocked to find him alive and tells Timon and Pumbaa that Simba is the true king. Once alone, Nala and Simba realize the depth of their feelings for each other much to the chagrin of Timon and Pumbaa (“Can You Feel The Love Tonight?”). Nala asks Simba to return to the devastated Pridelands and reclaim his throne. Simba refuses and stalks away.

Simba meets Rafiki in the jungle. The old baboon tells Simba his father is still alive (“He Lives In You.”). As Simba protests, the stars come together to form the

image of Mufasa’s face. Mufasa’s spirit tells his son to take his place in the Circle of Life. Simba realizes that he must learn from his mistakes and return to the Pridelands.

PRIDE ROCK Simba returns to Pride Rock. While Timon and Pumbaa distract the hyenas, Simba confronts Scar, who cannot believe the young lion lives. Before the other lions, Scar forces Simba to admit his “guilt” for Mufasa’s death. Scar, however, reveals to Simba that he himself is Mufasa’s murderer. Simba overpowers Scar and makes him announce the truth to the pride. Simba banishes Scar from the Pridelands and orders him never to return. In a final moment of treachery, Scar attacks Simba. Simba avoids his uncle’s blow as Scar falls off Pride Rock, landing at the feet of the hungry hyenas.

As the dawn breaks, Simba’s animal friends come forward, acknowledging him as the new king. He climbs to the top of Pride Rock, and gives a mighty roar. Herds of animals answer his call and rejoice in his victory (“King of Pride Rock”). Nala joins him. Rafiki holds up their newborn cub for all to see as they celebrate the completion of the Circle of Life (“Circle of Life” Reprise).



CHARACTER GUIDE: WHO'S WHO



RAFIKI

The baboon Rafiki is a shaman, guide, teacher and narrator. Using her mystical powers and her common sense, she guides Simba on the right path.



SIMBA

The lion prince of the savanna, Simba starts his journey as an arrogant youth; through his trials, he learns to accept and embrace his role in the Circle of Life.



MUFASA

A great warrior and leader, Mufasa, the Lion King, is the ruler of the Pridelands. He is also Simba's father and passes on his wisdom and experiences to his son, his heir.



ZAZU

The king's "major domo," or his most trusted advisor, Zazu the hornbill is full of himself, but Mufasa couldn't run the kingdom without him.



SARABI

As queen of the savanna, Sarabi, Simba's mother, leads the lionesses in the hunt.



NALA

Nala, a young lioness, has known Simba since they were both cubs. Her childlike bravado grows into true courage.



SCAR

Mufasa's brother, Scar is a lean and cunning lion compared to the powerful and heroic Mufasa. Madly jealous of Simba, Scar is obsessed with the need to possess the throne.



TIMON

The self-proclaimed "brains of the outfit," this spunky little meerkat with a motor mouth thinks he has all the answers.



PUMBAA

Pumbaa the warthog may have more brawn than brains, but his size includes a big heart. Despite their carefree ways, Timon and Pumbaa are true friends to Simba and help him on his journey.

SCREEN TO STAGE: BRINGING THE LION KING TO LIFE

The only way to make THE LION KING work on stage was to re-imagine the story in a completely theatrical way. Tony Award®-winning director Julie Taymor believed that although this is a story told with animals, it's a human tale. And so she wanted humans revealed at all times. From principal actors to ensemble members playing an animal or plant, the audience always sees the actor.

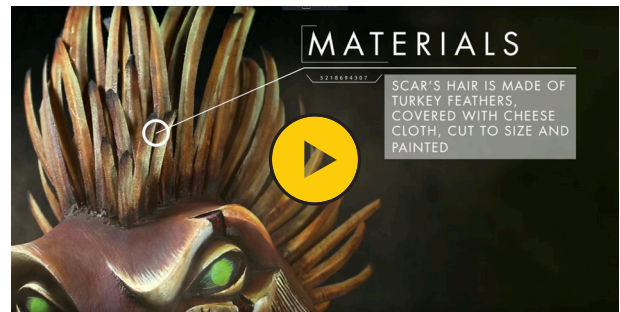
Taymor was determined to emphasize the 'theatrical' in the stage version of THE LION KING. In a film, special effects are like secret magic tricks; audiences gasp and say "How did they DO that?" In THE LION KING, Taymor wanted to reveal the HOW, and show the human being behind every character and effect. The ropes, pulleys and wires that create the magic in THE LION KING are seen by the audience; the human beings that portray the animal characters are clearly seen beneath the costumes and masks. When special effects are hidden the audience is passive but by revealing the inner workings of its magic, THE LION KING asks audience members to actively use their imaginations to "fill in the blanks."

WATCH THESE VIDEOS TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT MASKS AND PUPPETS FROM THE LION KING

STAGE PROPS: MUFASA'S MASK



STAGE PROPS: SCAR'S MASK



5 FAST FACTS: SIMBA'S MASK



5 FAST FACTS: ZAZU PUPPET

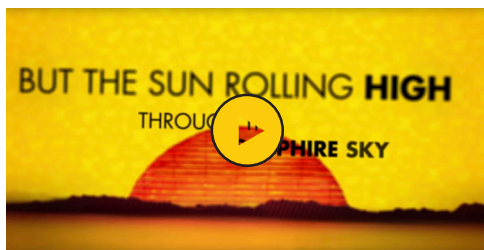


MUSIC: THE SOUND OF THE PRIDELANDS

THE LION KING'S musical score reflects the influence of both western popular music and African rhythms. Merging the two musical worlds of Broadway and South Africa, the composers take listeners from the playful upbeat melodies of "Hakuna Matata" to the somber and mournful "Shadowlands" to the tribal celebration of "One by One."

WATCH LYRIC VIDEOS FEATURING MUSIC FROM THE SHOW!

CIRCLE OF LIFE



HAKUNA MATATA



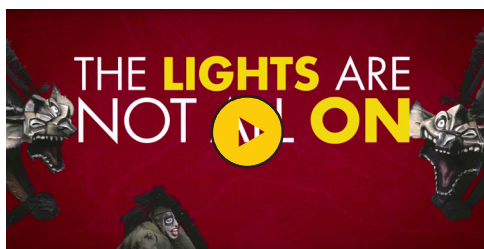
THEY LIVE IN YOU



SHADOWLAND



BE PREPARED



CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT



 [CLICK HERE TO LISTEN](#) TO THE FULL CAST RECORDING ON SPOTIFY!

CHOREOGRAPHY: MOVEMENT & DANCE

Dance and movement is a huge part of THE LION KING. It not only represents the cultural roots of the show's African story, but also the characters themselves. From the opening sequence of "Circle of Life", the way that the characters move around each other is key to the audience's understanding of the story. For this very physical show, the choreographer, Garth Fagan, created a "movement language." Through hunt and fight sequences, funeral processions and celebratory dances, movement tells the story as much as words and music.

WATCH THESE VIDEOS AND IMAGINE YOURSELF ON STAGE

**LEARN CHOREOGRAPHY FROM
"HE LIVES IN YOU"**



**WATCH "THE CIRCLE OF LIFE"
IN 360**



IN-THEATRE ACTIVITY

PRE-SHOW TURN & TALK

What do you think? Check out the questions below and share your answers with the people around you!

- THE LION KING features many animals from the African Savannah. Director and designer Julie Taymor brought these animals to life in a very creative way. How would you create a giraffe onstage?
- THE LION KING is a musical about action, self-discovery, and finding your place in the Circle of Life. Is there a moment in your life that you think would make a good musical? What are some possible song titles? What characters would be in your musical? What would the plot be?
- The music in THE LION KING is rooted in the sounds of South Africa, and percussion plays an important role. How many percussion instruments do you see in the theater? (Hint: look up)
- In the theater, the sound board operator sits in a booth at the back of the orchestra. Do you see where the sound booth is? Can you find any speakers in the house?

SHADOWPUPPET ACTIVITY

Relive the magic of THE LION KING at home. Print the template below to make your very own shadow puppet!

