

# "NEVER EVERGLADES"

## Presented by Fantasy Theatre Factory

Get ready for wild adventure in this original conservation comedy about protecting the environment. The Florida Everglades are in danger and it's up to goofy junior Flown Ranger Dudley R. Spoonbill to save them. Join in the fun as a young Floridian Roseate Spoonbill named Dudley tries to save his bird friends from danger as they migrate south for the winter. Dudley must use Florida's natural resources and landmarks to guide the flock, there's just one problem, the Three Little Pigs are tearing down the Everglades as fast as they can! Dudley's hilarious adventures in the Everglades bring him face to face with all sorts of far out fairy tale characters who have lost their homes thanks to the destructive pigs. Dudley must use every ounce of determination and cunning to outsmart the swine and save the Everglades homes of his friends and lead hundreds of birds to safety.

## BEFORE THE PLAY



### Class Discussion

1. *What do the terms "Play" and "Live Theater" mean?*
2. *Are there different kinds or styles of theater? How can we tell the difference?*
3. *How is live theater different from TV or the movies?*  
(Answers may vary)
  - Live theater cannot be stopped to re-shoot a scene or fix mistakes.
  - Live theater involves the audience.
  - The actors on stage can hear the audience!
4. *What is an audience?*
  - What is the audience's job?
  - How should an audience behave?
5. *What is an Actor? Can you name any actors?*
  - An actor is someone who makes what is not real seem real.

### **Activity: "The Changing Play"**

- Have the class sit as though they were a grown up audience watching a play.
- Have them change their reactions as the imaginary play changes from comedy, drama, Horror, Musical etc.
- Ask the class to pretend to be a bad audience that is distracting and impolite. Then ask them to behave correctly.
- Discuss the difference and create a plan together for appropriate theater behavior.

**TH.D.1.1.3 (PreK-2) The student understands appropriate audience responses to dramatic presentations.**

# ENJOY THE SHOW!



## The Florida Everglades

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### Information From The National Wildlife Foundation & The National Park Service

The Everglades is known as The River of Grass, a broad sheet of slowly moving water, 50 miles wide and two feet deep, that flows from its headwaters in central Florida to the Florida Keys and the Gulf of Mexico through the largest concentration of sawgrass in the world.

But the Everglades is more than just a vast expanse of water and grass. It is a complex and diverse collection of distinct habitats that each support their own communities of Wildlife.

The Everglades is one of America's greatest but most imperiled natural treasures, home to a vast community of wildlife, and a critical water resource for Florida. Once a healthy eight-million acre "river of grass," the Everglades has been reduced to half its original size by a century of agricultural growth, urban sprawl and unwise water management.



## The Roseate Spoonbill (Our Hero!)

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### From the Jr. Audubon Society

Gorgeous at a distance, bizarre up close, Roseate spoonbills are as interesting as they are spectacular to see. With slightly greenish bald head and large spatula-like bill, these waterbirds give a strangely reptilian impression.

Watching them feed is even more engaging. Foraging mostly by feel, birds immerse their "spoon" bills into the water, bills slightly open, and swing their heads in wide arcs from side to side. Shrimp, water bugs and beetles, small fish and other aquatic invertebrates are encountered under the water and consumed with gusto. In fact, the pink coloration of the birds' feathers is enhanced by the shellfish on which they feed. And as if pure pink were not enough, during the breeding season, both males and females assume a more brilliant look. Scarlet splashes on the wings become more brighter, tail feathers turn a deeper orange, and remaining body feathers get pinker than pink.

#### Roseate Spoonbill Stats:

- Overall length: 32 inches
- Large spatula-like bill
- Looks similar to the flamingo with a greenish bald head
- Feeds on shrimp, water bugs and beetles, and small fish

## POST SHOW ACTIVITIES

### Activity: "Mapping A Flight Plan"

"Never Everglades" is a comedy adventure set in the Florida Everglades that cover a large portion of the state.

- Identify the Florida on a map of the united states, then identify Everglades national park on a map of Florida.
  - Ask the students to locate the migration landmarks Dudley was looking for. (Lake Okeechobee, Groves of trees, Hammocks, The Eco Pond)
    - Ask Students to map a safe route from central Florida to the Eco pond for Dudley and his bird friends. Pin point safe nest stop areas too.
- Discussion - What other things do birds use to find their migratory paths?*

**SS.B.1.2.1 (3-5)** The student understands the world in spatial terms

### Activity: "The Ecology Game"

- Encourage students to name as many wild animals and plants using specific names and descriptions. Explain that everything in nature lives in perfect symbiosis with everything else each organism depending on others for survival this is called the ecology.
- Ask the class to connect the animals plants and insects together in mutually beneficial "ecology relationships" for example:

#### **EXAMPLES:**

- \*TREES are home to many BIRDS who eat and gather seeds dropping them all around where they grow into more TREES!
- \* TREES grow emitting precious oxygen for HUMANS to breath - HUMANS exhale carbon monoxide which is used by TREES to grow!

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What happens to all when one of the pieces in the circle is missing?*
- Why must we protect these natural creatures and plants?*

**SC.D.2.1.1 (Prek - 2)** The student understands the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.

**SC.G.1.2.1 (3-5)** The student understands the competitive interdependent, cyclic nature of living things in the environment.

**Activity: Making Milk Jug Bird Feeders**

Birds depend on humans to protect trees and wetlands like the Everglades.

-Discuss the importance of *reducing reusing* and *recycling* and effects on the environment. The following project is one way to re-use hazardous plastic products and give our bird neighbors a treat!

**Step One:** Collect environmentally unfriendly milk jugs - wash them well!

**Step Two:** Cut away holes the size of apples in the center on two sides. (Leave the handle in tact)

**Step Three:** Insert a straw, dowel or pencil just below the cut holes and secure with tape inside.

**Step Four:** Have fun decorating the new bird feeders (remember, it might get wet!)

**Step Five:** Fill bird feeders up to the holes with quality bird seed

*(Check with a professional seed store to find out which variety is best for birds in your area.)*

Hang the feeder by the handle near a window so you can watch the birds enjoy!

***Variations:***

\*You can reuse many kinds of containers for this project - juice cartons and Pringles potato chip containers work great! (Just add a pipe cleaner to the top for hanging.)

\*Ask students to design their own feeders from various discarded household containers.

\*Keep track of all the birds that visit the feeders - are any of them migrating?

**SC.D.2.2.1& 2 (Prek-2) & (3-5)** The student understands the need for protection of the natural systems on Earth.

**SC.G.2.2.1-3 (3-5)** The student understands the consequences of using limited natural resources.

**VOCABULARY**

Conservation: The controlled use and systematic protection of natural resources.

Ecology: The relationship between organisms and their environment.

Environment: Surroundings

Everglade: A tract of submerged swampland.

Habitat: The area or natural environment in which an organism normally lives or grows.

Migration: To move regularly from one region and settle in another.

Wetlands: A lowland area, as a marsh, that is saturated with moisture.

**WHERE TO LEARN MORE**

***Birds*** -- Visit the Junior Audubon Society at [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org)

***Florida Everglades*** -- Visit the historical museum of South Florida at [www.Historicalmuseum.org](http://www.Historicalmuseum.org)

***Ecology and Conservation*** -- Visit the National Wildlife Federation at [www.Nwf.org](http://www.Nwf.org)

***Re-cycling with Kids Crafts*** -- Visit KD craft exchange at [www.kidsdomain.com/craft](http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft)

## About Fantasy Theatre Factory

**Fantasy Theatre Factory** is a professional *touring* theatre created in New York in 1977, by Ed Allen and Mimi Schultz, performing artists and teachers. We present theatre for **family audiences**. Our **14** touring shows appeal to pre-school, elementary, family, adult and senior audiences. Our shows cover themes of: Children's Literature, Reading, Ecology, Social Service, Black history, Dance, English, and Music. We perform in rural and inner city schools, theatre, parks, hospitals, community centers, practically everywhere. In this manner, Fantasy Theatre Factory presents more than 400 Florida programs reaching over 150,000 people each year. Our mission is to make more quality theatre programs available to more people.



### "NEVER EVERGLADES" CREATIVE TEAM



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Artistic Producer -- Mimi Schultz  
Managing Producer -- Ed Allen  
Playwright/ Director -- Gina Montet  
Set Designer -- Chris Jahn  
Costume Designer -- Eillis Tillman  
Props -- Steve Lambert



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Fantasy Theatre Factory presents

***“The Never Everglades”***

