



# Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

## DOG LOVES BOOKS



### **ArtsPower National Touring Theatre**

Gary W. Blackman  
Mark A. Blackman

### **Executive Producers**

Based on the book  
**DOG LOVES BOOKS**

By Louise Yates

Published 2010 by  
Knopf Books for Young Readers

Presented under an agreement  
with Louise Yates.  
All rights reserved.

Script by Greg Gunning  
Music by John Forster and Richard DeRosa  
Lyrics by John Forster and Greg Gunning

Costume Design and Construction by  
Fred Sorrentino

Set Illustrations by  
Dan Helzer/Blitz Designs

Media Sponsor:



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Hypertherm



Foundation

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## ***Dear Teacher/Parent:***

We have included the following study guide from ArtsPower to help make your students' theater experience with *Dog Loves Books* as meaningful as possible. For many, it will be their first time viewing a live theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long-lasting. Please use this study guide as inspiration for creating your own activities and areas for discussion. We hope you and your class enjoy the show!

### **About Lebanon Opera House Youth Education Series**

Each year, LOH presents a series of events for school children in the Upper Valley community. Made possible by support from the series' sponsors, the YES! events provide many of the community's school children with their first exposure to live performances. The series features school-day matinees by national touring companies that specialize in shows for young and family audiences.

### **About ArtsPower**

ArtsPower's twofold mission is to provide young people, many for the very first time, with the unforgettable opportunity to experience the transporting power of outstanding theatre that entertains, stimulates, and educates; and to enhance "character education" among young people by creating theatre that fosters sound moral development, encourages self-expression, ignites the desire to read, and advances their development as productive members of society.

Celebrating our 29th anniversary in 2014, ArtsPower is one of America's preeminent nonprofit producers and presenters of professional theatre for young and family audiences. With over 500 performances annually, ArtsPower has amassed an audience of more than 13 million people in 49 states.

ArtsPower is led by Founding Co-Directors Gary W. Blackman and Mark A. Blackman. Greg Gunning serves as Artistic Director and resident playwright. Karen Bibbo is Company and Production Manager.



## Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

Please review this common theater etiquette with your class before attending the performance.

### Do:

- Arrive at Lebanon Opera House early.
- Use the restroom before the performance.
- Turn off cell phones, alarms, and other electronic devices.
- Wait for your school or group to be dismissed.
- Keep your feet on the floor.
- Show your appreciation of the performers by applauding.
- Stay with your group or school at all times.
- Watch and listen closely to the performers.

### Don't:

- Stand in the aisles.
- Put your feet on the seats or balcony railing.
- Talk, sing, hum or fidget.
- Take pictures or record the actors during the performance.
- Leave the theater during the performance.
- Kick the seat in front of you.
- Eat, drink or chew gum in the theater.
- Leave your seat before the performers have taken their curtain call.

## Enjoy the show!







# Study Buddy

## Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower's musical play, *Dog Loves Books*, before and after the performance. You may reproduce and distribute this Study Buddy to your students. **Please read this page about ArtsPower's musical to your students before attending the performance.** The main characters appear in boldface type.

## What Happens in *Dog Loves Books*?

*Dog Loves Books* is a musical based on the book by British author Louise Yates. It was published by Knopf Books for Young Readers in 2010.

**Dog** loves books and loves to read any and all kinds. He thinks everyone loves books as much as he does. So, he decides to open his own bookstore.

**Louise**, a young girl who loves to dance, is the first person to visit Dog's bookstore. Much to Dog's surprise, she is not interested in buying a book. To make matters worse, she does not believe that dogs can sell books. So, she challenges Dog: if he can sell three books by the end of the day, she will believe that dogs really can sell books, and she will be Dog's friend.

Dog is then visited by a **Man** who has lost his way and a **Rich Lady** who asks to be served scones and tea. Neither of them is the least bit interested in buying a book. Frustrated, Dog decides that to sell books, he must be familiar with each and every one of them. He believes that if he reads all of the books in his store, he can recommend books to his customers and they would be excited to buy them.

When the Man and the Rich Lady return to the bookstore later that day, Dog is able to make the books he has read come alive on stage. By the end of each story he tells, first to the Man and then to the Rich Lady, he sells each of them a book. Will he be able to convince Louise, the young dancer who challenged Dog to sell at least three books before the end of the day, to buy the book he recommends to her?

## How to Be a Good Audience

In order to be a good audience member, remember to:

- ★ Listen quietly.
- ★ Pay attention to the things the actors say and do — some things might make you happy, and some might be funny. Feel free to laugh at things you think are funny!
- ★ Sit quietly and do not talk during the performance, unless you are requested to do so by the actors onstage.
- ★ If you enjoy the play, you can applaud after musical numbers and at the end.

To purchase the book  
**DOG LOVES BOOKS** on Amazon,  
click here.

(<http://www.amazon.co/Dog-Loves-Books-Louise-Yates/dp/0375864490>)



# Study Buddy

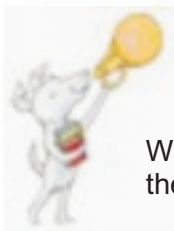
## ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

**Please read this page to your students before attending the performance.**

ArtsPower is a theatre company that creates musical and dramatic theatre productions for young and family audiences based on books for young readers.

### The four actors and one stage manager:

- present performances all over the United States.
- pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment in their van.
- set up and move the set.
- take care of costumes and props — objects such as the books, the banners, and other things handled by the actors.
- stay in hotels when they travel.
- sometimes present up to 9 performances in a week.



## Learning Activity

Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

If you were an actor, do you think you would like to travel to different places to perform?

Do you think audiences from different parts of the country respond to the performance in the same or in different ways? If so, why?

## Learning Activity

Before the performance, read *Dog Loves Books*. After the performance, talk about how the production was the same or different than the book. Discuss the characters, settings, and events in each version.

## What Is a Musical?

A **musical** is a story told through spoken words and songs by live actors onstage. The spoken words are called **lines**. The words that are sung are called **lyrics**. The music that was composed just for this show has been recorded. This music is called the show's **soundtrack**. For this performance, the soundtrack has been recorded on to a CD which is operated by the stage manager.

The musical *Dog Loves Books* is presented onstage with four actors who play some of the characters found in the book. The actors wear **costumes** and perform in front of their **set**.

Because reading a book is different than seeing a live performance on stage, the **playwright**, or the person who writes the lines that the actors speak, must change parts of the story or bring new qualities to the characters that are not found in the book. In other words, the playwright **adapts** the book into a musical play, or changes parts of it to turn the words on the page into a live performance.



# Study Buddy

## Creating Theatre

Please read this section to your students before attending the performance.

Creating a musical theatre production like Dog Loves Books takes a lot of time and creative energy from a group of people.

Many people work together to turn a book into a musical. Changes and additions are developed by the theatre company, ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, that help transform the book into an hour-long musical.

- The **playwright** writes lines that the actors speak.
- The **lyricist** writes the words to the songs that the actors sing.
- The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The **stage manager** oversees all backstage elements of a show.
- The **composer** writes the music.
- The **actors** audition for parts and memorize lines and songs.
- The **director** rehearses the actors and makes artistic decisions.
- The **producers** raise the money to create the show and manage all aspects of the production and its tour throughout the U.S.

## The Creative Team for Dog Loves Books



**GREG GUNNING (Playwright, Co-Lyricist, and Director)** is ArtsPower's Artistic Director and has written or co-written the scripts to all of ArtsPower's theatre productions. Greg's script for *Lily's Crossing*, based on the Newbery Honor book by Patricia Reilly Giff, is included in Penguin Books' "The Signet Book of Short Plays."



**JOHN FORSTER (Co-Composer, Co-Lyricist, and Co-Orchestrator)** is an award-winning songwriter who has been nominated for four Grammy Awards. John composed the music and wrote the lyrics to ArtsPower's very first musical, *Four Score and Seven Years Ago*, in 1989. He is also the composer of the Broadway musical, *Into the Light*. [www.johnforster.com](http://www.johnforster.com)



**RICHARD DEROSA (Co-Composer and Co-Orchestrator)** is presently an associate professor and director of jazz composition and arranging studies at the University of North Texas. Richard has composed and orchestrated the scores to all but three ArtsPower productions. [jazz.unt.edu/derosa](http://jazz.unt.edu/derosa)



**LOUISE YATES (Author)** wrote and illustrated Dog Loves Books, which debuted as a New York Times Bestseller and won the Parents' Choice Award in the United States in 2010. In the United Kingdom, Dog Loves Books won the 2010 Roald Dahl Funny Prize and was nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal. Louise lives and works in London. [www.louise-yates.com](http://www.louise-yates.com)





# Study Buddy

## Lines, Lyrics, and Music

Please read this page to your students before attending the performance.

Because *Dog Loves Books* is a musical, the story is told through spoken lines and lyrics that are sung. The lines tell the audience about the characters and the story. The lyrics often tell the audience what the characters are thinking to themselves. Actors work with the director on how to deliver their lines and lyrics with expression.

### Actors' Lines

The words spoken or "delivered" by the actors are written by the playwright. Each actor must memorize the script or "lines" for his or her own character. They must also be familiar with the lines of the other characters.

### Lyrics

Lyrics are the words to the songs. John Forster and Greg Gunning wrote the lyrics to all the songs in *Dog Loves Books*. What do these lyrics that Dog sings tell you about his character?

**Let them say Dog can't sell books.  
They say "No Way!" 'cause how he looks.  
But they'll see they're wrong,  
When they soon discover:  
You can't judge a book by its cover!**

### Music

John Forster and Richard DeRosa are the composers who wrote and arranged the music for *Dog Loves Books*. John and Richard used electronic keyboards and synthesized music – sounds generated by a special computer – to record the soundtrack. During the performance, the actors sing live to the prerecorded soundtrack on CD that the stage manager operates from off stage.

### Learning Activity

To learn more about Dog, read his lines below. Imagine you are playing the part of Dog and deliver each line aloud with expression.

Hey, that's it! Everybody loves books, so I'll ... I'll open a bookstore! ... My very own bookstore! ... Yeah!

The next person who comes through that door will buy a book. I know it!

I can do this... can't I? ... There's no way I can't sell three books – piece of cake ... right??

I don't get it! How could she not know this was a bookstore?





# Study Buddy

## All About Dogs

Please read this section to your students before attending the performance.

**Ready for some fun facts about dogs?** (After you read this to your students, ask them to think about what you read. Ask them about some of the special things their pets can do. Remind them to treat their dogs and all animals with care and respect.)

### Do dogs sweat when they are overheated?

Dogs are covered in fur and do not sweat like people do. A dog cools down by panting with his mouth open. Also, dogs sweat through glands that are located around their foot pads. That is why, when a dog is overheated, you will sometimes see a trail of wet footprints that he has left behind as he walked across the floor.

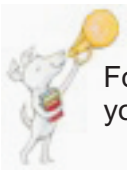
### Can dogs really read?

No, dogs cannot read. But they can understand words they are taught by their owners. Many dogs understand commands like Sit, Stay, and Roll Over. Some have a large vocabulary of words they understand and respond to. Some dogs are trained to be guide dogs for people without sight. These remarkable dogs learn how to lead their owners from place to place.

### Can dogs see colors?

Yes they can. The color range they see, however, is not as broad compared to what people can see. In addition to black, white, and grey, the colors dogs see contain mostly yellows, blues, and violets.

## Learning Activity



Follow the directions below to create your own cartoon dog!



Draw a heart.



Rotate your paper so the heart is upside down.



Draw a loop (tongue) in the base of the heart.



Draw two ears.



Add two eyes and an upside down triangle for a nose.



Shading and color as you like.





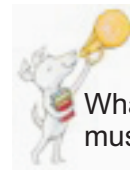
# Study Buddy

## Some Fun Stuff

J T S V E D U L W B  
W K U E L I H Y O C  
E E O V N N O O M P  
D C Q P R O K D O G  
W N V C D S C G L M  
I A B L T A M S G Q  
K D I O U U F E V T  
Y U R L V R M Q B Z  
B E X O W S C A D J  
Y D A L H C I R N J

Words to find: DOG, MAN, RICH LADY, DINOSAURS,  
BOOKSTORE, DANCE, SCONES, BUILD.

## Learning Activity

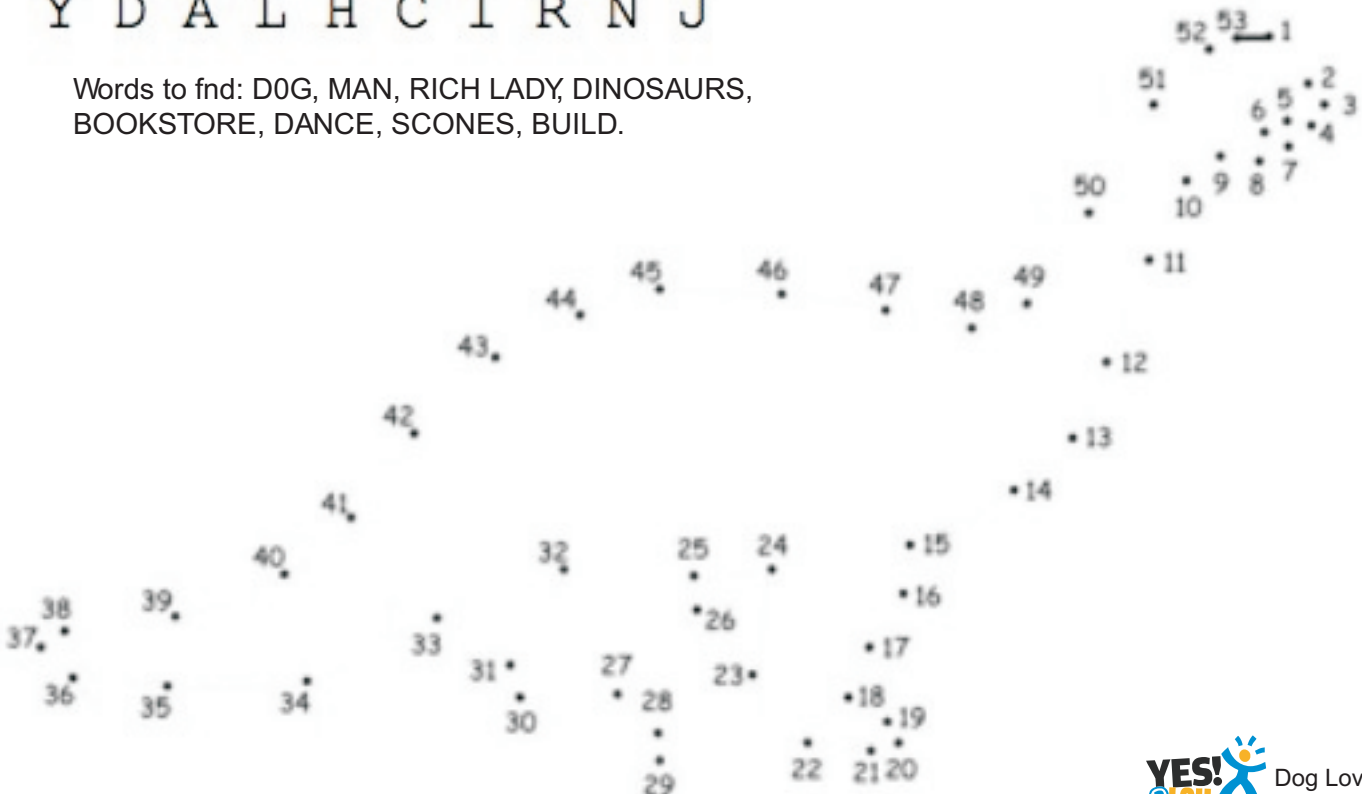


What did you enjoy most about the musical?

Explain why Dog was so excited about starting a bookstore.

Did you think Dog would be able to sell three books before the end of the day?

Do you have family members or friends who work in a store? Explain.



# PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_  
(Optional) (Optional)

What grade levels attended the performance? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the performance appropriate for this grade(s)? Yes No

Was the post-show discussion valuable to your students? Yes No

Did this performance fit in with your curriculum? Yes No

Was the study guide helpful? Yes No

How would you rate the entertainment quality of the performance?

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average

How would you rate the educational quality of the performance?

Outstanding Above Average Average Below Average

To what extent were your students challenged by the content of this performance?

Very Challenged Challenged Not Challenged

How did this program compare to similar programs you've attended in the past?

Above Average Average Below Average

Will you bring your students back to another YES! performance? Yes No

What types of shows would you like to see us present in the future?

☐ Music ☐ Dance ☐ Musical Theater  
☐ Non-musical Theater ☐ Puppetry ☐ Historical  
☐ Literature based ☐ Multicultural ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Youth Education Series?

☐ LOH Website ☐ Mailing ☐ E-mail  
☐ LOH Brochure ☐ Poster ☐ Radio  
☐ Newspaper ☐ Teacher ☐ Parent  
☐ Enrichment/Arts Coordinator ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Comments:

Please return your evaluation to:  
Lebanon Opera House | PO Box 384 | Lebanon, NH 03766

Evaluations can also be completed online at [www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/)

## A Note to Families

Dear Family,

Today, Lebanon Opera House presented ArtsPower's *Dog Loves Books* to your child's class. This performance was made possible by generous support from our underwriters and sponsors:

### **Hypertherm HOPE Foundation, The Valley News, and Gnomon Copy.**

Below are a few questions that might help initiate a conversation about your child's experience at the performance. For more information about *Dog Loves Books*, including suggested reading and other performance related activities please download a copy of our study guide at

[www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/](http://www.lebanonoperahouse.org/yesloh/)

What type of performance did you see? (Music, theatre, etc.)

What was the performance about?

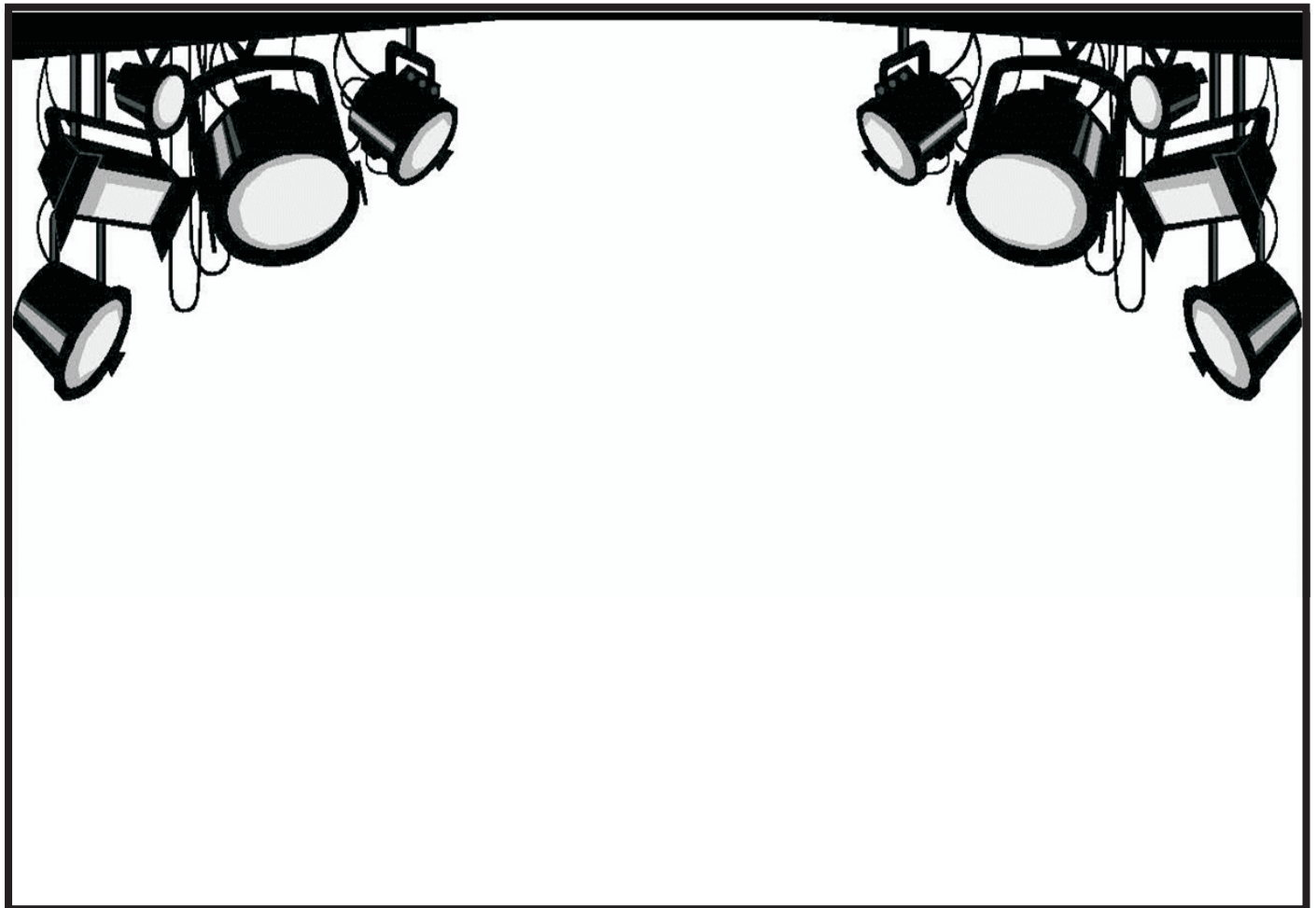
What was your favorite part of the performance?

What did you learn from the performance?

How did the performance make you feel?

If you could be one of the performers/characters, which would you choose and why?

Draw a picture of your favorite moment in the performance:







# Youth Education Series at Lebanon Opera House

2014/2015 Programs

**WATCH FOR NEXT YEAR'S SCHEDULE  
TO BE ANNOUNCED  
BEFORE THE END OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR!**

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