Alice's Garden

An Interactive Theatre Experience for Infants ages 0-3

By Alyssa Landroche and Elizabeth Bohannon
What is Theatre for the Very Young?

- Emerging type of theatre
  - Developed mostly in European countries
- Multi-sensory, interactive, theatre experience
- Ages 0-5
- Encourage childhood growth
- Creative opportunities
Why TVY?

- Share the love!
- Accessibility to the arts

“Imaginative play and creative activities [allow] very young children to stretch their capabilities and learn to further their understanding of the world”

~ L.S. Vygotsky
Research Question

PART 1: What are the components of developing and producing an original play for very young audiences?

PART 2: What was the reception of the play towards the “gatekeepers” of TVY?
Significance

- Theatre is about understanding the world. Why limit understanding to just the “adult world”?
- Can contribute to helping child development
- Promotes live interaction over screen time
- Children can explore the world through:
  - Sight
  - Sound
  - Touch
  - Scent
Methodology

- Researched current practices in TVY
- Discussed with professionals in the field
- Wrote and revised a script
- Designed and built the props, puppets and scenery
- Rehearse the show
- Revise areas that need improvement
- Perform the show
- Survey parents of children to get feedback about performance.
Findings

- Currently in rehearsal process
  - Have found babies are easily over stimulated
  - They have a desire to participate
  - Much of the performance is improvised based on the children’s reactions
  - Still in development
Conclusion

- Theatre is about understanding the world. Why limit understanding to just the “adult world”?
- Theatre for the Very Young provides creative learning for infants and therefore should be given more attention in the arts.
- Look forward to learning more!
Sources

