Behind the Scenes—
Stiles and Drewe’s

The Three Little Pigs

Synopsis:
The show begins in the present day, where we meet the famous – almost like rock stars! -Three Little Pigs. With their mother (who takes a bit of the credit), they tell the audience the story of how they defeated the Big Bad Wolf. (ONE, TWO, THREE LITTLE PIGS). After the triumphant opening number, we go back in time to see how it all happened...

The flashback begins with the pigs all living together in their old pig sty. Almost a year has passed since Father Pig was “taken” by the Big Bad Wolf, leaving Mother Pig alone to raise her three piglets. She now feels that the time has come for her children to leave home and make their own way in the world – particularly as the sty is becoming increasingly cramped. (A REAL PIG STY)

The three little pigs (Cha, Sui and Bao) reluctantly agree that they should explore the big wide world and find new places to live. The pigs have their own personalities and ways of looking at the world, and decide that they’ll each build their own houses. Mother reassures them that the Big Bad Wolf hasn’t been seen in the area for months and that some animal folk believe he was killed in a road accident, so the trio set off. (PERFECT FOR A PIG)

While trying to find the ideal location to build their homes, Bao, (who always has his snout in a book), tells his brother and sister that his real wish is that the three of them should build a little house of bricks and live together. (A LITTLE HOUSE). Sui and Cha have very different ideas about their living arrangements. Sui wishes to build an environmentally-friendly house made from easily sustainable, natural resources, while Cha is set on living alone in a house that includes state-of-the-art gym equipment.

Just after they have parted company, Bao comes upon an old poster that announces: “Wanted, dead or alive, the Big Bad Wolf!” Worried that the Wolf who killed their Father may still be alive after all, Bao runs off to warn the others. (A LITTLE HOUSE, reprise). Meanwhile, the Big Bad Wolf, who is indeed alive and hungry, bemoans the fact that he has such a bad reputation. (I’M JUST MISUNDERSTOOD).

With the Wolf evidently alive, there is now some urgency in building their houses. The others agree with Bao that it makes sense for their new homes to be close together so that they can look out for one another. By chance, three convenient traveling tradespeople pass by. Sui is quick to purchase a bundle of straw from the first tradesperson – the perfect building material for her environmentally-friendly house, while Cha settles on sticks – which he believes will prove to be the studier option. Bao stays true to his dream and purchases a load of bricks. (A LITTLE HOUSE- STRAW/TWIGS/BRICKS)

(Continued on next page)
Synopsis (continued):

Though Cha and Siu tease Bao for being such a bookworm, they acknowledge his sense in building the houses in a clearing on a bed of solid rock so that the foundations are firm, though all three pigs find the construction work harder than they had imagined. (TO BUILD A HOUSE).

The Big Bad Wolf has successfully tracked the piglets down and, just as the three houses are completed, he jumps into the clearing. Believing their homes to be easy to demolish (thus enabling him to gobble up the occupants) the Wolf calls to each pig in turn. (I’LL HUFF AND I’LL PUFF). He starts by blowing down the straw house, but succumbs to a bout of hay fever, which gives poor Siu the chance to join her brother Cha in his stick house. When he blows down the stick house, the Wolf gets sawdust in his eyes, and so doesn’t see Siu and Cha escape into the brick house. Because of Bao’s masterful construction, the brick house doesn’t budge when the Wolf tries to blow it apart.

Undeterred, the Wolf comes up with a plan. If he finds Mother Pig, who is too old and tough to eat, he could take her as hostage and use her to lure the tender young piglets out of their brick fortress. Meanwhile Cha, in a moment of unexpected brilliance, suggests that they construct a wolf trap – in case the beast should return. Using his mighty muscles Cha digs a pit, which they cover with sticks from the demolished stick house, and disguise with straw from Siu’s house. They hope that the Wolf will fall into the trap and remain captive inside it until the Pig Police can come and arrest him. However, their cunning plan is foiled when the Wolf returns earlier than expected with their poor Mother in tow.

With Bao offering himself up in place of his Mother, the Wolf falls into the partially dug pit and is detainted for long enough for the whole family to lock themselves inside the brick house.

Incensed that he has been tricked, the Wolf climbs up onto the roof and peers down the chimney. Bao has placed a huge pan of stew on the fire as a celebratory dinner for the family. When they hear the Wolf up on the roof, the family guess that he means to come down the chimney. Preferring him to be arrested and tried in the court of Pig Law, the piglets shout to warn the Wolf that the boiling stew would kill him if he fell into it, but the Wolf doesn’t believe them.

The Wolf falls into the boiling stew and, apart from the occasional gurgle, is never heard of again.

Bao insists that there is room for Cha, Siu, and their Mother to all live together in his brick house, as had been his wish all along, and so the family live happily, and safely, ever after. (FINALE).

Cha, Siu and Bao are funny names, aren’t they? The authors had a bit of fun – they’re named after George Stiles and Anthony Drewe’s favorite barbequed pork dim-sum (Chinese dumplings) – which they’re sure the Big Bad Wolf would appreciate!

(The show was originally commissioned and produced by the Singapore Repertory Theatre, which also may have had something to do with it)
Behind the Scenes—
Stiles and Drewe’s
The Three Little Pigs

About the Authors...

George Stiles and Anthony Drewe (Composer and Lyricist)
In their 30-year collaboration, the multi-award winning team of George Stiles and Anthony Drewe have written the musicals: BETTY BLUE EYES, SOHO CINDERS, HONK!, JUST SO, PETER PAN - A MUSICAL ADVENTURE, TUTANKHAMUN and the new songs, dance and vocal arrangements for the world-wide smash-hit Cameron Mackintosh/Disney production of MARY POPPINS. Their current projects include SOAPDISH for Broadway, WIND IN THE WILLOWS with Julian Fellowes for the West End, and a new adaptation of Graham Greene's TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT. Stiles and Drewe have recently premiered two shows for younger audiences - THE THREE LITTLE PIGS and GOLDILOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS. Since winning the Olivier Award for Best New Musical in 2000, their show, HONK! has been seen by more than 6 million people all over the world in over 8,000 productions in more than 20 languages. With lyricist Paul Leigh, George has composed the musicals: MOLL FLANDERS, THE THREE MUSKETEERS, and TOM JONES, and his other work includes the music for Sam Mendes’ TWELTH NIGHT and UNCLE VANYA (Donmar Warehouse and BAM). He is currently writing a new dance drama with choreographer Drew McOnie based on Oscar Wilde’s short story, THE STAR CHILD. Anthony's other musicals are: THE CARD (with composer Tony Hatch) and A TWIST OF FATE (with composer Dick Lee). He and George also contributed songs for the RSC’s world-wide hit THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE. Stiles and Drewe’s awards include: Olivier Award for Best New Musical (HONK!), Eliot Norton Award for Outstanding Musical Production (HONK!), and a host of awards for MARY POPPINS around the world. George & Anthony are founding board-members of Mercury Musical Developments, a charitable organization that nurtures new musical writing in the UK, which also awards the annual Stiles and Drewe Prize for a new song written for the musical stage.

For more great information and to read interviews with the authors, check out their website: http://www.stilesanddrewe.co.uk/

About MainStreet’s Production…

As with all of our productions, we wanted to create a fun and imaginative environment for the show to live in, while letting the audience use their imaginations to fill in the holes. The costumes are not “literal” — you won’t see the actors in “pig suits”, but our imaginative designer will show us just enough so we know they’re pigs and, just as importantly, that we can see a little of their personalities in the way they look. For the scenery, the team chose to use illustrations and woodcuts as inspiration. The trees in the forest can move in different ways as the three pigs travel from their old home to the place they’ll build their new ones – and we use clever theatre magic to build three houses (and blow two of them down!) 9 times a week!

Because the show is a musical, it was very important to the team that we use live musicians, and that they’re visible during the performance. We want our young audiences to know that live theatre consists of many different elements – and live music is certainly part of what makes the show exciting to watch!
Main Characters in the Play

CHA: The “pig with muscle”, CHA doesn’t see the need to do much other than play sports and play in the mud. He thinks building a house with sticks will be the easiest and the strongest.

SIU: Siu wants to make sure whatever house they build is environmentally friendly and sustainable, but finds that building a house out of straw is not as easy as it looks.

BAO: Bao always has his snout in a book, but reading so much means that he knows a lot of very useful things, like making blueprints to build a sturdy house out of bricks.

MOTHER PIG: Mother Pig sends her three children off into the world to make their own homes when the home they share becomes a real Pig Sty.

THE BIG BAD WOLF: Although he claims he’s just misunderstood, make no mistake. This wolf is mean, and means to eat the Three Little Pigs! He does meet a bad end, but it’s his own fault for coming down the chimney and landing in the stew pot.

Vocabulary Words and Phrases
Here are some words that are used in the play. Some of them might be words the youngest kids haven’t heard before.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grim</th>
<th>Wares</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rustle</td>
<td>Vegetation</td>
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<td>Sustainable Resources</td>
<td>Roam</td>
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<td>Architect</td>
<td>Honeycomb</td>
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<td>Gust</td>
<td>Pit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Color Scheme</td>
<td>Snout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snarl</td>
<td>Knees are knocking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howl</td>
<td>Green house</td>
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Did you know ...that The MainStreet Theatre Company has a Facebook page?

You are welcome to post your questions about the play, and we will answer them! Or, if you don’t need answers, we love getting letters in the mail letting us know what you thought!

Sign up for “The MainStreet Scoop” to get e-mail updates on all the goings on at MainStreet!
www.facebook.com/MainStreetTheatreCompany
**Discussion Questions:**

**The Importance of Family.** One of the themes running throughout the story is the idea that even though the Three Pigs have different interests, they’re a family, and together they’re stronger than they are on their own. Have the children talk about their own families. What interests do they share with their siblings – and what is unique to them?

**The Importance of Reading.** One of the reasons the Pigs are able to defeat the Big Bad Wolf is because Bao learned about building a strong house by reading books. One of the wonderful things about reading is that it can transport you to different worlds, and can teach people different ways of looking at the world. Talk about something you may have learned by reading a book.

**What’s a Proper Punishment?** The Big Bad Wolf is not very nice. First, he eats the Pigs’ Father, and then he does everything he can to eat the Three Little Pigs. The Pigs want to have him sent to jail by the Pig Police, and they warn him not to come down their chimney. The Wolf doesn’t listen, so he ends up falling in the boiling stew and is never heard from again. Have a discussion about the proper punishment for a crime. Were the pigs right in wanting him to be punished by being arrested? Or do you think the wolf got what he deserved?

**Pre-Show Art Project:** Everyone knows the story of the Three Little Pigs. Draw a picture of what you imagine the show will look like. What will the three houses look like? What will the pigs be wearing? After you see the play, compare what you drew with the ideas the show’s creative team came up with. How are they similar? How are they different?

**Write a review** of the play, describing the scenery, lighting, music, costumes, and performers. Maybe we’ll feature it on our website!

How did the scenery help you to know which location each scene took place?

What was your favorite part of the play and why? Can you draw a picture of it?

**Using the Play in the Classroom**

**Building a Home:** Each Little Pig has an idea of how to build their house – but only Bao creates a blueprint so he’s sure it will be sturdy. Using a ruler, draw the outline of a house’s foundation. Make each ½ inch on the ruler equal 1 foot in real life. Is your house one square room or does it have many different rooms? For more advanced students – take the scale drawing and create a 3-D model, creating walls to go along with the floor-plan you’ve created. (Standards: Mathematics: Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them/Reason abstractly and quantitatively/Attend to precision)

*Did you know? We use this same concept when creating scenery for a play. In the theatre, we call this drawing a ground plan.

**Witty Word –Play.** The script of *The Three Little Pigs* uses language to create a comic effect. For example, when Siu meets the merchant who is selling straw, the dialogue goes like this:

**SIU:** May I be so bold as to ask what it is you are selling?

**MERCHANT:** Hay

**SIU:** I said, may I be so bold as to ask what it is you are selling.

**MERCHANT:** Hay

**SIU:** Oh dear, I think she’s quite deaf.

**MERCHANT:** I heard you perfectly well and I answered your question twice.

**SIU:** Hey?

**MERCHANT:** Exactly. Hay

Try writing your own paragraph or scene where you use different meanings for the same word. Have the class read them out loud. (Standards: Language/Effective use, and Vocabulary)

**Saving the Environment:** Siu wants to build a house that is environmentally friendly, and that uses sustainable materials. Do some research and find out what materials she might use. Find examples of homes that are environmentally friendly and describe what makes them that way. (Standards: Science: build strong content knowledge/value evidence)
**Theatre Game:**

A popular game that anyone can play is **Pig in the Middle** – where two people try to throw a ball to each other without a third person in the middle catching it. To get the whole class involved – instead of 2 people, form a circle and throw the ball across it, trying not to let the person in the middle catch it. As a variation, use language as the ball is thrown – the person throwing the ball says a word at the same time as he/she throws. The person catching the ball repeats the word, and then uses a new word as he/she throws it to the next person. This is a great game for learning concentration as well as teamwork. If the person in the middle catches the ball, he/she gets to trade places with the person who threw it.

**MainStreet’s Celebratory Stew for the Whole Family:**

Bao tries to cook his whole family a celebratory dinner when they are all together in the brick house, complete with carrots, gravy, potatoes, and more! Unfortunately the Big Bad Wolf falls down the chimney and ruins Bao’s stew. This recipe is a delicious way you can celebrate being with your family (and friends), just like the three little pigs. Be careful not to let any wolves fall into it!

- 2 tbsp. butter
- 1 medium white onion, diced
- salt, to taste
- 1 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground coriander
- 1/4 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 pound red potatoes, diced
- 5 medium carrots, peeled and diced
- 1 pound parsnips, peeled and diced
- 3 cups vegetable broth
- 1 pound acorn squash (about 1 small), peeled, seeded, and diced
- 1 pound sweet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 1 (15-ounce) can chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 4 cups kale, trimmed and washed
- 1.5 tbsp. apple cider vinegar

**Step 1:** Have an adult help you chop all of the vegetables and measure out spices and liquids ahead of time.

**Step 2:** Have an adult heat the butter in a large cast-iron skillet pan on medium heat.

**Step 3:** Carefully add the onion and cook over medium heat until translucent, about 4 minutes. Add the ginger, cinnamon, coriander, cumin, cayenne, and a pinch of salt & pepper and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.

**Step 4:** Transfer the onion mixture to a slow cooker, add the red potatoes, carrots, parsnips, and broth, season with more salt and pepper, and stir to combine. Cover and cook on high for 1.5 hours.

**Step 5:** Enjoy!!
**Behind the Scenes—**

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**The Three Little Pigs**

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**Library Tour Information**

As part of your class visit to the Lewis Family Playhouse, why not take a tour of the Victoria Gardens Cultural Center Library?

Show your students about the wonderful, free resources they have access to and exciting library programming. The Paul A. Biane Library facility has over 100,000 volumes housed in a beautiful, 23,000 square foot facility.

Among the facility’s unique features: a story theater with a star ceiling made of fiber optic lights, 20 seat technology center, teen study area, and a special performing arts collection.

The **Paul A. Biane Library at Victoria Gardens** has over 1000 books and media in the Performing Arts collections for Adults and Children.

Pre- and post- show tours last approximately 15 minutes and are scheduled on a first come, first served basis. To arrange a tour, please call Lorena Paz, Library Assistant, at (909) 477-2720 ext. 5059.

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**Programs and Family Fun @ The Rancho Cucamonga Libraries**

The **Rancho Cucamonga Libraries** offer a full calendar of entertaining, enriching and informative programs for the whole family.

- **Weekly story times**
  - “Talk Like a Pirate Day”
    - Sat. Sept. 13th 1-4 pm, Biane Library
- **Cultural Arts Nights**
  - “RCPL20” 20th Library Anniversary
    - Fri. Sept. 26th 7-9 pm

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**Books @ the Library**

If you liked *The Three Little Pigs*, then you’ll love these!

- **Wolf Won’t Bite**
  - Shelved under J Easy Gravett
- **The Three Little Javelinas**
  - Shelved under J Easy Lowell
- **The Three Ninja Pigs**
  - Shelved under J Easy Schwartz
- **Tell the Truth, B.B. Wolf**
  - Shelved under J EasySierra
- **The Three Horrid Little Pigs**
  - Shelved under J EasyPichon
- **The Three Little Pigs and the Somewhat Bad Wolf**
  - Shelved under J Easy Teague
- **The Three Pigs**
  - Shelved under Award Books J Easy Wiesner

If you have any questions about finding these books or about the library, please call the reference desk at 909.477.2720.

This Curriculum guide was prepared by the staff of the Lewis Family Playhouse. Library information compiled by Library staff. For questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Mireya “Murry” Hepner at (909) 477-2775 ext. 3734.
Once upon a time there were three happy little pigs. The first little pig played the flute, the second little pig played the violin and the third little pig played the piano. One day their mother said, "Dearest sons, you are old enough and big enough to leave home and start your own life. Be wise and take good care of yourselves and of each other." So the three pigs left home and they each decided to build a house. The first little pig gathered some straw and built his house very quickly. "Now the wolf can't catch and eat me," he said happily and went back to playing the flute.