

THEATERGROEP KWATTA:

LOVE THAT DOG



krannert center

YOUTH
SERIES

16-17



COLLEGE OF
FINE + APPLIED
ARTS



ABOUT THE COMPANY

Theatergroep Kwatta is a professional youth theatre company that was established in 2002. It is based in the Theater Het Badhuis, which is located in the Gelderland province in the East Central part of the Netherlands. Under the direction of artistic manager Josee Husaarts, Kwatta creates light-hearted productions with more poignant undertones. Kwatta's mission is to create room for amazement and admiration by asking simple questions about difficult issues and difficult questions about things that appear to be simple. They do this, in part, by making no assumptions, always searching for the unknown and the absurd, and by tilting reality to create a different perspective. Productions by Kwatta often combine text with other forms of theatre such as instrumental music, song, puppetry, or film.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sharon Creech is a South Euclid, Ohio native who grew up in a rowdy family with a sister and three brothers and dreamed of being a painter, an ice skater, a singer, a teacher, and a reporter, eventually landing on a career in writing and teaching literature in England and Switzerland. She called upon her childhood in fictional works such as *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, *Walk Two Moons*, *Chasing Redbird*, and *Bloomability*. Her award-winning book *Love That Dog* was inspired by the Walter Dean Myers' poem "Love That Boy" which hung on Creech's bulletin board for many years.

ABOUT THIS PLAY

Jack hates poetry, thinking only girls write it. Every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments—and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say. Based on the beloved story by Newbery Medal-winning author Sharon Creech, *Love That Dog* brings Jack's free-verse poems to the stage in an inventive production that features live action and music, real-time projections, and puppetry. *Love That Dog* shows how one boy finds his own voice with the help of a teacher, a writer, a pencil, some paper, and of course, a dog.

THE POET IN YOU

In *Love That Dog*, Jack has to write lots of poetry. Have you ever written a poem? How can you start? Think of a memory, a feeling, something you love, or something you can see around you right now. Make a list of five things you could write about, then choose one of these for your poem.

Next, choose a form. You could try a picture poem, a poem that rhymes, or one of these forms:

An
ACROSTIC poem
spells a woRd
dOwn the page.
Start where
you likeT
hen
keep goIng until
the Closing line.

You may know HAIKU,
But have you tried a TANKA?
The syllable count
For each line is 5, 7,
5, 7, 7. You try!



FROM PAGE TO STAGE

The artists of Theatergroep Kwatta took the story and poems from a book and turned them into a play for the stage. Start with the poem you just wrote, or part of a story you like, and try to tell it in a different way. Choose one of the following forms:

DIALOGUE – conversation between characters

PANTOMIME – acting it out without speaking

ILLUSTRATION – comic or story-book style

PUPPETRY – create puppets and small sets

POST-SHOW QUESTIONS

You will have a chance to ask the cast of *Love That Dog* questions right after the performance! Here are a few more questions to think about after you leave Krannert Center:

1. How would you describe this play to someone who wasn't with you?
2. In this story Jack learns how to share his feelings by writing poetry. How do you share your feelings?
3. How is a play different from a book?
4. If you could invite a favorite author or artist to your school for a visit, who would you invite?
5. How were video, movement, and music used to help tell the story of *Love That Dog*?
6. In this play Jack discovers that he likes something (poetry) that at first he didn't like at all. Have you ever changed your mind about a new experience?

ON THE MAP

THEATERGROEP KWATTA
COMES FROM . . .

NIJMEGEN, GELDERLAND,
THE NETHERLANDS



LOVE THAT DOG

Text: Sharon Creech
Directed by: Josee Hussaarts
Cast: Agnes Bergmeijer, Siem van Leeuwen, Servaes Nelissen, Steven Stavast, Hans Thissen
Lighting design: Henk van der Geest
Animation: Bart van Eeden
Scenery and costume design: Barbara Kroon
Technical direction: Hanno Siegers, Jesse Knoop, and Martijn Ceulemans

Youth Series Performances

Tuesday-Wednesday, April 4-5, 2017,
at 10am and 12:30pm
Colwell Playhouse
Approximately 60 minutes +
10-minute Q&A

Recommended for grades 2-5

Campaign for Young Audiences

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Jill and James Quisenberry
Anne and David Sharpe
Prudence and Bernard Spodek
The Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed
Fund for Youth Programming (Suzi was
the founder/developer of the Krannert
Center Youth Series)
UpClose Marketing & Printing

Love That Dog

The Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed
Fund for Youth Programming (Suzi was
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Center Youth Series)

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 GREENING THE ARTS



LIBRARY CONNECTIONS

Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to *Love That Dog* on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

www.champaign.org
www.urbanafreelibrary.org

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!