

PLAY GUIDE



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Amelia Earhart

By Kathryn Shultz Miller

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Major Contributors:



Dear Educator -

Lexington Children's Theatre is proud to be producing our 80th season of plays for young people and their families. As an organization that values the arts and education, we have created this Play Guide for teachers to utilize in conjunction with seeing a play at LCT.

Our Play Guides are designed to be a valuable tool in two ways: helping you prepare your students for the enriching performance given by LCT's performers, as well as serving as an educational tool for extending the production experience back into your classroom.

We designed each activity to assist in achieving the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS), including the National Core Arts Standards for Theatre. Teachers have important voices at LCT, and we rely heavily on your input. If you have comments or suggestions about our Play Guides, show selections, or any of our programming, your thoughts are greatly appreciated. Please email Jeremy Kisling, our Associate Artistic Director in Charge of Education, at jkisling@lctonstage.org.

Please use the Teacher Response form following a performance. We are thrilled that you rely on LCT to provide your students a quality theatrical experience, and we hope this resource helps you in your classroom.

LCT's Education Department

The mission of our education programming



The mission of Lexington Children's Theatre's Education Department is to **provide students of all ages with the means to actively explore the beauty, diversity, complexity, and challenges of the world around them through the dramatic process.** We strive for young people to develop their own creative voice, their imagination, and their understanding of drama and its role in society.

Your role in the play

You may wish to have a discussion with your class about your upcoming LCT experience and their role as audience members. Remind your students that theatre can only exist with an audience. Your students' energy and response directly affects the actors onstage. The quality of the performance depends as much on the audience as it does on each of the theatre professionals behind the scenes and on stage.

Young audiences should know that watching live theatre is not like watching more familiar forms of entertainment; they cannot pause or rewind us like a DVD, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, nor can they turn up the volume to hear us if someone else is talking. Your students are encouraged to listen and watch the play intently, so that they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate.

At the end of the play, applause is an opportunity for your students to thank the actors, while the actors are thanking you for the role you played as an audience.



Meet the Actors - Amelia Earhart



Emily Asbury

Emily is excited to return for her fourth show at Lexington Children's Theatre, after performing in *Diary of a Worm, a Spider, and a Fly*, *Junie B. Jones Is Not a Crook*, and *Elephant and Piggie's "We are in a Play!"* Most recently she spent her fourth summer as Queen Elizabeth I in the nation's longest-running symphonic outdoor drama, *The Lost Colony*. Other favorite credits include *A Christmas Carol* (Ghost Past) at West Virginia Public Theatre, *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* (Mom) with Two Beans Productions, and three national tours with Chamber Theatre Productions. Emily is a certified Advanced Actor/Combatant with the Society of American Fight Directors and a proud graduate of Otterbein University.



Thomas Costello

Thomas is excited to make his debut with Lexington Children's Theatre this fall. He recently graduated with a BFA in Musical Theatre from The South Carolina School of the Arts at Anderson University. Some of his performance highlights include: *Romeo and Juliet* (Romeo), *Othello* (Montano), *Big Fish* (Karl), and *Me and My Girl* (Lord Battersby). Thomas is thrilled for the opportunity to share his passion and love for theatre with young audiences, and hopes to inspire hearts and minds through the power of the stage.



Jon DeVries

Jon is proud to join Lexington Children's Theatre as an Associate Artist this fall performing in their productions of *Jack and the Wonder Beans* and *Amelia Earhart*. Jon's most recent credits include productions of *Robin Hood*, *Deck the Halls*, and *The Boy Who Liked Pulling Hair* in Florida Studio Theatre's Children's Theatre Series. He has also appeared on stage in the Glimmerglass Festival's *Oklahoma!* and *La boheme*, as well as productions at the Howmet Playhouse, Actors' Theatre Grand Rapids, Calvin Theatre Company, and more. He holds a BA in Theatre and Business from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.



Mark Tucker

Mark is thrilled to be returning to Lexington Children's Theatre for his fourth seasonal tour. Audiences may remember him as Jim in *The Red Badge of Courage*, a menagerie of creatures in *Cows Don't Fly and other known facts*, the duckling in *The Ugly Duckling*, and Ichabod Crane in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*. Mark earned his BFA in Acting from Emory & Henry College. Most recently, Mark spent his summer in the outdoor drama *Unto These Hills*, in Cherokee, NC. When not performing, Mark enjoys coaching and teaching students Shakespeare. Mark would like to thank all the staff and crew of LCT for keeping the imagination alive for people of all ages.

What to know - before the show!

Play Synopsis

As a curious reporter struggles to uncover the story of Amelia Earhart's mysterious disappearance, we travel back in time to the roaring twenties, when flappers danced the Charleston in the era of Prohibition. A publisher and astute businessman named George Putnam discovers a young social worker/pilot named Amelia Earhart and is determined to make her famous – and in the process, get rich himself. What he doesn't count on is falling in love with her. After Amelia becomes the first female to cross the Atlantic (as a passenger), George finally convinces her to marry him. But Amelia is not content with being a housewife. She wants to prove she can do it all, and she makes headlines again when she pilots her own transatlantic flight, eventually touching down in Gallagher's pasture, a cow pasture located in Northern Ireland. And that's just the beginning; as her popularity continues to grow throughout the 1930's, "Lady Lindy" takes on one ambitious project after another until she faces the challenge of a lifetime – a flight around the world. Amelia Earhart, along with navigator Fred Noonan, accepts the challenge, and in doing so, earns her place in history.



What to know - before the show!

Then and Now

Discuss the existence of gender inequalities in Earhart's time, and how these compare to those that exist in the world today.

Earhart once said, "There are a great many boys who would be better off making pies, and a great many girls who would be better off as mechanics." Do you agree with these statements? Why or why not?

Discuss the concept of gender roles and how the above comment might have been received in 1935. Why was this a bold statement to make for the time? How would a statement like that be received today, at your school? Discuss.

Social Studies 2.20; RI 4.2, W.4.1

There are lots of gauges, dials, and indicators in the cockpit of an airplane. Pilots must be able to read each and understand each of the gauges and know how to adjust the airplane accordingly. Can you name each of these gauges? See if you can discover how each of them helps a pilot during flight. Report back to the class your findings. (These are listed in order from left to right, and top to bottom.)

1. Altimeter
2. Tachometer
3. Airspeed Indicator
4. Altitude Indicator
5. Heading Indicator



What to know - before the show!

“Did She Truly Vanish Into Thin Air?”

Theories about what might have happened to Amelia Earhart

On July 2nd 1937, Amelia Earhart and her navigator Frederick Noonan were reported missing near Howland Island in the Pacific. The pair was trying to fly around the world, and they were nearing the end of their journey when suddenly the US Coast Guard received radio messages from Amelia saying they were low on fuel. Communication was difficult to establish as responders tried to locate the plane and guide them back to land. However, the final radio communication from Amelia only said, “We are running north and south.” The plane was never found, along with any remains of Amelia or Frederick.



After their disappearance the government organized a sixteen-day search mission around the Pacific Ocean that included nine vessels, four thousand crewmen, and sixty-six aircraft, but no clues were ever discovered. The question of what happened to Amelia Earhart, her plane, and her navigator after this radio communication is one that persists to this day. Searches are still conducted in hope of solving this case, specifically by the group TIGHAR (the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery).

TIGHAR believes that the plane may have successfully landed on an uninhabited island in the Pacific Ocean where they lived as castaways but were never discovered. TIGHAR has led expeditions to the island in recent years and has found a woman’s shoe from the 1930s, improvised tools, and a cosmetics jar, along with some pieces that could be to Amelia’s plane. Other people think that the plane crashed and sank in the ocean, however, high tech sonar and deep sea robots have never been able to find any remains of the aircraft.

In the past year a photo from the US National Archives has also surfaced that was taken in the Marshall Islands, some believe after the crash. The picture shows a Japanese military vessel pulling an airplane and two figures that could possibly be Earhart and Noonan. It is possible that the Japanese found the travelers and pulled everything out of the water.

We may never know exactly what happened to Amelia and Noonan, but we do know that Amelia’s legacy as a champion for women’s rights and her passion for adventure lives on today.

How to grow - after the show!

Charting Amelia's Flight Path

1. Amelia's flights took her all over the world. In her second flight attempt to fly around the world she visited many different locations. Below we have listed some of her major stops. See if you can map her flight path on the map below to see how far she traveled before she disappeared.

2. Once you have charted her path select one location and research the culture and customs of a place where Amelia traveled.

Miami, Florida, USA

Caripito, Venezuela

Paramaribo, Suriname

Fortaleza, Brazil

Natal, Brazil

St Louis, Senegal

Ndjamena, Chad (Ft. Lamy)

Al Fashir, Sudan

Karachi, Pakistan

Kolkata (Calcutta), India

Sittwe (Akyab), Burma

Yangon (Rangoon), Burma

Bandung, Indonesia

Lae, Papua New Guinea

Nukumanu Atoll, Papua New Guinea

Map on the next page

Once you have charted her path select one location and research the culture and customs of a place where Amelia Traveled.

How to grow - after the show!

Amelia True or False

Write T if the statement is true and F if the statement is false.

1. ___ Amelia Earhart was married to Charles Lindbergh.
2. ___ The first time Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic, she was a passenger.
3. ___ Before she was a famous pilot, Amelia Earhart was a social worker.
4. ___ George Putnam was a Hollywood stuntman.
5. ___ The press referred to Amelia Earhart as "Lady Lindy."
6. ___ Amelia Earhart eventually married George Putnam.
7. ___ Paul Mantz taught Amelia all about the Lockheed Model 10E Electra airplane.
8. ___ Commander Thompson's ship was the U.S.S. Arizona.
9. ___ Amelia Earhart made her last flight alone.
10. ___ Amelia was trying to land on the island of Howland when she disappeared.
11. ___ Amelia Earhart disappeared on July 2, 1937.
13. ___ Amelia once landed in a cow pasture owned by a farmer named Gallagher.
14. ___ There are many theories, but no one knows for sure what happened to Amelia.

RL.4.10, RI.4.2, RI.4.3

Discussion Questions

Mention some important events that occurred in Earhart's lifetime and discuss one event in greater detail.

Why do Amelia Earhart's contributions make her an important American hero?

What were some of Earhart's significant challenges? What character traits did she display in meeting these challenges?

Discuss, in your own words, an understanding of the structure of a news story.

Discuss, in your own words, an understanding of the relationship between goal fulfillment and positive character traits.

TH:RE7.1.4, TH:Re8.1.4 b, TH:Re8.1.4 c, TH:Re9.1.4 c

How to grow - after the show!

What to Read Next

Amelia Earhart by Isabel Sanchez Vegara

When Amelia was young, she liked to imagine she could stretch her wings and fly away like a bird. As a grown woman, she set out to fly across the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, and eventually undertook the most dangerous mission of all: to fly all the way around the world.

Aviatrix by Elinor Smith

In 1917, six year old Elinor Smith went up for her first airplane ride. From then on, she spent every spare moment hanging around the planes and fliers at Long Island's Roosevelt Field. Determined to make her dream come true, Elinor soloed at the age of fifteen; a year later she became the youngest licensed pilot in the United States when Orville Wright signed her F.A.I. flying license.

Amelia Lost by Candace Fleming

This book discusses how Earhart and her husband, George Putnam, used every opportunity to promote her flights. The use of maps, archival documents, and photos clarify textual references of her journeys.

Flight by Robert Burleigh

Charles Lindbergh set out for Paris on the morning of May 20, 1927, with only two compasses and the stars for his guides. Experience all the drama of Lindbergh's history-making flight with startling intimacy as you travel along with the first pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic. Follow the courage and endurance of one man who dared to make his dream come true.

LCT teaches in YOUR school!

Would you like to see some of these play guide activities modeled in your classroom?

Book a workshop for your class with one of LCT's teaching artists! In our pre-show workshops, our teaching artists will engage students in acting skills and themes from the play through drama activities. In our post-show workshops, students will extend their play-going experience by strengthening their personal connection to the play and deepening their understanding of the themes and characters.



Call us at 859-254-4546 x 226 to book a pre or post-show workshop for your class!

To learn more about Lexington Children's Theatre and our programming for your school visit:
www.lctonstage.org/for-educators/in-school-experiences/