

Roald Dahl's The Enormous Crocodile The Musical

Audience Guide



ROALD DAHL'S THE ENORMOUS CROCODILE THE MUSICAL

2025

children's
theatre
company

2026

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At CTC, our mission is to create extraordinary theatre experiences that educate, challenge, and inspire young people and their communities. This Audience Guide is just one of the ways in which we aim to enhance your experience and further your engagement with the shows on stage.

It includes a summary, context, fun facts, and activities plus details that can help you decide what's right for your kids.

If you have any further questions, please contact our friendly Ticket Office Associates at 612.874.0400 during their regular business hours or email them at tickets@childrenstheatre.org.

Summary



Based on Roald Dahl's beloved story, *The Enormous Crocodile the Musical* brings to life the greedy, grumpy reptile with his "secret plans and clever tricks." Featuring books and lyrics by Suhayla El-Bushra and music by Ahmed Abdullahi Gallab, this imaginative production combines witty songs, dazzling design by Fly Davis, and inventive puppetry by Toby Olié to create a wild, whimsical world perfect for family audiences.

The story follows the cunning Crocodile, who sets out in search of a meal—undeterred by his jungle neighbors who mock his schemes. As he tries trick after trick, the other animals band together to stop him. Along the way, the show builds delightful tension between the Crocodile and the "appetizing" children in the audience, making everyone part of the fun.

With its playful score drawn from Dahl's own words, plenty of chances to clap and sing along, and a lively one-hour running time, *The Enormous Crocodile the Musical* is a delightful quirky, high-spirited introduction to theatre for children of all ages. Blending humor, visual creativity, boundless energy, and—most importantly—a bloomin' enormous crocodile, it's the perfect choice for families seeking a memorable and lively theatre experience.

Content Advisories



Language: 1 out of 5 stars ★☆☆☆☆

There is some body humor and an animal talks about tasting a hippo's fart in the air. Another character mentions peeing in their pants.

Violence and Scariness: 1 out of 5 stars ★☆☆☆☆

A monkey says that they hope the crocodile chokes to death. A kid briefly gets stuck in the Crocodile's mouth but still manages to escape.

Sensory Advisories: 2 out of 5 stars ★★☆☆☆

Small items are thrown into the audience, and the audience is told to throw them at the Crocodile and yell, "Eat nuts!" There are several moments in the show where the audience is encouraged to repeat words or sounds. Some audiences can get quite loud. There is a small explosion when the Crocodile hits the sun.

Potentially Anxious Moments: 2 out of 5 stars ★★☆☆☆

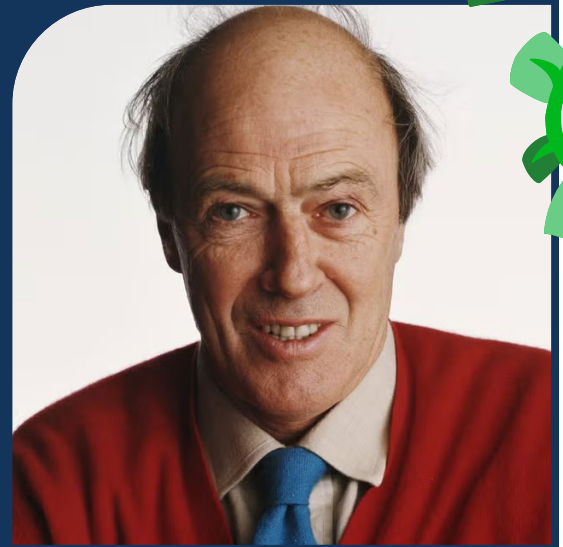
Audience interaction is encouraged, and several characters may come into the audience. A kid briefly gets stuck in the Crocodile's mouth but still manages to escape.

About Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl (1916–1990) is one of the most beloved storytellers of the 20th century. Born in Wales to Norwegian parents, he lived a life as adventurous as his characters—working as a pilot during World War II before turning to writing. Dahl went on to create some of the most popular children’s books of all time, filled with unforgettable heroes, outrageous villains, and a delicious mix of humor and mischief.

His stories—including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Matilda*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *The BFG*—have sold more than 300 million copies worldwide and have been translated into over 60 languages. Many have also been adapted into films, musicals, and stage plays that continue to inspire new generations.

The Enormous Crocodile, first published in 1978 with illustrations by Quentin Blake, was Dahl’s first picture book for young children. Its larger-than-life title character—with his “secret plans and clever tricks”—quickly became a fan favorite. Today, this playful and mischievous tale lives on in *The Enormous Crocodile the Musical*, bringing Dahl’s trademark wit, whimsy, and sense of adventure to the stage.



Fun Facts

- As a boy, Roald tested chocolate bars for a candy company—this inspired *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*!
- He was a fighter pilot in World War II before he became a writer.
- He wrote stories in a little writing hut in his garden, sitting in a comfy chair with a lap desk.
- His first picture book for kids was *The Enormous Crocodile* (1978).
- He loved making up silly words—like “grumptious” and “gloriumptious.”

Puppetry

In *The Enormous Crocodile The Musical*, the animals are brought to life through colorful, dynamic puppets. The actors playing the animals are very much a part of the puppet, and the puppet design integrates the performer’s body into the animal so the two become one. Before your trip, [watch this short video](#) to get a look into the puppet workshop that designed and built the puppets in the musical.

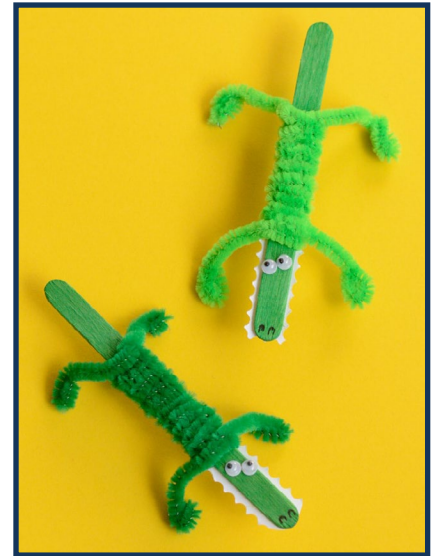
Craft Stick Crocodiles

Get crafty with your very own Enormous Crocodile! This simple project is a fun way for kids and grown-ups to create together—and you'll end up with a crocodile to bring along on your theatre adventure.

What You'll Need:

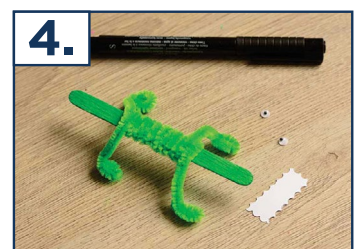
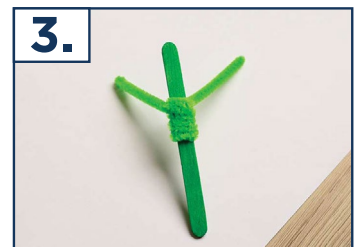
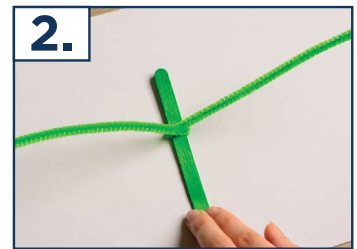
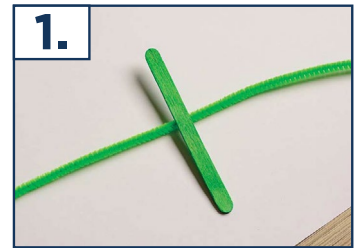
- Popsicle sticks (green, or color them with markers/paint)
- Green pipe cleaners
- Black marker
- Optional: googly eyes, zigzag scissors, white paper, glue

Extra Fun: Build a mini habitat! Use a shoebox or piece of cardboard and add grass, rocks, or paper trees to create a jungle home for your crocodile.



How to Build It:

1. Place the middle of a popsicle on the middle of a pipe cleaner.
2. Start wrapping the pipe cleaner around the stick, working towards one end.
3. Wrap up the stick until there is about a quarter of the stick remaining. Use the ends of the pipe cleaner to make legs. Repeat the process on the other end of the stick with a second pipe cleaner.
4. Use the marker to draw eyes and nostrils (if using, stick on the googly eyes). If using the zigzag scissors, white paper, and glue, you can cut teeth for the crocodile by cutting out a small rectangle of white paper using the scissors. Glue the teeth on the bottom of the craft stick.



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3 Things to Look and Listen for On Stage

Look for...

1. The crocodile getting his teeth cleaned. What kind of animals help clean his teeth?
2. The crocodile disguised as a coconut tree.
3. A spaceship. What character goes to space at the end?



Listen for...

1. Words that rhyme with crocodile. How many can you remember?
2. Jungle sounds. Can you identify any animals you hear just by their sounds?
3. An explosion. What causes the explosion?

Explore Animal Habitats

In *The Enormous Crocodile the Musical*, you'll meet animals like crocodiles, monkeys, elephants, hippopotamuses, birds, and frogs. Talk about the habitats where these animals live. What makes each environment special? What do the animals need to survive? How do they find shelter or build their homes?

Make a Nature Collage

Head outside for a nature walk and collect materials that remind you of the jungle—such as twigs, bark, grass, rocks, and leaves. Back inside, work together to glue or tape your treasures onto a piece of paper to create a collage of one of the animal's habitats. Add more details with markers or crayons and draw the animal living in the home you've created.

When you come to the theatre (or after you've seen the show), compare your collage to the way the stage set brings the animals' world to life. How is it similar? What's different?



Try This!

Go on a nature walk and collect twigs, leaves, and rocks. Back home, use them to make a collage of a jungle habitat, then draw the animal that might live there. Compare your creation to how the stage brings the jungle to life!

Secret Plans and Clever Tricks

In *The Enormous Crocodile the Musical*, the Crocodile boasts about his “secret plans and clever tricks” to catch children—like disguising himself as a coconut tree or a seesaw! Luckily, the other jungle animals always find a way to stop him.

Now it’s your turn to come up with a brand-new trick for the Enormous Crocodile.

How to Play:

Talk together about the tricks you remember from the story or the play. How did the other animals save the day?

On paper, draw or write down a brand-new clever trick the Crocodile might try.

Think about how the other animals—like the monkey, bird, or elephant—could step in to stop him.

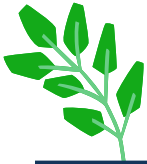
Act out your idea together! Take turns being the Crocodile, the children, and the jungle animals.

Tip: The sillier the trick, the better. See how creative you can get and then share your “secret plans” with a friend or family member.





Trunky's Spinning Color Wheel



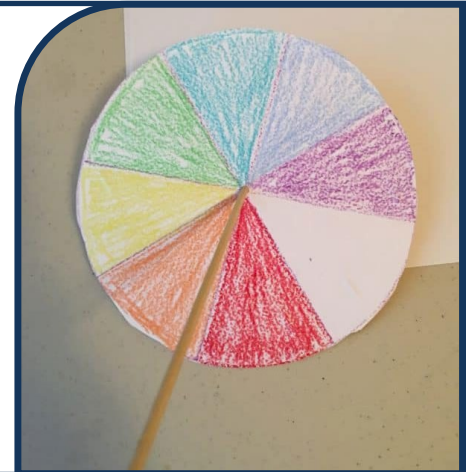
In *The Enormous Crocodile The Musical*, Trunky the Elephant spins the Crocodile round and round—so fast he turns into a blurry circle! You can try a science experiment at home that shows the same effect.

What You'll Need:

- Heavy white paper or cardboard (cut into a circle)
- Coloring supplies
- A wooden skewer, pencil, or straw
- Tape (optional)

How to Make It:

- Cut a circle out of paper or cardboard (you can trace something round like a bowl or use the template provided on the next page).
- Divide the circle into equal slices, like a pizza.
- Color each slice in rainbow order: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.
- Carefully poke a hole through the center and push the skewer (or pencil/straw) through.
- Spin the circle quickly between your fingers and watch what happens!

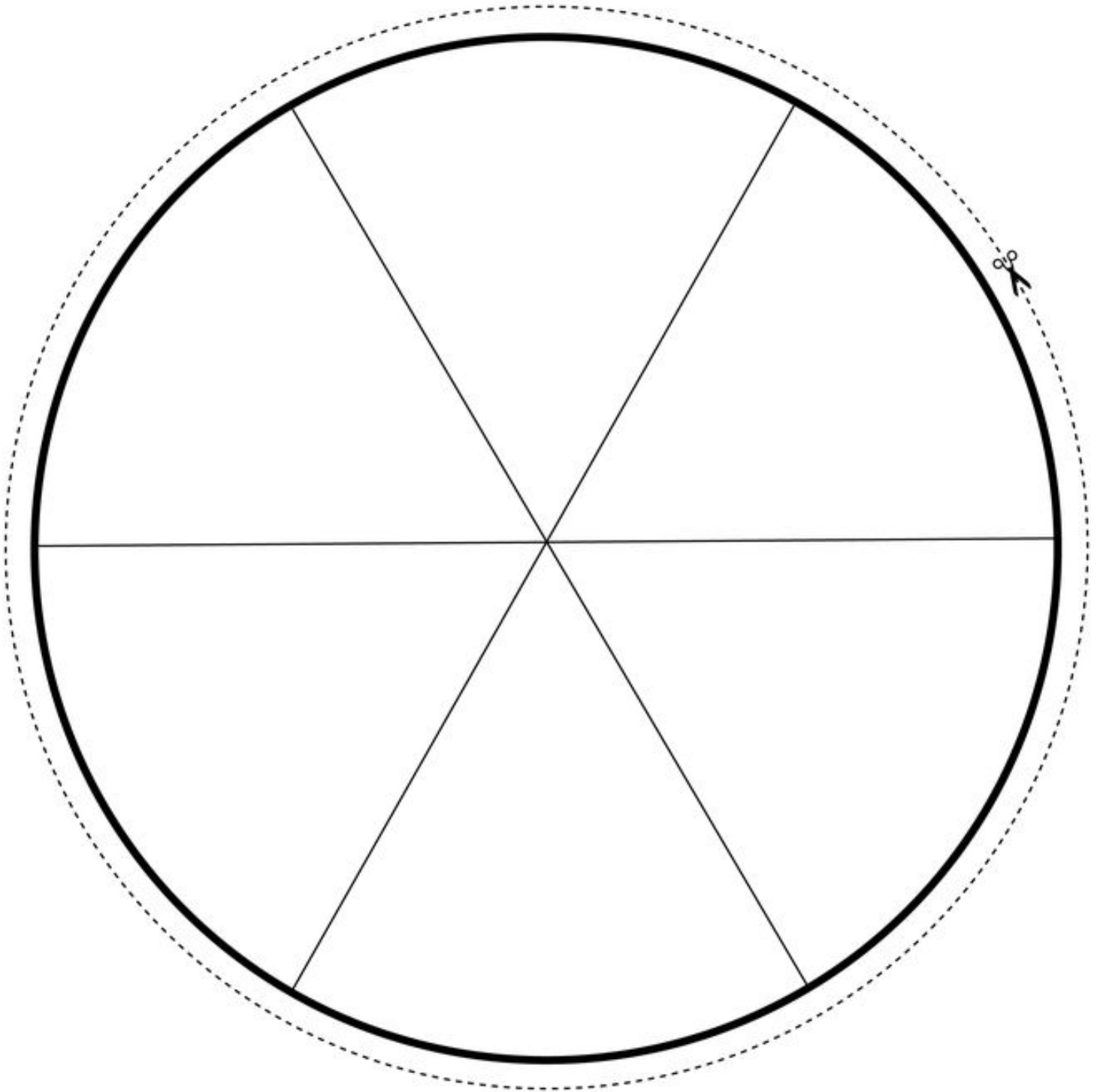


What You'll See:

As the wheel spins faster, the colors blur together until the wheel looks white. This happens because of something called *persistence of vision*—your eyes can't keep up with how fast the colors are spinning, so they blend together.

It's the same idea as when the Crocodile looked like a blur in Trunky's trunk—the action was moving so fast our eyes couldn't catch each detail!

Trunky's Spinning Color Wheel Template



CTC Theatre Etiquette

At CTC, we encourage audiences to engage with the live theatre experience and react freely. It's ok to laugh if something is funny, exclaim if something is surprising, gasp if something is scary, and maybe even dance along in your seats if the music inspires you. We value the real-time, honest reactions of our audiences.

We do, however, thank you for your partnership in making sure that any reactions are kind and respectful towards the actors onstage and towards all of the people who worked so hard to make the show possible.

Accessibility

We're here to make theatre enjoyable for everyone, with resources and options to support your experience.

Mobility Accessibility

The MacMillan Family Lobby and Cargill Stage are fully accessible on the ground level. CTC's accessible seating area is located in the front row of the theatre. Please email tickets@childrenstheatre.org in advance to request accessible seating, if needed. The rest of the seating can be accessed by going up a set of stairs.

The restrooms in the MacMillan Family Lobby are fully accessible.

Sensory Sensitivities

If someone in your group would benefit from a fidget, earplugs, noise-canceling headphones, or coloring/activity sheets, please let an usher know.

The performance is live-streamed in the lobby for anyone who may need a break. You are welcome to come and go from the lobby at any time during the show.

Each CTC production includes two sensory-friendly performances, which are noted in the [list of performance dates](#).

Assistive Listening Devices

Please let an usher know if you would like to use an assistive listening device. These devices come equipped with an over-the-ear earpiece. This earpiece can be unplugged, and other devices, such as cochlear implants, can be plugged into the receiver using the 1/8" jack. If you will be plugging in your own device, please bring the appropriate cord as CTC does not have these on hand.

Sign Interpretation and Audio Description

Each production has two performances with sign language interpretation and/or audio description. These performances are noted in the [list of performance dates](#).

Prayer/Private Nursing Space

During your visit, please ask a member of our staff to use our private space for nursing, pumping, prayer, or other needs.