



TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

featuring **DIANNA DAVID**

HIP HOP DANCE • SHADOW PLAY • MIMING • CLOWING • JUGGLING • MULTI-MEDIA

STUDY GUIDE

ABOUT THE PERFORMER

Dianna David is a first-generation Canadian born to Filipino parents who had endured great challenges to set roots in a new country. At the tender age of 5, she was already mimicking Michael Jackson's dance moves. Her father saw this and decided to build a Filipino folk dance group to teach his naturally gifted daughter and other Filipino children in their community about their heritage. Her parents also had high expectations for her to complete her education. She graduated as a mechanical engineer at the University of Alberta.

For almost 4 years Dianna worked as an engineer in San Francisco and continued dance on the side. She joined two competitive hip hop dance crews who had performed in the numerous events alongside the popular dance crews today JAB-BAWAKEEZ and KABBA MODERN.

With the desire to expand her creative expression, Dianna pursued live theatre where she was introduced to the art of clowning. To her surprise this art form was everything she dreamed to do – share positive messages through physical comedy and personal interactions with her audience.

Her passion to perform provoked her to quit her engineering job to follow her dream to full-time, professional performing artist. In the past four years, Dianna has created and toured three one-woman



shows and can be seen as a videogame actress for Electronic Arts in such games as Harry Potter, Face Breaker, Red Alert and so many more. Also, you might even have had her for your birthday as a Hip Hop Birthday Entertainer!

Looking back at her years of self-discovery, she's learned to embrace the things she loves most about herself and creatively expressing them in her work such as her quirkiness, her talents in movement, and her enjoyment in making new performance pieces through simple everyday things. Dianna continues to pursue new mediums of performance and collaborations with other artistic disciplines.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK is a highly visual and dynamic show where the audience gets to experience the full range Dianna's talent as a performer. Five very distinct characters come to life in a story told through characterization, Hip Hop dancing, clowning, miming, shadow play, contact juggling, and multimedia.



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Dianna David has just become a member her high school's most elite dance group, the LOL Dance Crew, led by the overbearing and popularity-driven Heidi Stevens. Estrude de Bompoof is a quirky, unsuspectingly talented individual who has just arrived from the Philippines and is finding her way through a new high school in Canada. Dianna has been forced by her principal, Mr. Gratan, to show the new girl around school and help her fit in. As a Canadian-born-Filipino, Dianna struggles to accept Estrude's differences as anything but embarrassing. As an unlikely friendship forms, Dianna is forced to re-evaluate her perspective, as she is peer-pressured to putting Estrude in her place.

THEMES

- Judgement
- Visual Perception
- Cultural differences
- Bullying
- Peer Pressure
- Fitting In
- Empowerment
- Imagination
- Stereotypes
- Relationships

PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

Physical Theatre is a general term used to describe any mode of performance that pursues storytelling through primarily physical means.

Miming involves the acting out a story through body motions, without use of speech.

Shadow puppetry or shadow play is an ancient form of storytelling and entertainment using opaque, often articulated figures in front of an illuminated backdrop to create the illusion of moving images. It is popular in various cultures. At present, more than 20 countries are known to have shadow show troupes.

Contact juggling is a form of object manipulation that focuses on the movement of objects such as balls in permanent contact with the body. Having little in common with “toss” juggling, it most typically involves the rolling of one or more completely transparent balls on the hands and arms to create visual illusions, such as that of a ball fixed in space.

Hip Hop dance refers to dance styles, mainly street dance styles, primarily danced to hip hop music, or that have evolved as a part of the hip hop culture. By its widest definition, it can include a wide range of styles such as breaking, popping, locking and krumping, and even house dance. It can also include the many styles

simply labelled as hip hop, old school hip hop (or hype), hip hop new style and freestyle.

Clowning (Pochinko Style) To the Pochinko Clown, Clowning is about allowing all honest emotions and impulses to occur, and then structuring that creative licence to build a performance.

Multimedia includes a combination of audio, still images, animation, video, and interactivity content forms.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Dianna David

Phone: 604-780-4363
www.diannadavid.net

Videos of Dianna David’s performances

www.youtube.com/diannadavid

Contact Juggling Tutorials

www.contactjuggling.org

Prop-Manipulation Videos

www.ministryofmanipulation.com

Dance School Listings in BC

www.centralhome.com/British-Columbia-dance-studios.htm

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION TOPICS

Stereotypes are simplified images or generalizations of common attributes of a group of people.

1. What does it mean to stereotype someone? Name some ways we stereotype people before we get to know them.
2. Discuss how stereotyping can play a negative role in getting to know them better.
3. Share any experiences when you had made a judgement on a person but later found out they were not what you assumed them to be.

Self-expression and communication is one of the strongest and most natural desire we all have. The natural desire to share life with others and express who we are is one of the best ways to find peace of mind. It gives you a sense of freedom and community that brings us together. It is an opportunity to tap into your creative side and explore new possibilities for communicating.

1. List the different ways you like to express yourself. For example, drawing, dancing, playing sports, writing etc. Write down how they make you feel when you express through them.
 2. Discuss the negative effects of not expressing the way you feel inside.
-

POST-SHOW DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. What were at least 5 elements of creative elements you saw in the show?
2. Have you ever experienced what Dianna, Estrude, Heidi experienced in the show?
3. What are ways of helping newcomers, students with disabilities, or visually differences student feel accepted?

HOSTING DIANNA AT YOUR SCHOOL

WHAT TO EXPECT

The show is a very visual and dynamic show. Students are encouraged to laugh and cheer when appropriate, yet maintain respectful attentive silence when necessary. Before entering the gymnasium please note that the main lights will be turned off with general lights on stage. Student must take caution when arriving to seats. There will be moments of darkness for shadow play and video projection. If this will frighten young children, please have them sat near attending teachers or supervisors. All teachers and staff are highly encouraged to attend. Lastly, it is advised that the kindergartens are sat behind the Grade 1 students when sat in the front row.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Dianna David and stage manager will arrive 1 hour before the show. It is imperative that

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Show Length: | 45 minutes with 15 minute Q+A. |
| Location: | School Gymnasium or Theatre (Must coordinate lighting rehearsal prior) |
| Dimensions: | 25 feet wide x 25 feet deep (depth is mandatory) |
| Seating: | Floor seating with 3` aisle down centre |
| Floor: | Performance area must be swept clean. |
| Technical: | 2 Outlets located at stage left of stage. See arrow. Provide extension chord if necessary, taped down. Dressing room (with bottled water if available). |

PLEASE NOTE:

Dianna David and stage manager will arrive 1 hour before the show. Please be aware, due to an intensive 89 show tour in 3 months, Dianna and her stage manager, will most likely be arriving from a different school if your show is in the afternoon. They will notify school representative if they are lost or having troubles arriving. Your patience is appreciated.

STAGE PLOT

