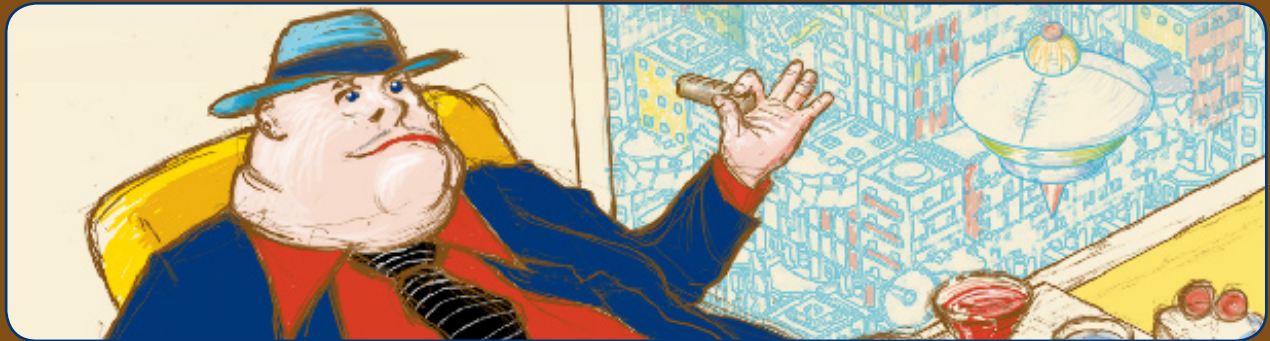


Science Theatre



Professor Jumpalot's Mission

Introduction

Jumpalot's Mission is a science theatre performance. The theme is health and science, and the actual form of presentation is role-play. This means that the performance is both theatre and teaching with the subject of health as the focal point.

In this material you can read about how to stage the theatre performance Jumpalot's Mission, how to prepare for it, and what the thinking behind it is.

The activity is organised with the help of a manual outlining the performance, and guidelines expanding on the individual activities and scenes. It is a good idea when preparing for the performance to read the manual and the guidelines alongside one another. The manual provides an overview, while the guidelines provide greater detail.

The performance is intended for a group of maximum 30 children aged 9–12. It takes three hours to complete.

We hope you feel like joining in – have fun!

Science theatre

Science theatre is a multi-subject activity that combines elements of drama and role-play with science topics and activities. The themes of health and lifestyle are incorporated in a theatre performance in which the teacher and the pupils play roles. The format is educational role-play, which means that the teaching, in the form of physics and chemistry experiments etc, takes place within the actual performance, in which the participants are both actors and the audience.

In this format you move in and out of the story. When you perform a scene you are 'in character' as a fictional person. And when you are preparing the scene or subsequently debating what happened in the scene, you go 'out of character' and become yourself.

Framework story

The staging of the performance puts experiments and exercises into a framework story. The story is as follows:

Professor Jumpalot, one of the future's few health researchers, has travelled back in time from the year 2058 to get help changing the future. This is because Jumpalot's future is ruled by the villain Simon Sugarmore, whose unhealthy Life Rules have created an unhealthy world of the worst kind. Professor Jumpalot has therefore come to get help from the health experts of the famous Health Academy. Only with their help can she rescue the health situation – in the future it's too late!

The health experts are keen to help Professor Jumpalot. They embark on a series of experiments that will help Jumpalot regain her lost knowledge and show her how much the health experts actually know.

Professor Jumpalot is impressed by the health experts' knowledge and arranges a conference where they can all discuss what they can do to spread the message that living healthily can actually be fun. If this message is spread widely, the future will progress in a healthier direction and thus prevent Simon Sugarmore's unhealthy Life Rules gaining a foothold.

The performance ends with a moving farewell scene where Professor Jumpalot says goodbye to the experts, each of whom has prepared a short farewell sentence.

After the performance, *Take a step every day* is sung; a song which was written especially for the performance.

Adding adult roles

You will need at least two adults so that you can support and supplement each another. One plays the role of Professor Jumpalot, while the other facilitates (ie introduces the scenes and helps the pupils get going with the tasks) and also plays the role of fitness instructor Susie Shape-up in scene 5. If you have even more adults, you can add Professor Jumpalot's assistants to the cast-list; they are called Healthy Henry and Fit Frank, or anything else that you may come up with. The pupils play the health experts from the Health Academy.

Duration

The performance takes around three hours to complete (including the experiments and the song). You should also set aside a minimum of five hours' preparation time for printing out materials, preparing the experiments, and practising the speech.

Target group and venue

The story is aimed at children aged 9–12. But because children are all different, it may be advisable to adapt the experiments and drama exercises to the group that you are teaching. As a guest teacher you should discuss the suitability of the material with the class-teacher.

The performance is suitable for a group of maximum 30 pupils.

Use a large room which has space to set up the experiments on group tables and lots of floor space to move around.

Creating the dramatic universe

You do not need advanced sets and costumes, tricks and surprises. Using your imagination, the classroom's time and location can easily be recreated. Using the prop posters you can also create a simple set. It might be a good idea to find some costumes for the pupils – for example, lab coats – to give some impetus to the role of health expert.

Common Objectives

The work on the performance of Jumpalot's Mission covers the following elements of the Common Objectives for the Danish municipal primary and lower secondary school.

The teaching should work towards the pupils learning the following:

Drama

- to tell a story in dramatic teamwork
- to use dramatic elements
- to shape a fictitious character and carry out dramatic improvisation

Science

- to describe important body functions and significant factors affecting them, and to use knowledge of issues that are important for human health
- to describe simple, important rules for healthy living, ask questions and put forward hypotheses based on observations, experiences and small investigations, carry out and describe simple investigations and experiments

It should also be strived to ensure that the teaching:

- maintains and promotes the pupils' joy of engaging with nature, science, vital necessities and living conditions as well as their pleasure in asking questions and carrying out experiments.