

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Music and Theatre

Presents

*This Is Not a  
Pipe Dream*

By Barry Kornhauser

Directed by **Amanda Petefish-Schrag**  
Scenic Design by **Rob Sunderman**  
Costume Design by **Kelly Marie Schaefer**  
Lighting Design by **Jim Trenberth**  
Technical Director **Natalie Hining**  
Stage Manager **Sydni Lapsley**

**The Cast**

Interlocutor – Levi Miller  
Stage Manager – Darrick Burrage  
Anonymous Chorus/Rene – Pierce Adajar  
Anonymous Chorus/Mother – Emily Heckle  
Anonymous Chorus/Father – Keaton Lane  
Anonymous Chorus/Teacher - Ellie Seaton  
Anonymous Chorus/Georgette – Bella Witte  
Anonymous Chorus – Joi Wright  
Anonymous Chorus – Nathan Krusemark  
Anonymous Chorus - Kiera McGregor  
Anonymous Chorus – Harrison Roose  
Anonymous Chorus – Alyson O'Hara  
Anonymous Chorus - Abigail Marcus  
Anonymous Chorus – Amanda Gray  
Anonymous Chorus – April Tan

**Preview Guide for Parents and Teachers**

Dear Educator,  
We have created the following study guide to help make your students theatre experience with the play *This Is Not a Pipe Dream* as meaningful as possible. For many, it will be their first time viewing a theatrical production. We have learned that when teachers discuss the play with their students before and after the production, the experience is more significant and long lasting.

Our study guide provides pre and post-production discussion topics, as well as additional resource materials. These are just suggestions; please feel free to create your own activities and areas for discussion

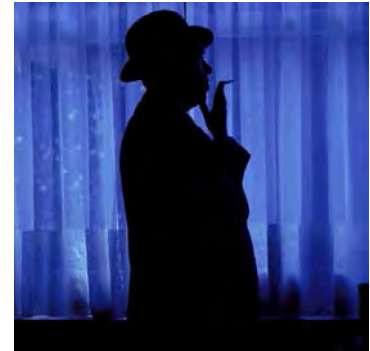
**About the Play:**

Inspired by the life and work of the surrealist painter René Magritte, *This Is Not a Pipe Dream* is the story of a young boy who wants to be an artist. Though his desire is dismissed by his father as "a pipe dream", he is encouraged by his mother, and begins a quest. He follows his vision into the delightfully absurd magic-realism of Magritte's famous paintings. The boy and the audience discover something of the true power of dreams and the triumphs of imagination. The multi-image dramatic staging incorporates spectacular color images of René Magritte's artwork.

**Things to Talk About and Do Before Seeing the Show...**

**About the Artist:**

René Francois Ghislin Magritte created numerous thought-provoking and witty images that he became known for. His work often showed familiar objects from everyday life (apples, shoes,



bowler hats, clouds), but he arranged the objects in unusual ways. Magritte was born in 1898 in Lessines, Belgium. His father, Leopold, was a tailor and textile merchant and his mother, Régina, a milliner. He first took drawing lessons in 1910. By all accounts, René's mother encouraged his artistic pursuits, while her husband was clearly disapproving. His mother committed suicide in a nearby river when he was 14. She was found with her nightgown wrapped around her face. It has been suggested that this is the reason why some of René's paintings show

By Lothar Wolleh - <http://www.lothar-wolleh.de>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=1368011>

cloth covering the faces of the people. René studied art in Brussels at the Academy of Fine Art. In 1922 he married Georgette Berger, whom he had first met at the age of 13. After getting married, he earned a living painting wallpaper designs and designing posters, devoting only his free time to serious painting. He was profoundly influenced by a painting he saw in 1922, Chirico's "The Song of Love" and his style of painting changed from that point on. He began to paint full time in 1926, and his first one-man show was in 1927, although it received dismal reviews. René Magritte died of cancer in 1967.

### **About Surrealism:**

Surrealism began in the 1920s as a philosophical movement that said the way to find truth in the world was through the subconscious mind and dreams, rather than through logical thought. The movement included many artists, poets, and writers who expressed their theories in their work.

The term surrealism means "above realism" or "over-realism". Surrealists liked to put together things that are not normally seen together, juxtaposing elements that seem to contradict each other. Surrealism was all about experimenting with imagination.

### **Theater Etiquette**

We want your students to have the best experience when they see a performance live so below is a list of reminders of how to behave when they see the show.

- Stay seated during the performance.
- Keep in mind that the actors on stage can hear you if you talk, so always be courteous to the actors and other audience members around you by paying attention during the performance and not talking or texting
- Arrive early. Seeing a show is a special experience, and you don't want to miss any of it.
- No taking pictures or recording during the performance.
- Be sure to laugh and applaud when appropriate, and remember to have fun!

### **Active Watching**

Enhance your visit by encouraging your students to look at different aspects of the production. Become familiar with theater terms and jobs by completing the Theater Terms Word Search and Theater Jobs Crossword. Before the show, identify tasks for your class. Have one group of students looking at the set, another listening for the music and sound effects, a third watching the lighting and a fourth, the costumes. Compare notes after the show about what they observed. Your students will be more informed and they'll be surprised by how much they noticed.

### **What are the differences between seeing a play and a movie?**

A play happens live in front of an audience. The actors need to recreate the same play over and over again, giving the audience the illusion that it is the very first performance. Since theater happens live, each performance may be a little bit different than the next.

## **Post-Show Activities**

### **Write a Review**

After seeing *This Is Not a Pipe Dream*, generate a review of the show. These can be in written form to be put in a journal, they can be in talk show form, or they can be used as the basis for a roundtable discussion. If you were going to tell a friend about the performance, explore the main story using these suggested points:

1. Describe one of the actor's performances and discuss how that performance added to your enjoyment of the show.
2. Describe one of the costumes. How did it help to tell the story? What did the costume tell the audience about the character?
3. Describe one of the sets. How did it create the world of the story?
4. What point did the director or playwright try to make? What main idea were they trying to convey to the audience? Were they successful? Why or why not?

## **Create a Surreal Collage**

Some surreal artworks were made using collage. Use images from a magazine or printed images from the internet to create your own collage in the style of Magritte. Think about some of the techniques used by Magritte and other surrealist artists as you put your images together. Techniques (How to make the ordinary look extraordinary):

- Unusual Scale: objects that are much larger or smaller than real life (an apple large enough to fill a room)
- Levitation: something floating that doesn't usually float (people floating in the sky)
- Juxtaposition: Joining two images in impossible combinations
- Transformation: merging two objects (an object which appears to be a bottle turning into a carrot)
- Replacement: part of objects or figures changing place (figure of an adult woman with the head of a baby holding a baby with the head of a woman)

## **Resources**

### **About Art and the Artist**

<https://www.theartstory.org/movement-surrealism.htm>

<https://www.theartstory.org/artist-magritte-rene.htm>

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/surrealism>

<https://www.wikiart.org/en/rene-magritte>

### **For Drama and Theater**

<http://www.childdrama.com/lessons.html>

A collection of creative drama lesson plans

<http://drama-education.com/lessons/>

Links to many drama lessons, games, and activities.

## **About Iowa State University Department of Music and Theatre**

The Department of Music and Theatre offers a strong undergraduate music and theatre program, where students study with full-time faculty professionals in a supportive environment that encourages students to become their best.

### **Our faculty**

Faculty in the Department of Music and Theatre represent a distinguished combination of professional and academic excellence.

### **Mission and vision**

The Department of Music and Theatre is committed to a philosophy of education that draws its goals from the larger purposes of liberal arts education and from the guidelines of its accrediting agency, the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM). The primary aims of the department are to prepare students for a variety of professions in music, theatre, and the performing arts, to provide all students with educational experiences that will enhance their understanding of and aesthetic sensitivity to music, theatre, and the performing arts, and to serve as a vital force in the cultural life of the university, the community, and throughout the state and nation. The activities of the department reflect the university's commitment to excellence in teaching, creativity, and service.

We love to hear from our audience members!

Send letters, drawing or reviews to:

ISU Theatre  
0310 Carver Hall  
411 Morrill Road  
Ames, IA 50011

Email: [isutheatre@iastate.edu](mailto:isutheatre@iastate.edu)

Website: [www.theatre.iastate.edu](http://www.theatre.iastate.edu)

# THEATRE TERMS

WORD SEARCH

*For Kids!*

C	O	S	T	U	M	E	C	S	D	A
H	N	E	P	P	P	A	C	T	O	R
A	S	D	L	S	A	W	R	A	F	R
R	T	I	A	T	C	R	S	G	F	M
A	A	R	Y	A	T	C	O	E	S	U
C	G	E	C	G	R	C	U	T	T	S
T	E	C	R	E	E	U	N	L	A	I
E	H	T	E	C	S	R	D	I	G	C
R	D	O	W	N	S	T	A	G	E	A
S	C	R	I	P	T	A	N	H	O	S
M	A	K	E	U	P	I	C	T	E	T
M	I	M	E	R	S	N	E	S	E	T

ACTOR

ACTRESS

CAST

CHARACTER

COSTUME

CREW

CURTAIN

DANCE

DIRECTOR

DOWNSTAGE

LIGHTS

MAKEUP

MIME

MUSIC

OFFSTAGE

ONSTAGE

PLAY

SCRIPT

SET

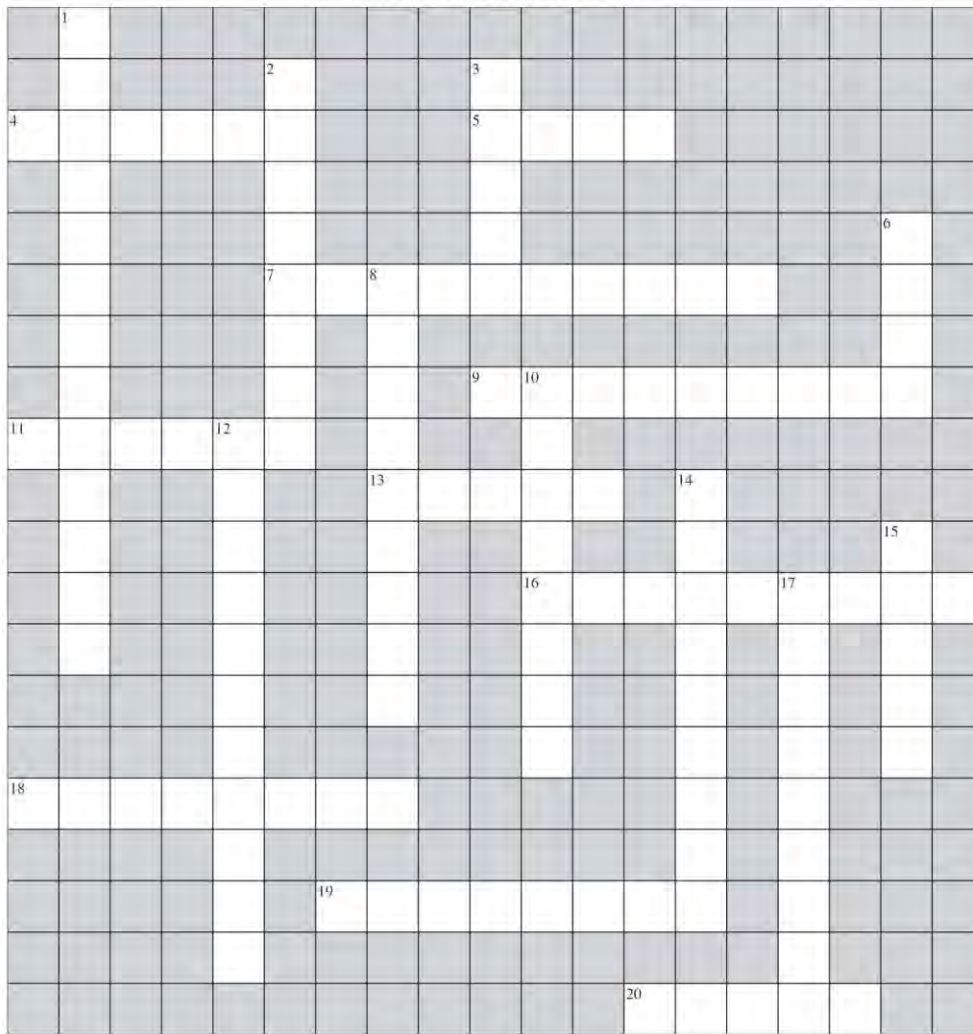
SOUND

STAGE

UPSTAGE

# IN THE THEATRE

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

4. A dancer
5. The people that operate the technical aspects of the production during a performance
7. A person who studies a part in preparation to play a role should the original actor become ill or for some other reason not be able to appear in the show
9. A person employed in any capacity to assist backstage
11. A slang term for any foreman of a stage crew, but it usually refers to the electrician
13. A person who backs a play

16. Person responsible for promoting a production through the media and other means
18. The person responsible for leading a cast and crew through the rehearsal process to prepare a play for production
19. A person who helps an actor who has forgotten his lines by providing key words from a position in the wings
20. A non-speaking part in a play

### DOWN

1. The person who creates dance compositions and plans and arranges dance movements
2. The person or group

3. A person onstage who has been selected by a director to perform a role in a production
6. The starring role in a performance
8. A playwright
10. Another name for an actor
12. The person in charge of the lighting effects
14. A person who performs a service willingly and without pay
15. A person who escorts people to their seats
17. The person who builds the set and set pieces requiring construction

Provided compliments of **PIONEER DRAMA** ([www.pioneerdrama.com](http://www.pioneerdrama.com)) Please feel free to reproduce for use in your classroom.

### WORD BANK

- |          |            |           |               |
|----------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| ACTOR    | ANGEL      | CARPENTER | CHOREOGRAPHER |
| CREW     | DIRECTOR   | DRAMATIST | ELECTRICIAN   |
| EXTRA    | GAFFER     | HOOFER    | LEAD          |
| PRODUCER | PROMPTER   | PUBLICIST | STAGEHAND     |
| THESPIAN | UNDERSTUDY | USHER     | VOLUNTEER     |

