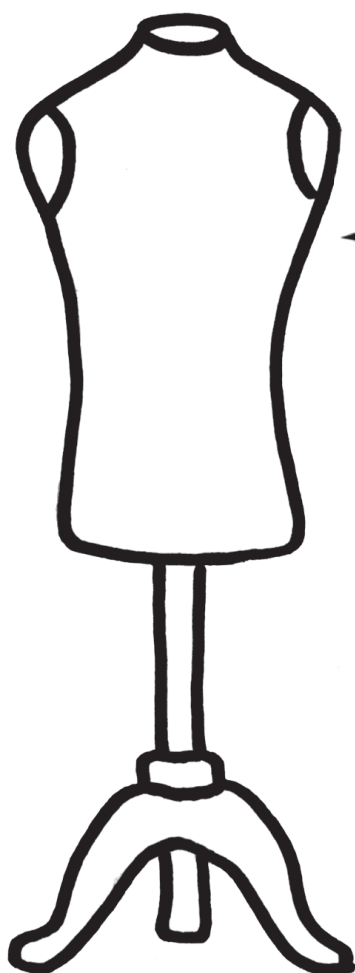
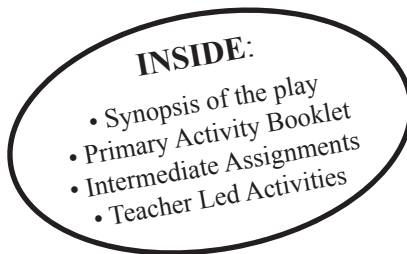


AN AXIS THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION
32 YEARS OF THOUGHT PROVOKING, AWARD-WINNING CREATIVITY
Artistic Director Wayne Specht

TEACHER'S STUDY GUIDE

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE



The Emperor's New Threads

Directed by
Peter Anderson

Written by
Melody Anderson
Peter Anderson

Mask & Costume Design
Melody Anderson

Music Composition
Alison Jenkins

Set Design
Melody Anderson

Lighting Consultant
Gerald King

Set Builders
Harry Vandershee
Liz Bacca

Scenic Painters
Skai Fowler
David Roberts

Stage Manager
Dorothy Jenkins

Cast

STEFANO GIULIANETTI

JOSUE LABOUCANE

TANYA PODLOZNIUK



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ABOUT AXIS

Over thirty-two years of thought provoking, award-winning creativity have earned Axis Theatre Company a rightful place on the world stage of modern dramatization. Recognized as one of British Columbia's cultural institutions, Axis has produced over 50 original works and has captured the hearts and minds of audiences the world over.

ABOUT THE PLAY

The Emperor's New Threads is an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairytale *The Emperor's New Clothes*. The story centers on our society's need to always appear "cool" and "fashionably in," even if it means denying our own best instincts and common sense. This is in no way a new concept – this story is as relevant today as it was when it was first written 170 years ago.



Axis Theatre Company

Wayne Specht
Artistic Director

Kent Martin
General Manager

Heather Cant
Tour Coordinator

Grant Tufts
Systems Manager

Axis Theatre Company is a member of
The Greater Vancouver Professional Theatre Alliance,
Alliance for Arts and Culture, Arts in Education Council
of BC, BC Touring Council, Canadian Council of the Arts,
Volunteer Vancouver, the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres,
International Performing Arts for Youth and
The Granville Island Business & Community Association

Axis Theatre Company engages, under the terms of
the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional artists
who are members of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Melody Anderson & Peter Anderson - Playwrights

Melody Anderson is a visual artist, designer, mask-maker and writer whose masks have been featured in numerous productions and are used as teaching tools in acting workshops throughout North America. Peter Anderson is a playwright, clown and actor who has written and performed for theatres across Canada for almost 30 years and is perhaps best known for his lead role in *The Overcoat*. Two of the co-creators of Axis Theatre's international hit *The Number 14*, Peter and Melody's artistic collaboration began in 1978 when they met while working together for the horse-drawn Caravan Stage Company. They are thrilled to be working as co-authors for the first time on *The Emperor's New Threads*.

Alison Jenkins - Music Composition

Alison has been writing and performing music for live theatre since the late '90s. Composing credits include: *Pinocchio* and *Snow White* for Chemainus Theatre, *The Bloody Cleanup* (With Joelysa Pankanea) for Les Saints theatre, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Whistler Theatre Project. Musical directing credits include *Christmas in Wales* (Chemainus Theatre), *No Great Mischief* (Vancouver Playhouse) and *The Back Kitchen Release Party* (Arts Club Theatre). She has been twice nominated for a Jessie Richardson award for her work as a musical director.



COMPANY BIOS

STEFANO GIULIANETTI – Performer

Stefano has been working as an actor, teacher and producer for over 10 years. He recently completed a tour with Axis Theatre's world-renown play *The Number 14*, and is delighted to resume touring *The Emperor's New Threads* having performed 210 shows for 58,795 children across BC last year. Other fun shows include *The Hobbit* (Carousel Theatre), *Alice: A Wonderland* (Western Canada Theatre), *The Compleat Wks of Wllm Shkspr*, *Abridged* (Project X), *Futuristi!* and *The Best Italian Variety Show - EVER!* with his company *BellaLuna*. He has also performed at various festivals including *Fringe*, *Comedy Fest* and *One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo* in Calgary. Stefano enjoys riding his Vespa scooter.

JOSUE LABOUCANE – Performer

Originally from Fort St. John, BC, Josue moved to Vancouver to study acting and theatre arts at various institutions including the Vancouver Film School, the Canadian National Voice Intensive and finally the three year conservatory style theatre arts program *Studio 58*, from which he graduated in 2005. Theatre credits include *Letters From Lithuania* (Mortal Coil); *The Hobbit*, *Silverwing*, (Carousel Theatre); *Revenge* (Felix Culpa); *Timon of Athens*, *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Measure for Measure*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead* (Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival); *Carnage* (Pi Theatre); *Waiting Room*, *Diana of Dobsons*, *Troy: City of Love*, *Being Adrienne Clarkson*, *Terrible Things*, and *Pal Joey* (Studio 58). Josue is very excited to be touring again with Axis Theatre and this talented team of artists.

TANYA PODLOZNIUK - Performer

Tanya Podlozniuk is a dance artist, improviser and

actor. She has been studying various forms of dance and theatre for the past 20 years. In 2003, Tanya received a BFA from Simon Fraser University. Since then Tanya has performed and collaborated with several companies including *Kokoro Dance*, *Battery Opera*, *Radix Theatre*, *The Only Animal*, *New World Theatre*, *Boca del Lupo* and *The Leaky Heaven Circus*. She has also danced in original works choreographed by *Caroline Liffmann*, *Susan Elliot*, *Tanya Marquardt* and *Jennifer Clarke*. Aside from performance, Tanya is a dedicated pre-school dance teacher and practises and teaches Yoga.

DOROTHY JENKINS – Stage Manager

Dorothy has stage managed many productions in England and in Canada. She has worked on an amazing variety of shows from one-man monologues to community play projects involving casts of over 100 people. She has toured extensively over Ontario and BC and is happy to be working on her third tour with Axis Theatre.

SPECIAL THANKS

Bev Duncan

Kevin Dubois

Sue Earle

Elia Kirby

Mike Stack

Marjorie Malpass

Lois Anderson

Suzanne Abbott

Jill Daum

Nancy Bryant

Ken MacDonald

**Hertha Buller
Capilano College**

and

The Melusine Foundation



THE EMPEROR'S NEW THREADS SYNOPSIS

The Emperor's New Threads begins with a mother and child discussing the upcoming Royal Procession. The child is very excited about the event and is speculating about what the Emperor, who is known for his trendy wardrobe, will wear.

Meanwhile, the Emperor is at a loss. He thinks everything in his closet is ugly and no longer in style. He wants to have some new clothes made, but he has fired the Royal Weaver and the Royal Tailor.

Outside the Palace two swindlers, Cornelius and Felix, are broke and hungry. They've heard about the Emperor's addiction to the latest fashions and that the Emperor is willing to pay any price to have them, so they begin to craft a plan to trick the Emperor out of his money.

Cornelius and Felix knock on the palace door and announce that they are the finest weavers in the land. The Emperor immediately invites them in. Cornelius and Felix reveal that they weave a very special fabric that can only be seen by people who are good at their job.

The Emperor sees the value in having this cloth. Not only will he have a fashionable new outfit, but he would be able to use it to expose people who are bad at their job. The Emperor pays Cornelius and Felix to make him a new ensemble for the Royal Procession.

Cornelius and Felix's plan works. They are now living in the Royal Palace, being paid a fortune in gold coins and getting all the macaroni and cheese they can eat. Cornelius is confident their plan will continue to work because word will spread throughout the kingdom about how the cloth cannot be seen by anyone who is bad at their job. No one will want to be thought of as bad at their job so they will all pretend to see what isn't there.

Over the next few days, Cornelius and Felix pretend to weave a new outfit for the Emperor.

Meanwhile the Emperor is becoming very curious about what the cloth looks like. The Emperor is afraid to look at it himself in case he won't be able to see it. So the Emperor sends other people to look at the cloth and report back to him. Every person that goes to visit Cornelius and Felix in the loom room is unable to see the cloth, yet each of them reports back to the Emperor and tells him how beautiful the cloth is.

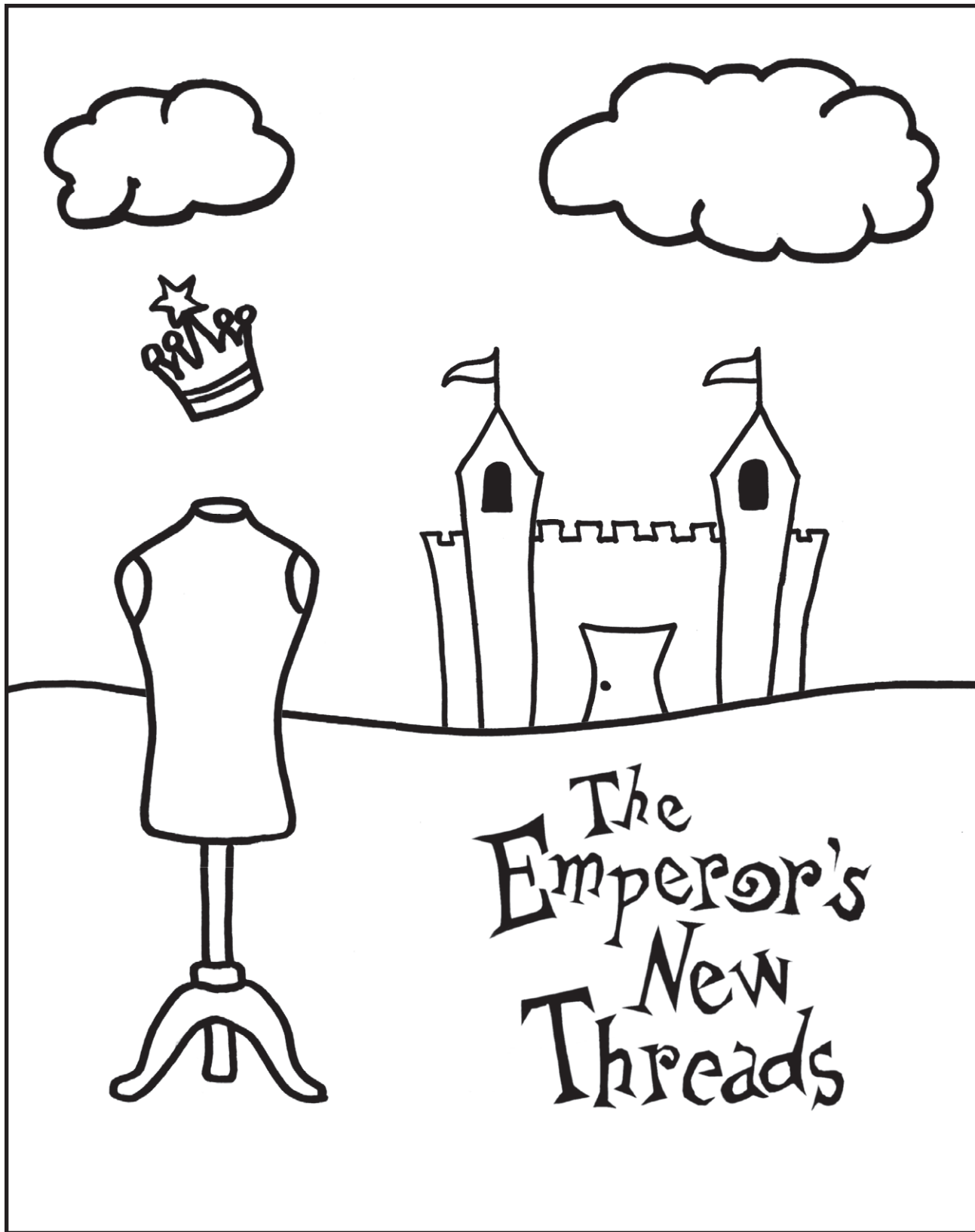
The Emperor can finally stand it no more and goes to see the cloth for himself. He is most distressed to find that he can see nothing at all. The Emperor believes that everyone else can see the cloth so he is afraid of appearing foolish in front of his Kingdom. What would people think if their Emperor was the only one who couldn't see the cloth? The Emperor lies and claims to be able to see the cloth as well.

The townspeople begin to gather for the Royal Procession and the Emperor is inside the Palace getting ready. Cornelius and Felix assure the Emperor that he looks fabulous in his new suit and the Emperor, despite his reservations, believes them. While the Emperor prepares to go to the Royal Procession, Cornelius and Felix make their escape.

The townspeople wait anxiously for the Emperor to arrive. When the Emperor finally appears the whole crowd can see that he isn't wearing any clothes but they all remain silent. No one wants to admit that they can't see the special fabric. Finally, one child speaks up and says "The Emperor isn't wearing any clothes." The crowd and the Emperor realize the truth – they've all been had.

No one was willing to believe what was right in front of their nose because of what other people might think. The Emperor and the townspeople realize that they should have been truthful with each other from the very beginning. The Emperor sees that his people love him for who is and not what he wears.

THE EMPEROR'S NEW THREADS PRIMARY ACTIVITY BOOK

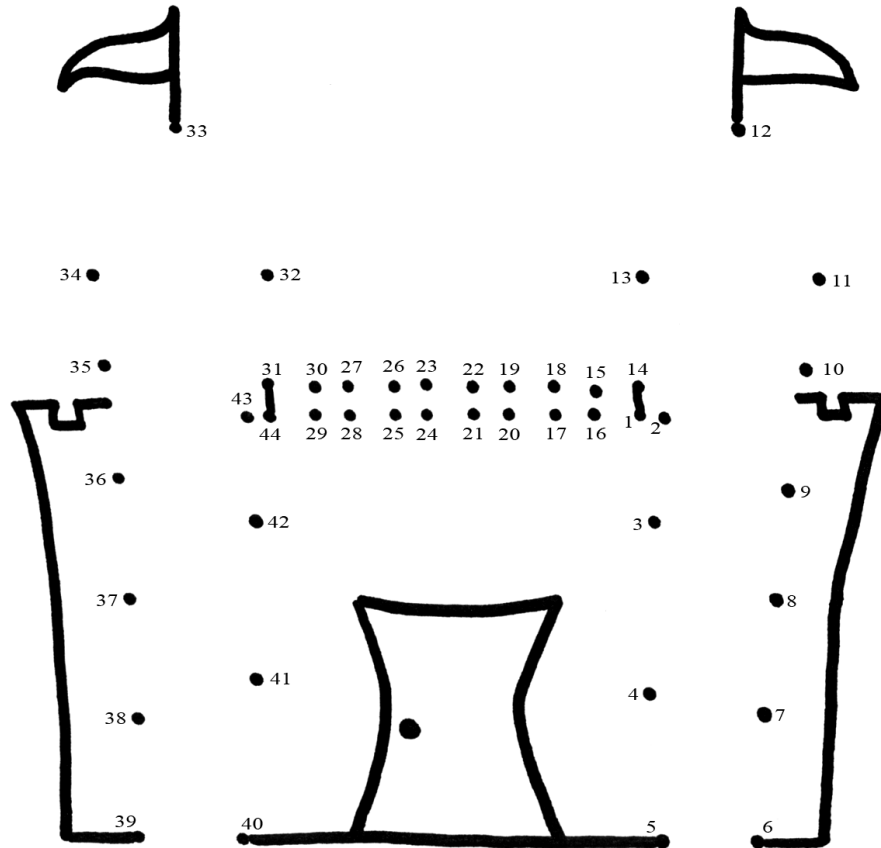


This Activity booklet belongs to: _____



THE EMPEROR'S NEW THREADS PRIMARY ACTIVITY BOOK

① Connect the dots in the picture below to see where the Emperor lives.



② The Emperor has 3 shirts and 2 pairs of pants in his royal wardrobe. He has one red shirt, one blue shirt and one orange shirt, one black pair of pants and one brown pair of pants. How many possible different outfits could the Emperor wear?

③ One package of macaroni and cheese makes 2 bowls worth. If Felix wants to eat 5 bowls of macaroni and cheese then how many packages does he need to make?

THE EMPEROR'S NEW THREADS PRIMARY ACTIVITY BOOK

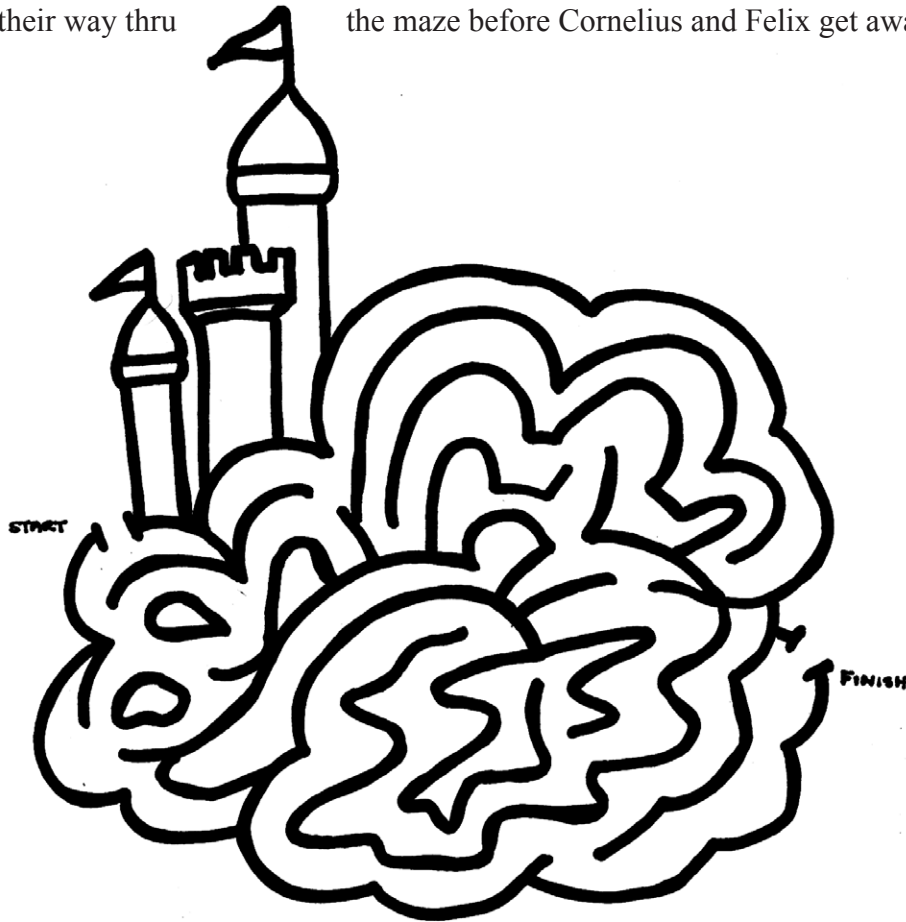
④ The Emperor has asked you to design a new outfit for him to wear. In the space below, draw a picture of what these new clothes will look like. Don't forget to include items like shoes or hats or scarves – anything that you think will make the outfit complete!

⑤ Write a paragraph explaining why the new clothes you have designed for the Emperor are special. What makes them unique?



THE EMPEROR'S NEW THREADS PRIMARY ACTIVITY BOOK

- ⑥ Cornelius and Felix have fooled the Emperor and are trying to escape. Help the Emperor's Knights find their way through the maze before Cornelius and Felix get away.



- ⑦ The Emperor has learned a valuable lesson – his royal subjects like him for who he is not for what he wears. Now the Emperor won't be spending all of his gold on clothes. What do you think the Emperor should spend his gold on now? Why?

INTERMEDIATE ASSIGNMENTS

Once upon a time ... today.

- Think about other classic fables or fairytales that you know. Do they contain a moral that is still relevant? How might these stories be different if they were written today?
Pick one of these stories and write your own adaptation.

So you think you're a trendsetter!

- You are responsible for creating the next trend in fashion. The sky is the limit so use your imagination. Things to consider: Does your trend have a functional purpose or is it just for fun? What is it made out of? Is it a single item or does it have accessories?

Now put your design on paper – use colors, collect fabric swatches, anything that might help you illustrate your idea.

- Create a newspaper or magazine advertisement to promote your creation. Look at some real ads – what makes them effective and appealing to you as a consumer? Things to consider: Should you use images or text or both? What is unique about your product? Why will consumers want to buy it? How much does it cost? Where can it be bought? Does it come in other colours, fabrics or sizes?

Lights, Camera, Action!

- You are being given an opportunity to go on Entertainment Tonight to promote your fashion trend to the world. Think about what you will say and write a sales pitch explaining why your creation is unique and everyone will want one. You will only have two minutes on camera so use your time effectively!

TEACHER LED ACTIVITIES

Primary

- Lead the students in a discussion about honesty. Has anyone ever lied to them? How did it make them feel? Have they ever mislead / lied to someone else? Why did they do it? How did it make them feel? What happened when their lie was discovered? Would they ever do it again?
- Lead the students in a discussion about peer pressure. Has anyone ever pressured them to say or do things they didn't want to? Why did they or didn't they go along with it? Have they ever pressured someone else? Why? Why is it sometimes difficult to say no when someone is pressuring you? What are some strategies that you can use to make it easier to stand up for yourself and your beliefs?

Intermediate

- Use the advertisements the students created as a point of discussion. Are they effective? Why or why not?
- Have the students give their sales pitch in front of the class.
- Lead the students in a discussion about ethics in advertising. Are there boundaries to how far a company should be allowed to go in promoting their product? Who bears the responsibility (the consumer, the company or both) in creating and enforcing ethical guidelines? Have the students give real or imagined examples of good ethical choices and bad ethical choices.

Art Activities

- We have developed some wonderful art activities centered on weaving and mask making for both primary and intermediate levels. For lesson plans on these art activities, please visit our website at www.axis theatre.com

