

Andy Offutt Irwin's

STUDY GUIDE

for the performance of

Offutt's Environmental Epic Show!



**MEET THE ARTIST**

Andy began his career writing and directing shows with the comedy troupe, SAK Theatre, at Walt Disney World. Now a happy arts educator, he is an Artist-in-Residence at Oxford College of Emory University where he has been the recipient of the *Clark Award for Exemplary Teaching*.

Andy has presented workshops and residencies for *LaGuardia High School of Art & Music and Performing Arts in New York* (the *FAME!* School); City University of New York; Georgia College & State University; and Atlanta City Schools. He has been the featured performer/speaker at the *Library of Congress/Viburnum Foundation Family Literacy Workshop*. He is an Artist Partner with *Character through the Arts*, and *Artful Learning™* in which the Leonard Bernstein Model is taught through a series of ongoing professional workshops and mentoring relationships with teachers.

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

**PROPER ETIQUETTE AND  
AUDIENCE TRAINING**

Certainly it should go without saying that the students should sit quietly, attentively, and – by all means – laugh when the performance is funny. Teachers should be prepared to participate, as well as the children, and do any paperwork/laptop.iPad work at a later time. Really, teachers, no kidding.

## Offutt's Environmental Epic Show!



Using mighty funny song-stories and his usual cache of sound effects, Andy helps children (and grown-ups) think of the environment simply as *the place where we live*. We'll learn that we are all downstream from somebody, and somebody is always downstream from us. Andy divides the world into three zones: *Personal Zone*, *Local Zone*, and *The Entire Earth Zone*. Taking care of the environment is nothing more than caring for one's self and one's community.

Andy was trained as a percussionist, but learned to sing and write songs as a camp counselor. Andy's songs are based on the rhythms from the words we speak and his songs usually begin with a short phrase, often inspired by sound and joke craft. Like many folk artists, Andy accompanies himself on the guitar.

Folk songs often tell stories. Andy tells original stories all over the country at many national storytelling festivals and at theaters. Andy is a master at making up stories on the fly with input from the audience. So listen carefully for your chance to help shape the story!



This performance includes three songs. The "Jelly Song" is about products made from oil. "Crickets In the Kudzu" tells the story of what happens when a cricket tries to swim in a polluted stream. The final song is a song about enjoying nature and one another.

### THE JELLY SONG

*Words and Music by Andy Offutt Irwin*  
©2000 Conscientious Fish Stories & Tunes, ASCAP

Some people like grape jelly  
Some people like apple jelly  
But the kind of jelly that I want in my belly is  
...petroleum jelly

Out in the North Atlantic  
On a big oil rig  
They're pumping that crude from under the sea  
To make the jelly I dig

Some people like grape jelly  
Some people like apple jelly  
But the kind of jelly that I want in my belly is  
...petroleum jelly

Don't have to kill any apples  
Don't have to kill any grapes  
Those dinosaurs died approximately 60 million years ago  
No guilt – isn't that great?

Some people like grape jelly  
Some people like apple jelly  
But the kind of jelly that I want in my belly is  
...petroleum jelly

There's lots of stuff we get from crude  
Plastics and gasoline  
And not to mention my favorite food  
Good ol' Vaseline™

Some people like grape jelly  
Some people like apple jelly  
But the kind of jelly that I want in my belly is  
...petroleum jelly

Now, don't you go and eat it  
This song is just a joke  
Mamma and Daddy will sue me, I can't beat it  
'Cause it makes you and ...

Some people like grape jelly  
Some people like apple jelly  
But the kind of jelly that I want in my belly is  
...petroleum jelly  
Some people like grape jelly  
Some people like apple jelly  
But the kind of jelly that I want in my belly is  
...petroleum jelly-----

# Crickets in the Kudzu

Andy Offutt Irwin

© Conscientious Fish Stories & Tunes, ASCAP

Crickets in the Kudzu

Making noise

That's the only way for crickets to get their joys

Crickets in the kudzu

Can you dig it?

That's the only way to live when you're a cricket

This is a long story song about a cricket and a polluted stream.

## *Simple Things / World of Time*

This is a song about kids being outside with grown-ups they love, and grown-ups being outside with children they love.



## **Reflect and review**

Here are some things to think about and discuss after the program.

- In the program Andy talked about the three Environmental Zones. What are they?
- How did Andy demonstrate how he takes care of his own Personal Zone?
- How does taking care of your Personal Zone affect other people?
- What are some things we use in every day life that are made from oil?
- The song talked about pumping oil. Where?
- The song mentions oil and dinosaurs. It did not tell us what dinosaurs have to do with making oil but does anyone know why Andy might mention dinosaurs in a song about oil?

- Would you call “The Jelly Song”: a) a love song b) an historical song c) a silly song
- What did Andy mean when he said, “Everybody is *downstream* of somebody? Who is *downstream* from our community?
- What happened to the cricket in the song? What were some of the problems with the stream in the song?
- How can we keep streams from becoming polluted? How can we clean up streams that are already polluted?
- How do we take care of our Local Zone?
- Can you name three habits of people that threaten our Local Zone? Personal Zone? Earth Zone?

### Terms for further study

- **Environment**
- **Petroleum**
- **Pollution**
- **Habitat**
- **Oil Drilling (current issues, effects)**
- **Alternative fuels (bio-diesel, hydrogen, solar, windmills)**
- **Places in our community to enjoy nature**
- **Organizations that help protect and educate about nature**



### Activities:

**Stream Watch:** Take a field trip to a nearby stream and conduct the following research activities. Be sure each student has a small notebook and pencil for writing the results of their research.

**Critter Count:** Station students in small groups along the stream. Ask them to note the names of any animals they see in the stream (be sure to include all

insects). Sketch a picture of the animal. Count the numbers. Record the information and sketch of each animal and the date and time the animal was sited.

Return to the classroom and use the material for making graphs, follow-up identification and research. The local Fish and Wildlife program can give you information on the types of animals in your area and which animals and animal numbers indicate a healthy stream.

Trash Watch: Station students in small groups along the stream. Record any trash sited in and around the stream. Return to the classroom and graph the data, discuss the sources of the trash you witnessed, write letters tot he local paper about keeping waterways clean. If possible, organize a clean-up day and return to clean the stream.

See the EPA's Environmental Kid's Club for additional activities related to water and other aspects of the environment. [www.epa.gov/kids/](http://www.epa.gov/kids/)

## Explore

Related web sites.

[www.songsforteaching.com](http://www.songsforteaching.com)

[www.developingteachers.com](http://www.developingteachers.com)

[www.storynet.org](http://www.storynet.org)

<http://www.nrdc.org/makewaves/> Kids Make Waves