

BLINDSPOT COLLECTIVE PRESENTS

PONDERBOG



A NEW MUSICAL FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

2026 SCHOOL TOUR GUIDE

This program is offered at \$1,000 per location that can be waived thanks to generous support from the California Arts Council. Flip through this guide to learn how your school or community can get involved!



PONDERBOG

Blindspot Collective invites you to ***Ponderbog***, a playful interactive adventure about friendship, creativity, conservation, love. When a heated argument accidentally unleashes real magic, Kim vanishes into the woods, and her big sister Nancy must journey through a world built from childhood memory and imagination to find her. Guided by an unlikely troupe of forest friends, Nancy battles mischievous sprites, the fearsome Hound, and her own self-doubt. *Ponderbog* is a joyful celebration encouraging young audiences to explore their natural surroundings and use their imagination to make anything possible.

Recommended for Second Grade through Fifth Grade. Performance and curriculum fulfills CA Standards for imagination, storytelling, collaboration, and community. If you feel younger grades would also enjoy the experience, we warmly welcome them to join.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Audiences are greeted by a troupe of Storytellers who spin the tale of two feuding sisters, Nancy and Kim. When a heated argument accidentally unleashes real magic, Kim vanishes into the mysterious forest kingdom of Ponderbog, and Nancy must journey through a world built from childhood memory and imagination to find her. Guided by an unlikely troupe of forest friends: the swaggering knight Marius Fang and the sly, loyal troll Gribbit, Nancy battles mischievous sprites, a fearsome Hound, and her own self-doubt. But it's only by learning to trust her imagination, listen to the wisdom of the forest, and lean on her new friends that Nancy can restore the Soul of the Forest, rescue her sister, and heal the kingdom.

Ponderbog includes original musical numbers, audience call-and-response as the "Voices of the Forest," and interactive storytelling that inspire young audiences to discover the importance of family, imagination, courage, and caring for the natural world. This 45-minute show was created by professional artists and educators to address the unique human development and learning needs of students in grades 2 through 5.

This original play is brought to life by trained performers under the direction of Shellina Hefner and written by Tyler Tafolla. Development was supported by third grade students at Joyner Elementary. Ponderbog is a collaborative effort by Blindspot Collective that celebrates the power of family bonds, imagination, and community by creating meaningful theater for young audiences.



PERFORMANCE DETAILS

***Ponderbog* will tour elementary schools and community centers in San Diego County from October 5th - October 30th, 2026.**

This delightful interactive performance lasts approximately 45 minutes, followed by a facilitated talkback exploring the show's themes of conservation, creative play, and the imaginative storytelling. The total time for this program is around 1 hour.

Each show costs \$1,000 to run, with a discount of \$750 on additional shows available for school sites. Thanks to the generous support from the California Arts Council, this fee can be waived for communities in need. To ensure a high level of interaction and participation, each performance ideally accommodates 100 - 250 young people (approximately 2 - 3 grades). This show can also be appropriate for larger assembly performances. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.





LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to the performance, we are excited to offer pre- or post-show workshops for \$100 per class. A highly trained and experienced teaching artist will lead students in a hands-on exploration of the themes and art forms from the production, enhancing students' connection to the story. These workshops are offered separately from the performance, and can be scheduled at each teacher's convenience based on classroom schedules. Each workshop is designed for a single class of 20-30 students and multiple workshops must be booked if multiple classes will participate.

Each school or community partner receives complimentary study guides to deepen students' understanding and extend the learning experience outside the performance. We're excited to bring ***Ponderbog*** to your community and inspire a new generation of imaginative, inclusive, environmentally-conscious thinkers!

VENUE REQUIREMENTS

Space: A minimum performance area of 15x20 feet for our “stage” is needed to accommodate the interactive elements of the show. The space should be clear of obstructions.

Seating: Flexible seating arrangements are preferred, as the show is interactive and may involve audience participation. The audience size can range from small groups to larger gatherings. This show ideally accommodates under 250 students, however full assembly performances are possible.

Lighting & Sound: Basic lighting is sufficient, with no need for specialized theatrical lighting. However, due to the use of shadow puppetry, the ability to turn the lights down is helpful. Access to a standard electrical outlet is required for playback of music and effects. The performance can be adapted to available school spaces.

Setup & Breakdown: The venue should be available for at least 1 hour before and after the performance for setup and breakdown.





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ponderbog is an interactive musical, designed to engage students in storytelling. Throughout the performance, children will have opportunities to engage directly with the story, the performers, and each other. Rest assured, all actors and on-site personnel from Blindspot Collective have been thoroughly trained in youth interaction, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for every child. While our team handles the engagement, we ask that teachers assist with classroom management, ideally providing at least one adult for every 30 students, to help maintain a focused and enjoyable atmosphere for all.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Blindspot Collective is nonprofit theatre company based in San Diego and dedicated to radically inclusive programming at the intersection of advocacy, education, and entertainment. The company has annually produced touring shows for local schools since 2018 – reaching over 20,000 students while promoting complex discussion around topics like bullying and mental health. Most recently, Blindspot Collective produced ***Trash Panda-monium*** (2024) an interactive play for elementary audiences about three curious raccoons, and ***Lit*** (22/23), a devised musical for elementary audiences exploring finding light in our world and lives. Across all of its programs, Blindspot Collective employs teaching artists and collaborators who are trained to navigate conversations with empathy and sensitivity by prioritizing student experience and voice.

To learn more about our programs for schools, please visit www.blindspotcollective.org/education.



HOW TO SIGN UP

Ponderbog will tour from **October 5th - October 30th**. However, bookings are filling up quickly.

If you would like to bring this program to your school or community, please email us at education@blindspotcollective.org. Please provide 3 preferred dates and times that will work for your school or group, and the number of anticipated audience members.

We are happy to answer any questions and work with you to seek additional funding or flexible scheduling wherever possible.

If you would like to view an excerpt of the script, please let us know.



**to RSVP or learn more,
email us at
education@blindspotcollective.org**