

OLD MACDONALD'S SING-ALONG FARM



About the Show

Everybody on the farm has a favorite song. Join Old Farmer MacDonald, his wife Mrs. MacDonald, Daisy the Cow, Simon the Pig and all your favorite friends from the farm for a fun and energetic singalong that brings everyone together. From tunes like “Camptown Races” to classic nursery rhymes like “Hey Diddle Diddle,” this fun interactive show has a strong character message of sharing and caring for others and is a great option for our youngest audiences. (Best for Grades PreK-3rd)

A History of Old MacDonald

Most of us know the story of Old MacDonald and his farm upon which he has a variety of animals that make their various noises - the cow that moos, dogs that bow-wow, hens that cluck, ducks that quack, etc. - but did you know that the history of the song goes back centuries?! A 1917 version of the song names the farmer Old MacDougal from “O-hio-io!” See below for more fun versions of the song! Can you sing along with these versions?

DID YOU KNOW:

Singing is a great way for young students to practice language skills!

Variations of "Old MacDonald"

Can You Sing Along?

"Old MacDonald Had a Farm" is like many folk songs in that there are many versions of the song that are song with essentially the same theme and tune, but different words and focus. The version below comes from a 1917 book called *Tommy's Tunes* which was a collection of songs from World War I:

***Old MacDougal had a farm in Ohio-i-o,
And on that farm he had some dogs in Ohio-i-o,
With a bow-wow here, and a bow-wow there,
Here a bow, there a wow, everywhere a bow-wow.***

Or how about this version? "Old Missouri," sung by a Mr. H. F. Walker of in 1922, a version that names different parts of the mule rather than different animals:

***Old Missouri had a mule, he-hi-he-hi-ho,
And on this mule there were two ears, he-hi-he-hi-ho.
With a flip-flop here and a flip-flop there,
Here a flop and there a flop and everywhere a flip-flop
Old Missouri had a mule, he-hi-he-hi-ho.***

Or how about this one from Great Britain?

**Up was I on my fa-ther's farm
On a May day morn-ing ear-ly;
Feed-ing of my fa-ther's cows
On a May day morn-ing ear-ly,
With a moo moo here and a moo moo there,
Here a moo, there a moo, Here a pret-ty moo.
Six pret-ty maids come and gang a-long o' me
To the mer-ry green fields of the farm-yard.**

And perhaps the earliest version comes from the 1719-1720 British opera *The Kingdom of the Birds*.

***In the Fields in Frost and Snows,
Watching late and early;
There I keep my Father's Cows,
There I Milk 'em Yearly:
Booing here, Booing there,
Here a Boo, there a Boo, every where a Boo,
We defy all Care and Strife,
In a Charming Country-Life.***

No matter the version, these songs are great reminders of the fun and simplicity of life on the old farm!

**What is your
favorite farm
song?**



CLASS DISCUSSION!

- Can you think of a farm song with a dog in it?
- What are some animals you would find on Old MacDonald's Farm?
- Name a farm animal and make that sound.

Classroom Activities

1. ***Living on the Farm!*** Supplies needed: eager kiddos. Have everyone spread out all over the room and take their own spot. Then one by one, call out a different animal, person, or thing that would be on a farm. The students then have to pretend that is who they are and act out that thing. For instance, you could call out 'Cow' and you would expect to hear a bunch of mooing, see some crawling on all fours and acting like a cow. Let them enjoy that for a moment and then quickly call out a new animal, person, or object.
2. ***Duck, Duck, Goose!*** Supplies needed: an open floor space. Have the class all grab hands in a circle, take one or two steps backwards, and then drop their arms. This creates a perfect circle. Then have them all sit criss cross on the floor right where they stand. Pick one person to start the game. They will walk around lightly tapping everyone's head in the circle, one at a time saying 'Duck' with each light tap. They will secretly choose who they want to be the goose and when they get to that person's head, they will say 'Goose'. The Goose has to stand up and chase them (or walk briskly trying to catch up to them) back to their spot once around the circle. If the person who tagged the Goose makes it back in time, they will take the Goose's seat and the Goose becomes the tagger. If they are able to tag the tagger on the way back to their seat, the tagger must resume tagging new people and the Goose gets to take their seat back and become a Duck again.
3. ***Name that Farm Animal!*** Supplies needed: pictures of various farm animals. Hold up pictures of different animals and have the class call out the name of the animal together. Try throwing in pictures of barns, fences and other things that might spice it up.



Fun Farm Animal Facts

- ▶ Goats are everyone's bestie and get along great with horses, cows and chickens!
- ▶ Chickens are the closest living relative to the T-Rex!
- ▶ Pigs are considered to be the fourth smartest animal, after chimpanzees, dolphins, and elephants!
- ▶ Cows can recognize their own names and have a memory of about three years!
- ▶ Female Ducks are called hens, and males are called drakes!
- ▶ Pigs can run 11 miles an hour!
- ▶ Sheep have two toes on each foot!
- ▶ Pigs do not have sweat glands, so they roll in mud to stay cool and prevent sunburns!





YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

- **Where to start:** All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young - then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!
- **In School!** Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.
- **In Your Community!** Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!
- **Start Something!** If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.
- **At Home!** Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

Always try new things and do your best at them! There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!

Before, During and After the Play...



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. **Have fun! Enjoy yourself!**



FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people.

There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a show. Instead performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

After seeing the Play...

Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.

What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

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THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.

Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.



Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Everything about the Theatre!

Facts about us!

1. **Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?**
2. **Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.**
3. **Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.**
4. **We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.**
5. **We offer more than 50 different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.**
6. **We tour across Europe!**
7. **We're based in Asheville, NC.**

ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured Germany and Russia, and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.



Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it)
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about? What did you like about being involved in a live performance?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Washington State to Moscow, Russia and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in anywhere.... literally!

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

OLD MACDONALD'S SING-ALONG FARM

Made its national tour debut in Fall 2017.

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

David Ostergaard, Owner, Founder, CEO