

STEAM FORWARD – EPISODE 8

Dolphin Production [Student Version]

Welcome to STEAM FORWARD!

Dolphin Production!

Career: Trainer and Director of Production

Episode: Dolphin Production

Georgia Aquarium’s AT&T Dolphin Tales Gallery features bottlenose dolphins.

To put on a dolphin presentation, the production team at Georgia Aquarium needs to be creative and organized. The production team also needs to work in sync with the animal trainers. How do you put on a production like this? It all starts with collaboration.

During this episode, hosted by Dr. Meisa Salaita, we will explore how art, science, engineering, technology, and math come together to create a dolphin presentation.

Dolphin trainer Lisa Mignogna and Director of Production Kelly Labbe will take us behind the scenes!

OBJECTIVES: Why am I learning this?

At the completion of this mini-unit, you will be able to:

- Develop skills in creating scale drawing models
- Understand how a story goes from concept to a production.
- Design a production and set.

THE ESSENTIALS: ASK & ANSWER

- 🐬 How does an organization like Georgia Aquarium work on Dolphin Conservation?
- 🐬 What places dolphins at risk in the wild?
- 🐬 What traits inspired the current dolphin production?





GEORGIA AQUARIUM

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Activity 1

Video segment: 00:00–1:48

OBJECTIVES: Why am I learning this?

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand how a story goes from a concept to a production

Introduction

Now it's your turn to develop your own production that showcases the unique abilities of an aquatic animal. Work in teams to develop your ideas!

1. The first step is to decide what animal you want to feature and what characteristics you want to teach people about. Fill out the table below.

Our show will feature _____	
Characteristics:	Why is this characteristic important for people to know?



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2. Now you need to develop a concept for your production. What is the story you want to tell? Start by writing a brief description of your theme. Next, fill in the boxes below with words or sketches describing what is happening in each part of the production. This is called a storyboard.

The theme of our production is:

Our storyboard:

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	23
13	14	15	16





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Activity 2

Video segment: 1:52-4:56

OBJECTIVES: Why am I learning this?

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:

- Develop skills in creating scale drawing models
- Design a production and set.

Introduction

It is time to put your creativity and artwork skills to use!

1. Draw a scale drawing of the set you will use for your production. Be sure to consider how big it needs to be to accommodate your animal and the number of people who will be involved. Make sure your scaled drawing includes a picture of your feature animal. Be sure to point out specific design elements of the set and engineering considerations.

Bonus Activity: Adapt your production to your classroom!



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In The Field

What better way to bring STEAM FORWARD alive than to meet an expert at Georgia Aquarium? Here, you will learn more about the background and experience it takes to be a member of the STEAM TEAM. Let's get up close and personal!

MEET AN EXPERT

Meet: Director of Production Kelly Labbe

What college or university did you attend? University of Michigan

What were your major(s)? Bachelors of Fine Arts, focused in Theatrical Design & Production

Do you have any advanced degrees? If so, what degree? I do not, I did internships and gained experience through working in the industry.

What is the most exciting part of your job at Georgia Aquarium? Getting to combine science and art to produce presentations that we share with our guests daily

What advice do you have for students interested in doing what you do? There are lots of theatrical opportunities, sometimes in unexpected places, take advantage of these. As you go, learn everything you can; it can be just as important to learn how NOT to do something as it is to learn how TO do something!

What is something surprising or unexpected about your career path? With a theatrical background, I never imagined that my career would lead to working at an aquarium. I've been working at Georgia Aquarium for 6.5 years and can't imagine what I'd be doing if I hadn't taken this job.

What do you say to students who ask "Why am I learning this?" You never know when what you learn today will come in handy – on many occasions, the smallest bits of information on a subject have been helpful in solving a problem. Production work is all about teamwork and sometimes my tiny bit of information is just enough to start the ball rolling and then the team can come up with a solution!

