

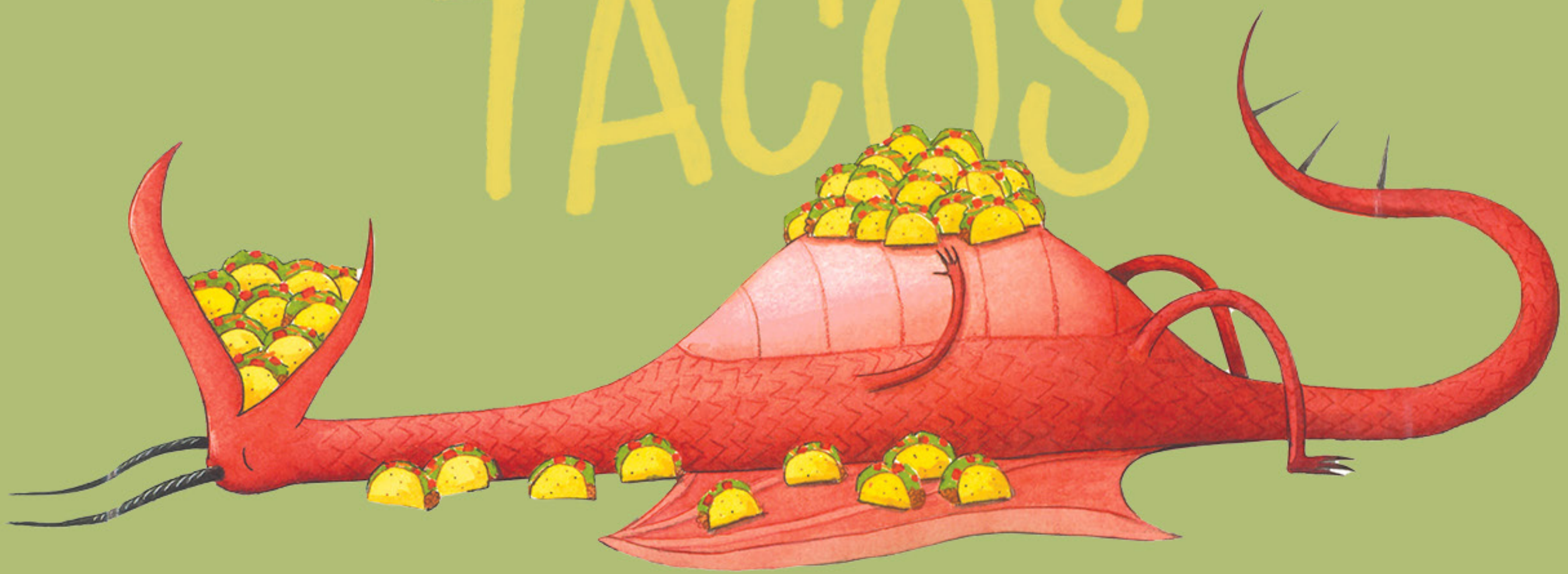
**A/MFA**

PRESENTS

**DRAGONS**

**LOVE**

**TACOS**



BY ERNIE NOLAN

BASED ON THE BOOK BY ADAM RUBIN WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DANIEL SALMIERI

MUSIC BY CHRIS LAPORTE

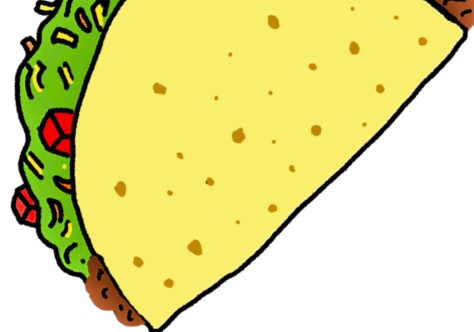
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PLAYS FOR NEW AUDIENCES

**Play Guide**

**MARCH 5 - 23, 2024**



# Table of Contents

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About the Show \_\_\_\_\_ 01

Imagination Openers \_\_\_\_\_ 02

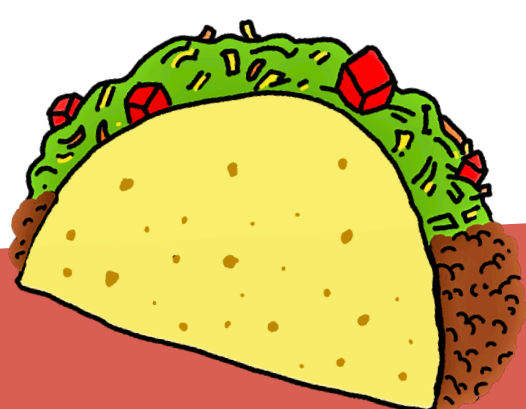
Create and Share \_\_\_\_\_ 04

Theatre Etiquette \_\_\_\_\_ 05

Continue the Conversation \_\_\_\_\_ 06

Meet the Makers \_\_\_\_\_ 07

Support the Museum \_\_\_\_\_ 08



# About the Show

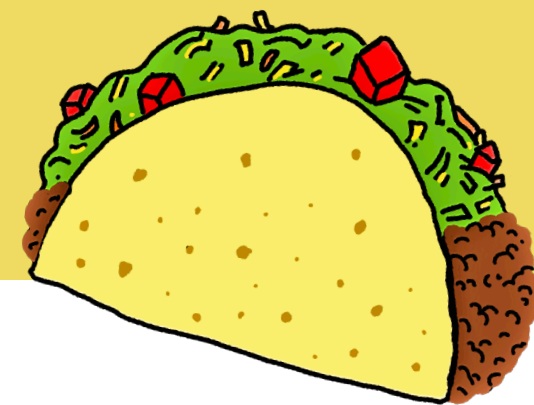
You know what Dragons really love? Tacos of course! A boy and his dog are watching a TV show about dragons when they unexpectedly get caught up in the 'Dos and Don'ts' of what to serve to dragons to eat. Dragons love tacos, but if they accidentally eat spicy salsa...watch out!

**BEST FOR ELEMENTARY GRADES**

**RUN TIME: 45 MINUTES**

**“Always believe that with a little drive and determination, amazing things can happen!”**

**FROM *DRAGONS LOVE TACOS***



**CHAD BRADFORD**

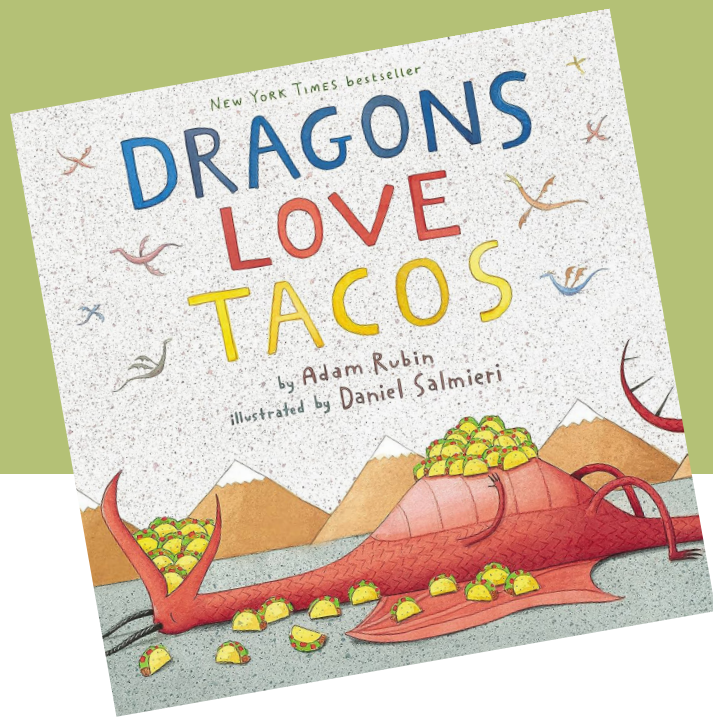
## Note from the Director

Trying something new can be scary. We wonder if we will like it, or if we will be good at it. But in *Dragons Love Tacos*, we are asked to celebrate the thrill of adventure and the joy of discovery. *Dragons Love Tacos* shows us how rich our lives can be if we put in the effort to experience amazing things. These colorful and vibrant dragons represent the imagination living in each one of us; and when things seem challenging, we can summon our inner dragons to accomplish anything!

One of my favorite things about this piece is the amount of amazing music and dance we get to experience. Upon first read, I realized that these dragons were really rockstars! This can be seen in our aesthetic of disco balls, shiny fabrics, and a magical mentor that lives somewhere between Mick Jagger and Bugs Bunny.

Through laughter and lightheartedness, this play reminds us to embrace the unexpected and find joy in the journey. Join us as we embark on a deliciously delightful adventure filled with friendship, fun, and, of course, tacos! Let's ignite our imaginations and savor every spicy moment together. Enjoy the show!

# Imagination Openers



Check out the book *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin from your local library and read it together!

## What would happen?

Dragons love tacos but hate spicy salsa. “Spicy salsa gives dragons the tummy troubles.” What other foods are spicy? What would happen if dragons ate something else spicy?

## How do you know?

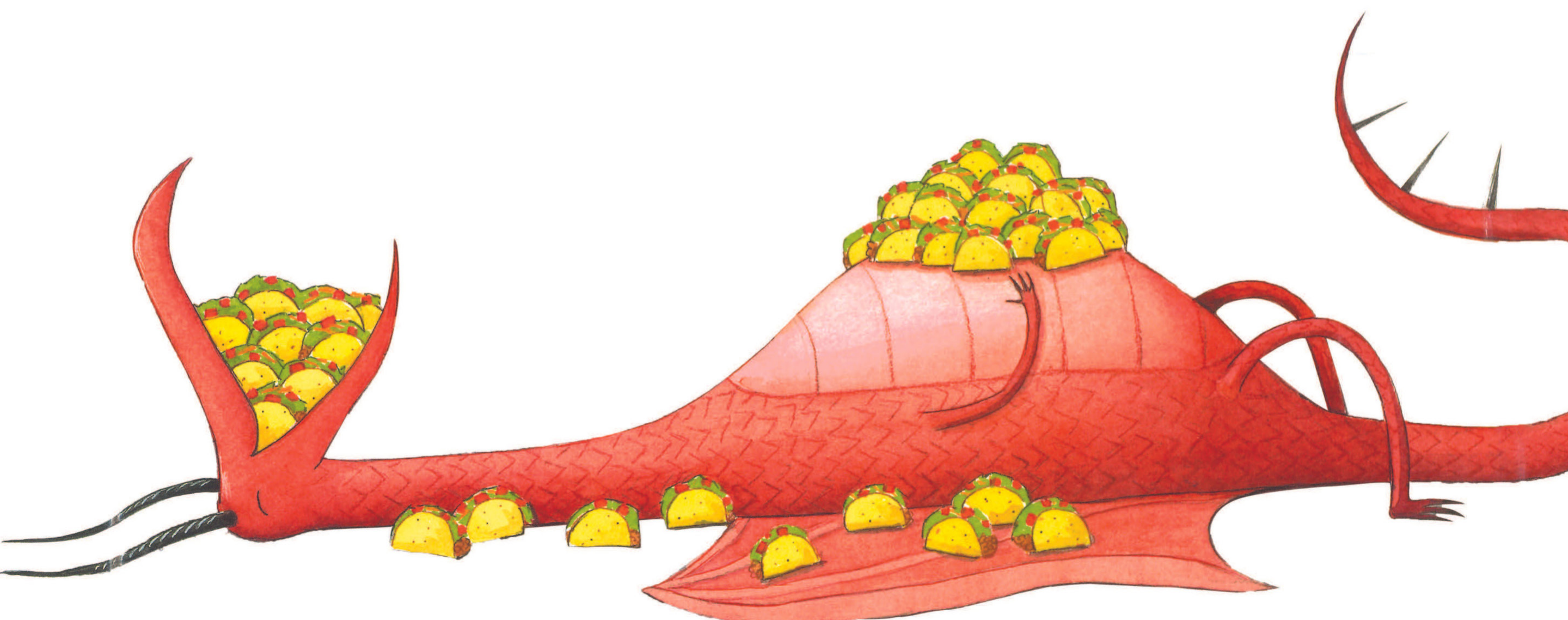
Illustrations in storybooks tell us in pictures what the author tells us in words. Sometimes they even tell us about the things the author didn't say. Look back at the pictures in “Dragons Love Tacos” illustrated by Daniel Salmieri. What does the picture of the boy's room tell you about him? How do you know?

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARD RC.10.RL EXPLAIN HOW VISUAL IMAGES CLARIFY STORY ELEMENTS.

## Let's Play!

In the book, the narrator asks a lot of questions about what they think or why they did something but never really gave an answer. Let's play a game Hot Seat and finally find out! One person takes on the role of a dragon from the book and another takes on the role of an interviewer. The interviewer asks the dragon questions, and the dragon answers them. No answer is ever wrong because you are the dragon!

[CLICK HERE FOR AN INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO](#)





# Create and Share

Share your creations with AMFA

Design your own dragon costume! A Costume Designer is the person who creates what the actors wear during the performance. What would your dragon costume look like?

## STEP ONE

### Get creative.

Draw a picture of your dragon costume.

## STEP TWO

### Snap a snazzy pic.

Show off your design by taking a picture of it.

## STEP THREE

### Post it.

Tag us @arkmfa and use the hashtag #MYAMFA

VISUAL ARTS STANDARD K-8: CR.1 STUDENTS WILL GENERATE AND CONCEPTUALIZE ARTISTIC IDEAS AND WORK.



**#MYAMFA**  
**@arkmfa**

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[youtube.com/ArkansasMuseumofFineArts](https://youtube.com/ArkansasMuseumofFineArts)

# Theatre Etiquette



## 1. Arrive early.

Arriving 15-30 minutes early allows time to pick up your tickets, buy concessions, make a final trip to the restroom, and locate your seats.

## 2. Turn off all electronics.

Lights and sounds from phones and other electronic devices are distracting to other patrons as well as the performers. Photography is not allowed during the performance.

## 3. Be aisle kind.

Say “pardon me” and “thank you” as you move through the aisle; tuck your belongings under your seat to remove tripping hazards; stand up, when possible, to let others move past you when finding their seats. Be sure to take all your belongings with you when you leave and throw away any rubbish on your way out.

## 4. Play your part.

Watch and listen; laugh at funny bits; applaud at the spectacular. Be present and in the moment with the performers.

[CLICK HERE FOR A FUN VIDEO ON THEATRE ETIQUETTE](#)

THEATRE STANDARD K-8: RE.7.2 STUDENTS WILL EXHIBIT APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE BEHAVIOR.

G.U.I.D.E. FOR LIFE: INTERACTION AND DECISIONS

# Continue the Conversation



## Compare

Did you notice any differences between the play and the book? This play is an adaptation from the book, which means the story was changed a bit when it was turned into a play. What were some of the things that were different? What were some of the things that remained the same? Why do you think the playwright, Ernie Nolan, made the changes he made?

## Critique

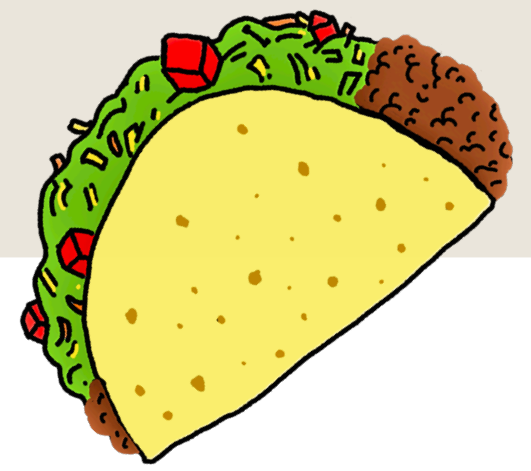
Authors and playwrights write their stories for a reason. Sometimes it's to teach you something; sometimes it's to get you to believe a particular way about something; sometimes it's to entertain you. Why do you think *Dragons Love Tacos* was written? What makes you say that?

## Create

Read *Dragons Love Tacos 2 the Sequel* by Adam Rubin, then make your own adaptation of the book! Each person pretends to be a character from the book. Then act out the story. What things will you have to change so the story can be understood?

THEATRE STANDARD K-8: CR.1.1 STUDENTS WILL CONCEIVE PLOT, CHARACTERS, DIALOGUE, AND STAGE MOVEMENT THROUGH EXPLORATION.

# Meet the Makers



## Creative Team

Director – Chad Bradford

Choreography – Brain Earles and Katie Greer

Scenic Design – Drew Posey

Costume Design – Matthew Peoples

Lighting Design – Andrew Shelton

Soud Design – Chad Bradford

Props Master – Margo Gifford

Stage Manager – Baleigh Almond

## Cast



**Quinn Gasaway (Man in Suit)** is an actor, musician, and hand soap enthusiast born and raised in Little Rock. He got his start in the Coen Brothers' film O' BROTHER WHERE ART THOU when he was just a wee lad, and after getting his BFA in Acting from Oklahoma City University, he spent time in New York, Chicago, and nearly a decade in Los Angeles. He grew up acting on this very stage and is just tickled to be returning to it after 20 years!



**Keith Harper (Boy)** is very excited to return to AMFA after his work on The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show. He also produces the Sparking Dialogue Series, which fosters family conversations about socially relevant topics. Keith studied Theatre at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where he received a BA and serves as the Artistic Director of the Ozark Living Newspaper Theater Company. He wants to thank his family and friends for always supporting his passions.



**Brandon Nichols (Leroy the Dog)** is thrilled to be back on the AMFA stage where his love for performing all began. Some previous credits include The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show, Goosebumps the Musical, and Curious George. When not on stage, Brandon teaches Musical Theatre Classes here at the Museum. Thanks to mom, sister, grandma, Laura & Lou for their constant love and support! For my niece, Aimsley.



**Brian Earles (Red Dragon)** recently served as Assistant Director/Assistant Choreographer for A Little Shop of Horrors at The Arkansas Repertory Theater, and Associate Choreographer under Stephanie Klemons for Gypsy with the Marriott Theater in Chicago IL. Performance credits include: Corduroy (Night Watchman) with AMFA, as well as Guys & Dolls (MC/Ensemble) and Chicago (Aaron, US Mary Sunshine) with the Arkansas Repertory Theater.



**Micha Newell (Blue Dragon)** is thrilled to be a part of Dragons Love Tacos at AMFA. Past credits include ensemble in Memphis the Musical at Argenta Community Theatre. Micah is studying Psychology at Philander Smith University and works at Shuffles & Ballet II. For fun, Micah enjoys painting, singing, and dancing in her free time. She wants to thank her family for putting her in dance and her studio family for bringing out the potential in her.



**Katie Greer (White Dragon)** holds a BFA in Dance Performance and a BA in Theatre Arts from UA Little Rock. Katie has worked in theatre/dance performance and education for the past 10 years. Favorite credits include: Much Ado About Nothing (AR Shakes), Mxcbeth (Shake on the Lake), La Cage Aux Folles (Argenta Community Theatre), Arsenic and Old Lace, The Addams Family, The Marvelous Wonderettes and Ring of Fire (Murry's Dinner Playhouse).





**Reese Hinton (Yellow Dragon)** is grateful to be making her AMFA debut! Favorite credits include Sally in A Charlie Brown Christmas (The Rep), Naptahli/Swing in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolored Dream Coat (Murry's Dinner Playhouse), The Acrobat in Matilda (Wildwood), Young Fiona in Shrek the Musical (Murry's), Tessie in Annie (Murry's), and Ensemble/Dance Captain in Oliver! (Wildwood). Hebrews 13:5-6!



**D.J. Williams (Moxy Clean Man)** is a Texas native but has called Arkansas home since he was 10 years old. The former Arkansas Razorback went on to play in the NFL for the Green Bay Packers, the New England Patriots, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. D.J. is an advocate for victims of domestic violence. He is currently co-host of KARK 4 Today and is part of the Pig Trail Nation team during football season. [@dj45williams](#)



**Mario Luna (Telenovela Character)** is an Actor by Day, DJ by Night, & Family Man 24/7. He was a student of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. His film work includes, Abe & Bruno, Gods Not Dead 2, and Brian Banks. He is currently hosting "Celebrating Arkansas: Holiday Traditions" on Arkansas PBS. [@djmarioluna](#)



**Ebony Mitchell (Telenovela Character)** is known for her service to others, and currently serves as Director of External Affairs for the Arkansas Foodbank. She served as Miss Arkansas 2022 and represented Arkansas at the Miss America Competition. Ebony has partnered with Department of Education and the elected Arkansas officials to raise awareness and provide training to educators and students across the state about online safety.



**Lexi Brooks (Understudy)** is an actor and dance teacher in the Little Rock area. She was most recently seen at Murry's Dinner Playhouse as ensemble, U/S Wednesday and Grandma in The Addams Family and ensemble in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Other credits include Olivia (Twelfth Night), Glory (Almost, Maine), Jenny (The Threepenny Opera), Caroline (Detroit '67), Sophie (Mamma Mia!), and Millie (Thoroughly Modern Millie). Enjoy the show!



**Adrian Hinojosa (Understudy)** is excited for this to be his first production with the Children's Theatre at AMFA. He has recently been seen at The Murry's Dinner Playhouse as an ancestor in The Addams Family Musical and LeFou in Beauty and the Beast. He received his BA in Theatre from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia. In his spare time, he can be found teaching mime!

## Production Crew

Master Carpenter – Alan Malcolm  
 Carpenter – Aaron Burnside  
 Charge Artist – Baleigh Almond  
 Costume Shop Manager – Verda Davenport  
 Assistant Costume Manager – Anthony McBride  
 Stitchers - Anna Brantley, Keegan Hines, Tig Kashala, James Peters  
 Master Electrician – Andrew Shelton  
 Lead Audio - Luke Mitchell  
 Sound Board Operator – Jessi Perren  
 Video Production and Editing – Eric White  
 Deck Manager – Margo Gifford  
 Stage Crew – Lexi Brooks, Adrian Hinojosa, and Emily Swenskie

## AMFA Staff

Director of Children's Theatre and Performing Arts – Erin Larkin  
 Associate Director of Children's Theatre and Performing Arts – Chad Bradford  
 Children's Theatre and Performing Arts Technical Director – Andrew Shelton  
 Performing Arts Coordinator – Rivka Kuperman  
 Youth and Family Programs Coordinator – Liz McMath



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By joining the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, you help create an inclusive cultural space that inspires and builds community through the visual and performing arts. Members of AMFA enjoy many benefits throughout the year, including free or discounted admission to all AMFA programs.

## SUPPORT THE MUSEUM

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When you give to AMFA, you support the arts, the community, and our future. Visit our website, [arkmfa.org](http://arkmfa.org), or contact us about becoming a member or donating today.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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[connect@arkmfa.org](mailto:connect@arkmfa.org)





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### The Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts is supported in part by:

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The taking of photographs or the use of recording devices during the performance is strictly prohibited.