

Eddie & Vinnie

STUDY GUIDE

By Jenny Millinger

Commissioned by and World Premiere presented at Magik Theatre | San Antonio, TX

Anthony Runfola | Artistic Director



In partnership with:



Supported by:



THE TEAM



The people that made this production possible.

CAST

Eddie: Venny Mortimer
Vinnie: Amy Abrigo
Penelope: Amy Bouquet

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director of Production: H. Bart McGeehon
Stage Manager: Devon Moreno
Technical Director: Pat Smith
Assistant Technical Director: Chris Boneta
Properties Manager: Lucian Hernandez
Audio Engineer: Zachary Walsh
Lighting Supervisor: Thaddeus Morris
Wardrobe Supervisor: Sarah Steele
Dresser: Victoria Franki
American Sign Language Interpreter: Robert Cardoza

CREATIVE TEAM

Playwright: Jenny Millinger
Play Partnership with Celebrate Dyslexia:
Jasmin Dean, Founder and Executive
Director, Celebrate Dyslexia
Director: Anthony Runfola
Scenic Designer: Holly Windingstad
Costume, Video, and Lighting Designer:
Natalie Rose Mabry
Sound Designer: John Michael Hoke



ABOUT EDDIE & VINNIE



Listen to our friend Vinnie the Gecko share details about the play, *Eddie & Vinnie*. Follow/read along with her!



LISTEN
TO THE SYNOPSIS

Click the link to listen

https://youtu.be/lY0XxM_DuMk

Scan QR code to listen



FOLLOW ALONG OR READ
THE SYNOPSIS

Hello There Humanoids!

My name is Vinnie the Gecko! Me and my pal Eddie are the stars of Magik Theatre's new play Eddie and Vinnie.

Our story tells a tale of friendship, celebrating what makes us all unique, and creating more understanding for people that live with dyslexia. My Best friend Eddie has dyslexia. Dyslexia is an unexpected difficulty in learning to read, write, and spell.

Luckily we have each other and we are brilliant, if I do say so myself! Watch as Eddie strives to get an A in English class or Its summer school for him! What a Bummer! See what I did there?? Bummer? Summer? Anyway you get the point! Don't miss the hilarity of all the antics we go through for the sake of success!

Oh we also have this incredibly organized friend named Penelope. And with the three of us working together, how can we lose?!?

Also, me and my pal Eddie are stuck like glue and we will best friends forever and ever! Come see what makes our relationship so special and what crazy antics ensue when striving to do our best in school! It's sure to be the best school year ever!

See you at the theatre!

MEET THE CHARACTERS



Meet the friendly faces of the cast that is bringing *Eddie & Vinnie* to life on the stage.



Venny Mortimer as Eddie



Amy Abrigo as Vinnie



Amy Bouquet as Penelope

BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Meet Jenny Millinger, Playwright and Jasmin Dean, Founder and Executive Director of Celebrate Dyslexia. Learn more about the backstory of *Eddie & Vinnie* and the impact of theatre in a child's life.



Jenny Millinger

Eddie & Vinnie Playwright

What is your Title? Associate Artistic Director at Childsplay, Theatre in Phoenix, AZ and Artistic Director of the Write Now new plays program.

Why did you want to write *Eddie & Vinnie*? I wanted to tell a story that celebrated the uniqueness of everyone's brain, to honor how our different minds work and the strengths that we each bring to the world. I have seen how our society's systems and structures sometimes work against the assets of neurodiverse individuals. It fascinates me what this play at this time could do to change perspectives on dyslexia.

What prompted you to tell this story in this way? I was intrigued by the idea of exploring dyslexia in a theatrical and fantastical way. The struggles of those with dyslexia are very real, particularly at school, but we wanted to explore them through humor and whimsy. When I started thinking about geckos, which have unique talents and the ability/need to camouflage to survive in the world, I knew we were headed in the right direction.

Why did you choose the artist Escher and his Tessellation work for Eddie's project in school? Every dyslexic mind is different. Eddie and Vinnie's mind thinks in patterns, shapes, and colors. I also like that Escher's art can look one way to someone but then another person can see it completely differently. Escher's art helps to show how many perspectives are possible!

The most important takeaway for people that come to see *Eddie & Vinnie*? All brains are beautiful and all brains contribute to the world in beautiful ways if we give them the opportunity.



Jasmin Dean

*Founder and Executive Director,
Celebrate Dyslexia*

We also asked Jasmin Dean, Founder and Executive Director of Celebrate Dyslexia why she chose to partner with Magik Theatre for this new play about dyslexia. This is what she told us.

"I knew that when we brought our kids to Magik Theatre, words that didn't have any meaning or relevance to them on the page would pop off the page and now have meaning because it was demonstrated on the stage. So, the theatre makes the written word and these very rich stories accessible to a dyslexic student whom otherwise wouldn't be accessing the information as written word."

Thank you, Jasmin! Magik Theatre is thrilled to be partnering with you and Celebrate Dyslexia.

For more information about Celebrate Dyslexia, see page 8.

BETTER TOGETHER



The narrative of *Eddie & Vinnie* transcends the specific topic of dyslexia. While we feature a student with this unexpected difficulty in reading, writing, and spelling, we also know that Eddie has tremendous strengths. Like all of us who are striving for personal success and purpose, it is important to know that we all have strengths and weaknesses. By working with others and understanding that we all have weaknesses, we can overcome them.

CLASS EXERCISE

In this exercise we all can explore what our personal strengths and weaknesses are.

1st

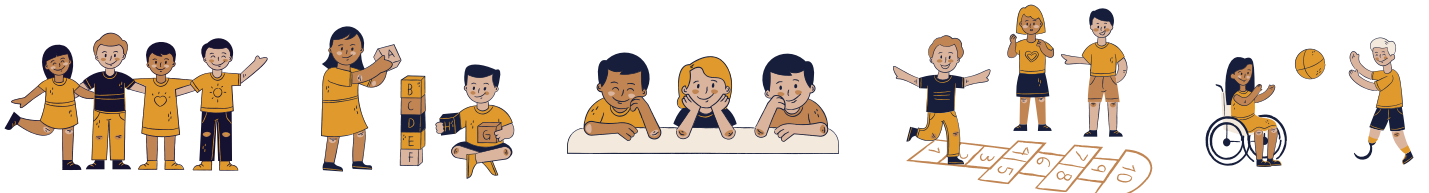
First, go around the room asking each student, teacher, or any person what they think their greatest strength is when it comes to learning.

2nd

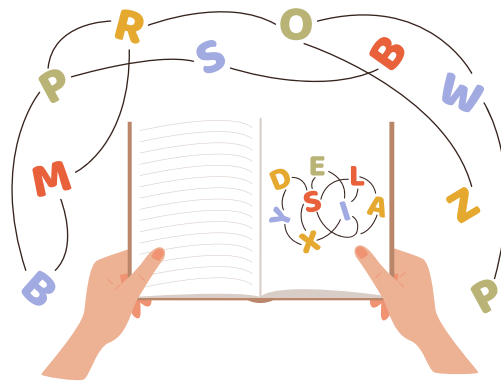
Then, in the same fashion go around a second time and ask each person to describe what they feel is their weakest area when trying to learn something new.

Well Done!

This will show how some around you are strong where you may feel weaker and vice versa. By the end of this exercise, we hope everyone is able to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of everyone around them and to realize that we are all better together!



DID YOU KNOW?!?



- 1 in 5 people have dyslexia.
* Many go undiagnosed.

- Dyslexia is defined in federal law as: AN unexpected difficulty in reading, writing, and spelling for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader, writer, and speller.

Some of the world's most influential people have had dyslexia like...



Tom Holland
Actor



Kobe Bryant
Pro Basketball Player



Carol Grieder
American Molecular Biologist



Tim Tebow
NFL Player & Motivational Speaker



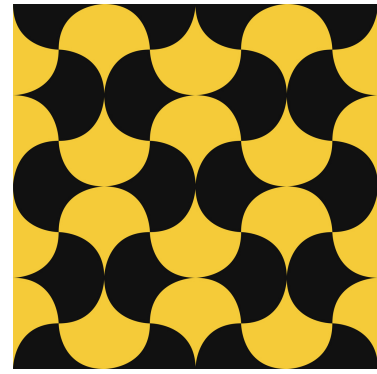
Salma Hayek
Mexican-American Actress



Dav Pilky
Author responsible for bring to the world Captain Underpants

So you see, Dyslexia is important for everyone to be aware of. Someone you know undoubtedly deals with dyslexia on a daily basis. They succeed and create in a world where learning is mostly made up of written words. We hope this play opens everyone's eyes to all the brilliant people around them every day. We all have something beautiful to offer this world, no matter how we learn.

ART WITH M.C. ESCHER



In the show, Eddie and his friend Penelope are paired together to research a scientist or artist for their final English project. They choose Dutch Artist, M.C Escher. They would soon realize just how much Escher's artistic style spoke to Eddie's beautiful mind and how he learns best.



M.C. Escher was a renowned graphic artist and is perhaps best known for his tessellation artwork.

Tessellations are an arrangement of shapes closely fitted together, especially polygons in a repeated pattern without gaps or overlapping.

Take a look!



Now, it's time for you to give it a try!

Choose a shape and attempt to make a bigger picture using only that shape. Utilizing different angles and colors. It's amazing what our brains can create when we give them the opportunity. We can't wait to see your creations!

Email or mail your creations to us! We would love to share them on our social media to encourage art-making in and outside the theatre!

Have fun Making Art the M.C. Escher Way!



Email us at
marketing@magiktheatre.org

Mail to
Magik Theatre
420 S. Alamo Street
San Antonio, TX 78205

CONNECT WITH CELEBRATE DYSLEXIA

Celebrate Dyslexia is on a mission to celebrate, educate, and empower the one in five with dyslexia.

Their focus is to bring solutions to our community in collaboration with parents of children with dyslexia, teachers, students, medical professionals, and community leaders to provide evidence-based information that will help navigate the current educational system to ensure children's individual success regardless of zip code.

Connect and learn more!



Jasmin Dean, Executive Director and Founder
jasmindean@celebratedyslexia.org
(210) 570-8747
celebratedyslexia.org

Follow on social media!

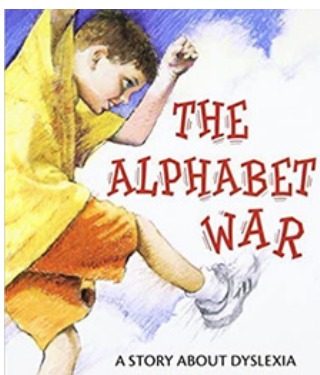


@celebratedyslexia

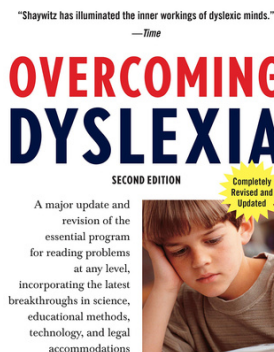
READ ABOUT IT



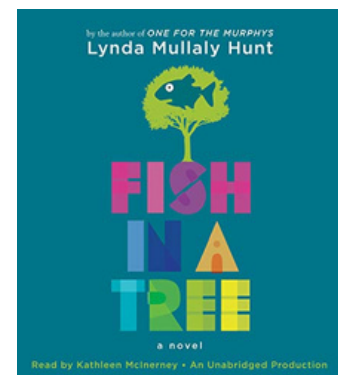
Enjoy additional books connected to ideas and themes of *Eddie & Vinnie*.



Alphabet War
By Diane Burton Robb



Overcoming Dyslexia, 2nd Edition
By Sally Shaywitz, M.D.
and Jonathan Shaywitz, M.D.



Fish in a Tree
By Lynda Mullany Hunt

LET'S TALK "TALKBACKS"



Q+A or brief discussion immediately following the performance.

At the end of the show please remain seated as the cast will lead the audience through a talk back. Talk backs provide a further shared experience about the themes woven throughout the show.

BEFORE THE SHOW

Here are the themes being addressed and some questions the cast may ask at the end of the show.

Themes in *Eddie & Vinnie*

- Friendship
- Dyslexia
- Strengths and Weaknesses
- Ways in which we all learn best

Some questions you may hear are...

- What is your favorite way to learn? Is it by listening, working with your hands, or reading?
- What are ways that you can be kind when working with a new friend on a project at school?
- Do you know of anyone in your life who deals with dyslexia?

As you watch the show try to remember what stands out to you. You may have a question about how we did something or why we did something. We will give you the opportunity to ask some of those questions.

At Magik Theatre we seek to not only provide amazing theatrical experiences but also to educate about the artistic medium of theatre to our audiences. We look forward to seeing you at the world premiere of *Eddie & Vinnie*!



WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED!

Magik Theatre's mission is to use the power of theatre to create Magikal storytelling for children that Activates imagination, Grows young minds, and Inspires creativity and a love of learning that is the Key to a more literate future for our community.

QUESTIONS?

How to book a field trip or tour

Adriana Gonzales, Group Sales and Tour Coordinator
adriana@magiktheatre.org
(210) 227-2751

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm

magiktheatre.org

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