

# WATER SINGS BLUE



## STUDY GUIDE

Spencer Duncan, Dramaturg

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## OUR PRODUCTION: A DAY AT THE BEACH

The sea is a magical place, and so is *Water Sings Blue*. In this highly interactive show, you'll join a colorful cast of characters on their day at the beach. Together, we'll run in the sand, take a trip into tide pools, and maybe even become fish!

As you explore this study guide, keep an eye out for different activities and QR codes. The ocean's a big place, and you never know what you'll discover!



### VISUAL COMEDY

Our funny characters only speak in poems. The rest of the time, they use their bodies and sounds to tell about their day at the beach. This 'visual comedy' is inspired by the French comedian Jacques Tati's *Mr. Hulot*. More recent visual comedies you or your parents might know are *Mr. Bean* and *Shaun The Sheep*.



Mr. Hulot



Shaun The Sheep



Mr. Bean

What stories can you tell without talking?

Use your face, body, and sounds

to tell the person next to you about

your day. Remember, no words!

Snap the code to see more examples of visual comedy!



## PACK THE SUITCASE!

Ray and Betty are packing their suitcase for the beach. Like the character in *Water Sings Blue*, they live in the late 1950s. *Can you help them pick which items belong in the 1950s?*



Do you know anyone who lived during the 1950s?

Did they go to the beach?

What did they do for fun?

Answers: Everything but the game system! Video game systems didn't exist in the 1950s, even old ones. What's that blue-green object, you may ask? A transistor radio—the 1958 version of an MP3 player.



# DIVE INTO MARINE LIFE

Our marine biologist has been searching for these animals for weeks! Can you help identify them? Match the names on the right to the photos and scientific Latin names, then be on the lookout during the show. You may just see one!

GREEN SEA TURTLE  
NUDIBRANCH  
WHITE-SPOTTED HERMIT CRAB  
PURPLE SEA URCHIN  
BLUE WHALE



A. *Pectenodoris trilineata*

- A type of sea slug
- Likes to have biting battles
- Some are smaller than a house key



B. *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*

- Their spines spear food and provide safety
- Breathes through secret tube feet
- Young ones are green

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the ocean covers 70% of the world's surface, yet 95% of it remains to be explored!

What undiscovered creatures can you imagine?



C. *Chelonia mydas*

- Can weigh up to 700 lbs
- Are endangered (there aren't many left!)
- Eats seagrass and algae



D. *Dardanus megistos*

- Finds new shells to live in as it grows
- Eats fish
- Smaller species may be your pet!



E. *Balaenoptera musculus*

- The largest animal ever to live
- Migrates every year from the arctic to the tropics
- It is actually a mammal (not a fish), and breathes air

Snap the code to explore more about marine life.





## MEET THE POET: KATE COOMBS

The poems you hear in the show are from the picture book, *Water Sings Blue!* To learn more, dramaturg Spencer Duncan sat down with author Kate Coombs and asked a few questions.

### Why did you write *Water Sings Blue*?

Poetry collections are usually built on themes, and it wasn't hard for me to choose the ocean. I grew up near the ocean and have always been in love with it. Besides, the ocean has some of the most unusual animals on our planet.

### Why do you feel poetry is important?

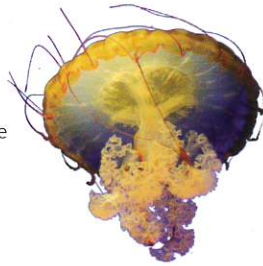
Some people think of poetry as being removed from everyday life, but they are forgetting about songs, which weave through our lives constantly. Song lyrics are poems, of course. The great thing about a poem is that it points to something beautiful or important and says, "Look!" It encapsulates wonder. It's small, like a text, but much better written.

### How did *Water Sings Blue* become a play?

I knew Teresa Love back in Los Angeles and admired her work. Both of us ended up in Utah, where she emailed me one day and said, "I've been reading *Water Sings Blue* and I think it would make a good play." I said yes immediately, knowing she would do something creative and fun as she turned the poems into another art form.

### What's one of your favorite sea creatures?

Jellyfish. Go to the aquarium and watch the moon jellies to see what I mean. They float through the ocean in such an eerie, unearthly way, like a gelatinous ballet. Hmm, sounds like a new poem! Anyway, there's a reason I have, not one, but three jellyfish poems in *Water Sings Blue*.



### You have other books. Anything you're working on currently?

I have a new book of poems called *Monster School* coming out next spring, and I just finished writing a collection about really weird bugs. Right now I'm mostly working on a mystery for teens with a dose of magic—it takes place in our day and is loosely based on a less well-known fairy tale from the Brothers Grimm.

### Any tips for aspiring authors?

Read a lot. Write a lot. Go easy on the adjectives, instead focusing on strong, clean nouns and verbs. Write with specific details. Don't use your first idea when you brainstorm: keep going till you come up with something fresh and even a little strange. Read a lot, write a lot. And oh yeah, read a lot!

Want to learn more about Kate and her work? Snap the code for her website and other poetry resources.



## BEACHFRONT REALTY

The *Water Sings Blue*'s family loved the beach so much, they may be thinking of moving there!

**What type of coast should they pick?**



Rocky, like Oregon?



Sandy, like the Caribbean?



Icy, like the Arctic?

How would you describe  
your dream beach?

Does it look like any of these  
three coastlines? How is it different?

## AUTOGRAPHS

After the show, you'll have a chance to meet the cast! Make sure to get all their signatures!

### TO LEARN MORE

Interested in learning more about this production of *Water Sings Blue*? Check out The 4th Wall, BYU's dramaturgy blog: [4thwalldramaturgy.byu.edu/category/water-sings-blue](http://4thwalldramaturgy.byu.edu/category/water-sings-blue)



## PRODUCTION STAFF BIOS

Spencer Duncan  
Dramaturg

From Provo, UT. Senior in theatre arts education K-12 with a minor in history teaching. Spencer taught creative drama at SCERA for a number of years, where he adapted and devised performances for their youth theatre. As an actor, he has locally toured shows including *Babe the Sheep Pig* (Young Company), *Tom Sawyer the Musical* (SCERA), and *Seussical TYA* (SCERA). He is directing his new adaptation of A.N. Ostrovsky's *Snegurochka* (*The Snow Maiden*) this November as a BYU mask club.

Scott Jackson  
Prop Designer

Scott recently began studying marketing in the Marriott School. Before transferring here, he studied dual drama/English and education degrees at Queen's University, Canada. At BYU, he has designed the props for *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Our Town*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Princess Academy*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. In fall 2014, he performed as Melchizedek in *The Alchemist*, and as Joseph and a Polish Dancer in *Christmas Around the World* (both at BYU).

Teresa Dayley Love  
Director

Currently adjunct faculty in BYU's Department of Theatre and Media Arts, Teresa Love is a Professional Development Partner with the Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts Learning Program through BYU's A.R.T.S. Partnership, specializing in helping educators engage students in learning through drama. Author of over fifty produced plays, Teresa most recently adapted Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant*, and adapted/directed Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*, here at BYU. Teresa is pleased to serve on the Noorda Children's Theatre Advisory Board, Utah Valley University, and is a founding member of L.A.'s Open Window Entertainment.

Jennifer Reed  
Set Designer

A person who loves all things with a vintage flair, this was there perfect show to design. Jennifer also is the TMA production manager and teaches stage management at BYU.

Britney Miles Smith  
Stage Manager  
(and Lifeguard)

From Highland, UT. Senior in theatre arts studies. Production credits include stage manager for *Camelot* (Murray Arts), director for *Eurydice* (BYU), and assistant stage manager for *The Count of Monte Cristo* (BYU). Acting credits include Witch in *Lady Macbeth* (BYU), Little Sally in *Urinetown* (Murray Arts), and Giant Puppeteer in *The Selfish Giant* (BYU). She was awarded Most Outstanding Mask Club Production for her work on *Eurydice*. She just married her sweetheart, Cameron, in August.

Sarah Stewart  
Costume Designer

Senior in theatre arts with emphases in costume and makeup design. She designed the costumes for BYU's Winter 2015 *Microburst Theatre*. She was the assistant costume designer for BYU's productions of *Princess Academy*, *Our Town*, and *A Man for All Seasons*. She is currently the student costumer for Young Ambassadors and works in the costume shop.



# MISALLIANCE

DIRECTED BY  
George Bernard Shaw  
Barta Lee Heiner



Nov. 6-7, 11-14, 17-21  
7:30 pm

Margetts Theatre  
HFAC

**BYUarts** 801-422-2981 byuarts.com

Nov. 7, 14  
2:00 pm

Post-Performance Discussions  
Nov. 12, 19  
ASL Interpreted Performance  
Nov. 12

DISNEY'S

# BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

ORIGINALY PRODUCED BY  
Disney Theatrical Productions

BOOK BY  
Linda Woolverton

LYRICS BY  
Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

MUSIC BY  
Alan Menken

ORIGINALY DIRECTED BY  
Robert Jess Roth

MUSICAL DIRECTED BY  
Mark Johnson

CHOREOGRAPHED BY  
Becky Phillips



Nov. 19-21, 27-28, Dec. 1-5, 8-10  
7:30 pm

Pardoe Theatre  
HFAC

**BYUarts** 801-422-2981 byuarts.com

Nov. 21, 28, Dec. 5  
2:00 pm

Post-Performance Discussions  
Dec. 3, 10  
ASL Interpreted Performance  
Dec. 3

Disney's Beauty and the Beast is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. Phone: 212-641-4044 Fax: 212-641-4034 MTI@disney.com



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### College Theater Festival™ 47

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers, and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,300 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, BYU Theatre and Media Arts is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.

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