

PATTERN NATION

by Emily Ball Cicchini

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Pattern Nation was first produced by Pollyanna Theatre Company in Austin TX at the Long Center for the Performing Arts' Rollins Studio Theatre in June 2009. The original cast and crew were as follows:

YELLOW:

Michelle Keffer

GREEN:

Jason Marlett

BLUE:

David Meissner

RED:

Skip Johnson

DIRECTOR:

Judy Matetzschk-Campbell, Ph.D.

STAGE MANAGER:

Andrew Perry

SCENIC DESIGNER:

Ia Layadi

COSTUME DESIGNER:

Ia Layadi

LIGHTING DESIGNER:

Don Day

SOUND DESIGNER:

Peter Blackwell

Cast of Characters

YELLOW: Smooth and mellow.
GREEN: Fresh and clean.
BLUE: Yippee do!
RED: My cheeks are red.

Scene

Anywhere.

Time

The present.

SETTING: A blank white space.

AT RISE: A drum beats. A door opens.
YELLOW, GREEN, and BLUE dance in.
RED follows, very fluid and floppy.

YELLOW

Yellow, Yellow, smooth and mellow... Yellow, yellow, smooth and mellow...

GREEN

Green, Green, fresh and clean... Green, Green, fresh and clean...

BLUE

Blue, Blue, yippee do! Blue, Blue, yippee do!

RED

Red, Red, my cheeks are red. I wanna go back to bed.

(Drum rolls to a stop.
Sounds of birds, waves, and
wind.)

YELLOW

Sunrise, Sunset.

GREEN

Spring, Summer, Winter, Fall...

BLUE

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
Sunday...

RED

One o'clock, two o'clock, three o'clock... Twelve o'clock
midnight!

(to YELLOW)

You should be asleep!

(Sound of birds, waves, and
wind stop.)

YELLOW

A!

B. RED

C. YELLOW

D. RED

E- YELLOW

MONKEY! RED

(RED runs around, and
YELLOW walks off. RED goes
to GREEN.)

One. GREEN

Two. RED

Three. GREEN

Four. RED

Five- GREEN

Sassafras! RED

(RED runs around, GREEN
walks off. RED goes to
BLUE.)

Seed. BLUE

Flower. RED

Caterpillar. BLUE

Butterfly. RED

Baby- BLUE

Blizzard! I mean it, really cold, full of ice and snow...
 (BLUE walks off.)
 Wait. Come back. I need somebody to play with...

(Music. Heavy rhythm.
 Lights come back up and
 YELLOW, GREEN, and BLUE do
 a dance. RED follows and
 tries to keep up... but, he
 has a lot of trouble.)

YELLOW, BLUE, GREEN, & RED

First.
 Last.
 Beginning.
 End.
 First, last, beginning, end, First, last, beginning, end,
 First, last, beginning, end!
 Front.
 Back.
 Before.
 After.
 Front, Back, Before, After, Front, Back, Before, After,
 Front, Back, Before, After!
 Near.
 Far.
 Together.
 Apart.
 Near, far, together, apart, Near, far, together, apart,
 Near, far- apart, together!

(BLUE, GREEN, and YELLOW
 run off.)

Whew! That was hard! RED

(YELLOW, GREEN, and BLUE
run back in. RED runs off
as if they forgot
something.)

Circle. YELLOW

Square. GREEN

Circle. BLUE

Square. YELLOW

Circle. GREEN

Square. BLUE

Circle. YELLOW

Circle. GREEN

Square. BLUE

Square. YELLOW

Circle. GREEN

Circle. BLUE

Circle. YELLOW

Circle. GREEN

Circle. BLUE

Square. YELLOW

Square. GREEN

Square. BLUE

(RED runs in.)

CIRCLE! RED

(They all look at RED like
RED is crazy.)

S-Square? RED

Circle. YELLOW

Circle? RED

Square! GREEN

Square? RED

Circle! BLUE

Square. YELLOW

(Long pause as RED is too
confused about what to do
next.)

SQUARE!

(YELLOW goes back to
original pattern, trying to
incorporate RED.)

YELLOW (Cont.)

Circle...

GREEN

(has to move fast to cut
off RED who still doesn't
know when to go)

Square!

BLUE

Circle...

RED

Circle?

YELLOW, GREEN, & BLUE

SQUARE!!!

RED

Triangle?

YELLOW, GREEN, & BLUE

SQUARE!!!

RED

Rectangle?

YELLOW, GREEN, & BLUE

SQUARE!!!

RED

Hexagon? Octagon? Trapezoid????

(BLUE, GREEN, and YELLOW
all run off again.)

RED

Do you ever feel like you don't fit in? Do you ever try
really really hard, and things still don't make sense? If I
could only figure out the PATTERN. Maybe I need a snack!

(BLUE, GREEN, and YELLOW
all run on again.)

YELLOW

Hello, I'm yellow. I come from the desert, where the yellow sand smiles back at the yellow sun. I live in a yellow house and have a yellow lion as a pet. I only eat foods that are yellow, like-

(pulls out great big items)

-corn and macaroni and cheese and pineapple.

(YELLOW sets them up on the stage apart from each other, on display, like artwork.)

BLUE

Hello. I come from the ocean, where the blue sky sleeps on the blue waves. I live on a blue houseboat and have a blue octopus as a pet. I only eat food that are blue... like-

(pulls out one great big...)

-blueberries. Actually, there isn't a lot to eat that is blue, so sometimes I eat things that are purple. Like grapes. And popsicles.

(BLUE pulls them out, but they are blue-purple, and adds them to the display.)

RED

Hey, do you see a pattern here?

GREEN

Hello. I come from the rolling green hills of a great big farm, where the green grass grows right up to the green trees. I live in a green house and have a green parrot as a pet. I only eat foods that are green, like peas and beans and celery.

(GREEN pull them out and places them yellow, blue, green.)

RED

Hello. I come from the big big city where there are many colors, where the black streets run beside the grey sidewalks. I live in a red brick house and have a red dog with long hair as a pet. I only eat foods that are red, like beets and tomatoes and red-hot candies!

(RED also places the items
on the display.)

RED (Cont.)

See, it's a FOOD pattern! And COLORS!

(YELLOW, GREEN, and BLUE
get large- really really
large huge- hard to move
number cut outs: 1, 2, 3.)

One! YELLOW

Two! BLUE

Three! GREEN

Hey, I can't find my number...
RED

We'll do it again. One!
YELLOW

Two! BLUE

Three! GREEN

I don't remember what comes next...
RED

One... YELLOW

plus Two... BLUE

Equals Three! GREEN

Very good. YELLOW

Three... GREEN

Minus 2... BLUE

Equals One! YELLOW

Hey, don't go so fast without me! RED

One more time, then. One! YELLOW

Two! BLUE

Three! GREEN

(RED produces a big fat
number: 0.)

FOUR! RED

Uh, Red, that's not a four. YELLOW

It's not? RED

No. It's a zero. BLUE

What's a zero? RED

It's a number. YELLOW

How can it be a number, when it stands for nothing? RED

It's what you have before you have one. Nothing. BLUE