

SARAH THE DINOSAUR

Story by

Kathleen Fletcher

Written by

Kathleen Fletcher and Andrew Perry

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Sarah the Dinosaur was first produced by Pollyanna Theatre Company in Austin TX at the Long Center for the Performing Arts' Rollins Studio Theatre in July 2015. The original cast and crew were as follows:

<u>SARAH:</u>	Uyen-Anh Dang
<u>TEACHER, DINOSAUR:</u>	Jessica Hughes
<u>JESSIE, MOM:</u>	Jennifer Bateman
<u>NICK, BRIAN:</u>	Chase Brewer
<u>JAIME, DINOSAUR:</u>	Aaron Alexander
<u>TAYLOR, DINOSAUR:</u>	Nicole Oglesby
<u>DIRECTOR:</u>	Judy Matetzschk-Campbell
<u>STAGE MANAGER:</u>	Andrew Perry
<u>SCENIC DESIGNER:</u>	Patrick Crowley Holly Crowley
<u>COSTUME DESIGNER:</u>	Rikki Tomiko Davis
<u>LIGHTING DESIGNER:</u>	Don Day
<u>SOUND DESIGNER:</u>	Andrew Perry
<u>STAGE CREW:</u>	William Ott

Cast of Characters

<u>SARAH:</u>	Female, a young student trying to discover herself and how to interact with others
<u>TEACHER:</u>	Any gender, a modern teacher trying to control a class of typical modern students, role may be doubled with a DINOSAUR
<u>JESSIE:</u>	Female, a student in SARAH's class, role may be doubled with SARAH'S MOM
<u>NICK:</u>	Male, a student in SARAH's class, role may be doubled with BRIAN
<u>JAIME:</u>	Any gender, a student in SARAH's class, role may be doubled with a DINOSAUR
<u>TAYLOR:</u>	Any gender, a student in SARAH's class, role may be doubled with a DINOSAUR
<u>MOM:</u>	Female, SARAH's mother, role may be doubled with JESSIE
<u>BRIAN:</u>	Male, SARAH's brother, role may be doubled with NICK
<u>DINOSAURS:</u>	Dancing creatures created in SARAH's mind, roles may be doubled with TEACHER, JAIME, & TAYLOR

Scene

A natural history museum, an elementary school classroom, the exterior of an elementary school, a modern home kitchen, and a young girl's bedroom

Time

Modern Day

SETTING: Interior of a youth oriented natural history museum with cutouts or displays of cavemen, plants, big animals, and a number of dinosaur footprints.

AT RISE: Lights up on a stage with the whole cast out. The STUDENTS JESSIE, NICK, JAIME, and TAYLOR are all running around while the TEACHER is trying to calm them down. SARAH watches this all happening while keeping at a distance by herself.

TEACHER

(starting at a normal speaking voice)

Second graders.

(a touch louder)

Second graders.

(The STUDENTS are unresponsive.)

If you can hear me touch your nose.

(SARAH and JAIME do this.)

If you can hear me wiggle your elbows.

(SARAH, JAIME, and TAYLOR do.)

If you can hear me smell your toes.

(All the STUDENTS are focused now and laugh.)

I'm glad you're all having fun but remember we all came here to learn. Fortunately, the best way to learn at the Science and Nature Museum is by doing. So, we're all going to do a little hands-on research.

ALL STUDENTS EXCEPT SARAH

Awwwww...

TEACHER

Come on, now. This place is full of amazing and interesting things! In fact, the exhibits here are so interesting, I have a special assignment for all of you. In most museums, you can't touch anything. But here, you can touch everything! Some of these exhibits are even scratch-n-sniff! So, I want you all to have a look around the museum and find something that speaks to you. See what you would like to touch and learn more about-

(All of the STUDENTS except SARAH raise their hands and start firing off questions.)

JAIME

Does it have to be super old?

JESSIE

(pointing at some display)

Do I have to touch those? They look gross!

TAYLOR

Why doesn't my cell phone work in here?

NICK

Can it be a monkey?

(to JESSIE)

I like monkeys.

TEACHER

Everyone, please!

(The STUDENTS are quiet but still have hands raised.

TEACHER answers each question in quick succession and the STUDENTS lower their respective hands. First to JAIME.)

It can be old, but it has to be new to you.

(then to JESSIE)

TEACHER (Cont.)

You don't have to touch anything you don't like.

(to TAYLOR)

Put your cell phone away!

(to NICK)

And yes, it could even be a monkey, but it might be more fun to find something you don't already know anything about.

(a beat/breath to collect herself)

Look, we're here so that you all can try to find a connection to the past and nature. The world is full of amazing things and this museum is your chance to actually get to experience some of them for yourself in a safe environment. Now, have a look around and once you've found something you think is interesting, get a feel for it and write down everything you can in your notebook so you can look up more information later. Everyone ready?

TAYLOR

(throwing a hand up quickly)

Can we do it with a friend?

(The STUDENTS all are extra attentive for this answer.)

TEACHER

You can either do this in teams or by yourself.

TAYLOR

Sweet!

(grabbing JAIME's hand quickly)

Dibs!

(Very quickly JESSIE & NICK and JAIME & TAYLOR pair off and start to look around the museum. SARAH almost makes an attempt to join

them, but chickens out.
TEACHER notices. While the following dialogue occurs, the four paired STUDENTS are all moving around the set pieces examining what they find to be "interesting", and occasionally writing things down.)

TEACHER

Sarah, would you like a partner to work with?

SARAH

Everyone already found a friend.

TEACHER

It would be alright to have a group of three...

SARAH

No, thank you. I don't want to bug anyone.

TEACHER

You sure?

SARAH

Yeah. It's ok being alone.

(SARAH begins meandering around the set, first quietly observing the other STUDENTS. The whole time, all the STUDENTS are being watched by the TEACHER.)

JESSIE

OMG! OMG! OMG! This guy is so super hairy!

NICK

He's almost as hairy as a monkey!

JESSIE

I bet he smelled disgusting. I dare you to sniff him!

NICK

Ewww! Gross... Okay.

(He scratches and sniffs at
the Caveman.)

Oh! He smells nice actually! Weird!

JESSIE

Who knew?

(NICK and JESSIE continue
to look at the Caveman, but
SARAH turns her attention
to the other STUDENTS.)

TAYLOR

Whoa! Jaime, look! That's the biggest flower I've ever
seen!

JAIME

Holy Cow! I bet a bunch of these would make my Mom super
happy! But... how would my Dad ever get them through the
door?

TAYLOR

I bet it smells like heaven. I've got to get a whiff of
this.

JAIME

Me too! Let's check it out.

(JAIME and TAYLOR both
scratch at and then stick
their faces right into the
face of the flower to
inhale deeply.)

Ugh! What the!?! That smells like... the worst... UGH!!!!

TAYLOR

I think I'm gonna be sick...

JAIME

It smells like the locker room at Grandpa's softball league...

TAYLOR

It's like...

(gagging)

...month old tuna fish in a filthy hamster cage...

JAIME

Ugh... with soggy gym socks on top...

TAYLOR

...on fire!

JAIME

Romance is disgusting...

(All The STUDENTS are making barfing sounds and are generally full of playfulness. SARAH giggles at all of this but is too shy to approach.)

TEACHER

We've got just a few more minutes second graders! If you haven't found something yet, be looking.

(At the announcement from the TEACHER, all the STUDENTS frantically continue to look around the museum quickly, very nearly running and very nearly bumping into SARAH. SARAH just tries to dodge this activity and in the

hullabaloo she notices a dinosaur footprint. She is completely focused on it and walks right up to it. Once by the footprint, she walks around looking at it from multiple perspectives. She then looks around to make sure no one is watching, which no one is, and cautiously places her hand inside. By this point, the TEACHER is specifically watching SARAH.)

SARAH

(intake of breath)

It fits!

(SARAH looks for an information plaque and reads it out loud.)

Dinosaur footprint... Sarahsaurus.

(She gasps again.)

Sarahsaurus aur... auri... fon-ta-na-lis... There are Sarah Dinos?

(TEACHER notices SARAH's interest and leaves the stage for a moment.)

"One of many spe... species of dinosaurs found in North America. Sarahsaurus had strong teeth and clawed hands that were very close in size to those of people." Wow, she sounds strong!

TEACHER

(reentering with a book under her arm)

Alright, students! Time up...

STUDENTS

...Line up!

(As the STUDENTS get in line. They are all eagerly talking about what they've found.)

TAYLOR

Aww... I was just starting to like this place...

NICK

Ms. Friday, did you know that cavemen smell like Lemon Pledge?

JAIME

All I know is if love is like THAT flower, I'm never getting married...

TEACHER

I'm very pleased to hear all this excitement about what you've discovered.

JESSIE

Yeah, I'm a really good discoverer-er. When I grow up, I'm going to be a discoverer-er-er!

JAIME

Well, when I grow up, I'm going to be a teacher!

NICK

When I grow up, I'm going to play with monkeys!

TEACHER

Ha! Well, you can all be whatever you want to be! A good place to start is to follow your curiosities and learn more about it. For your assignment tonight, I want you to go home, look through everything you wrote in your notebooks, and pick out the one thing you wanted to touch and experience the most and that you want to research. Then, start thinking of questions. All research starts with questions. Think of things like when was it alive, where does or did it live, what does it eat, and so forth. Everyone understand?

(She notices something
out of sight.)

TEACHER (Cont.)

Oh, it looks like our time at the museum must be up. I see your parents starting to arrive over there. Thank you so much for a great day, class! You are all excellent. Have a safe trip home!

ALL STUDENTS

Bye!

(The STUDENTS then start to exit the museum/the stage to go find their families. SARAH is last in line and lingers a bit at the door.)

TEACHER

(expecting this)

Yes, Sarah? Did you need something?

SARAH

Ummm... Would it be alright if I started my research tonight... instead of just thinking about questions? I found a dinosaur footprint and would like to know more about the dinosaur that left it.

TEACHER

Of course! Enthusiasm for learning is always appreciated. I actually noticed that you were taking an interest in that display over there. So, I wanted to help you out a little. Here's a book that I think you'll find helpful.

SARAH

(in what may be the greatest amount of enthusiasm she has ever shown)

Really?

(TEACHER nods.)

SARAH (Cont.)

That's... awesome! Thank you so much!

TEACHER

You know, I've always thought that opening a book is like opening a door of opportunity. You can learn about the past and maybe even something about yourself. I can't wait to hear what you'll learn.

(Sarah has already opened the book and is rapt.)

Well, have a great day, Sarah. Bye.

SARAH

(without looking up from the book)

Bye! Thanks!

(TEACHER exits. SARAH is flipping through pages as her MOM and brother, BRIAN, enter. During the next conversation, the set is quickly changed, magically transporting them home.)

MOM

Sarah!

SARAH

Hey, Mom! Hey, Brian.

BRIAN

(always playing on a phone)
Hey, booger.

MOM

(instant mom voice)

Brian!

(to SARAH)

Are you ready to go? What have you got there?

SARAH

A book for school. It's about dinosaurs!

MOM

That sounds-

BRIAN

Stupid!

MOM (Cont.)

Interesting!

MOM (Cont.)

(to BRIAN)

Brian!

SARAH

Is it alright if I read a bit before dinner?

MOM

I suppose so. Just make sure you get your other homework done, too. Brian! Go let the dog out!

BRIAN

Ugh. Fine.

(Before even waiting for an answer SARAH has crossed down to the kitchen table and starts reading. BRIAN exits briefly. SARAH begins to read the text aloud, but the family isn't listening. MOM is preparing dinner while BRIAN sits beside SARAH and continues to play on his phone. As SARAH reads, DINOSAURS only she can see begin to appear and act out the narrations, much to SARAH's delight. MOM and BRIAN continue to be oblivious as everyone

moves around the kitchen
doing their own thing.)

SARAH

Some dinosaurs had more than 1000 teeth and all dinosaurs
could replace them at any time.

(DINOSAURS show lots of
teeth, one pulls out a
tooth, and another hands
over a new tooth.)

A T-Rex could swallow 500 pounds of meat... in one bite!

(One DINOSAUR struggles to
pick up a piece of meat
with a 500lb label, and
another gobbles it up.)

Dinosaurs lived all over the world, even in the South
Pole...

(DINOS shiver from cold.)

...but there was no snow on the Pole then.

(DINOSAURS stop shivering.)

The smallest dinosaur was the size of a Robin...

(A DINOSAUR holds up a
little dinosaur figurine in
one hand.)

...and the biggest dinosaur was the size of three school
buses!

(A huge roar is heard
offstage, scaring all the
DINOSAURS into hiding.)

MOM

Brian! Go let the dog in. And then would you please set the
table? Dinner's almost ready.

BRIAN

Aww! It's booger's turn. I did it last night.

(SARAH stops reading and
the DINOSAURS freeze, they

all look to MOM for her answer.)

MOM

You are just playing a game, and Sarah is learning what it's like to be a dinosaur.

SARAH

(to herself as BRIAN
briefly exits)

Guess being a dinosaur is a pretty cool thing.

MOM

You know, Sarah, if you keep reading and studying you can be whatever you want to be.

BRIAN

(reentering with plates)

I want to be the best video game player! Maybe I should stop setting the table and keep practicing.

MOM

Maybe you should just keep setting the table.

(The DINOSAURS continue to dance around SARAH as she reads, eventually pulling her up into the action with them. She hesitates at first, as she would hesitate with classmates, but eventually gives into the fun. They dance and do dinosaur things as the set is moved around them, transforming into SARAH's bedroom. Once there, SARAH begins to make her own dinosaur costume out of her stuff. With the help of the DINOSAURS, she quickly

fashions a tail and a headpiece with horns and puts them on. The dance continues for a short time showing SARAH's happiness at her new found identity. Eventually, she passes out on her bed from joyous exhaustion, with her book in her arms. Suddenly it is the next morning...)

MOM (Cont.)

(offstage)

Sarah! Time to get up!

SAMPLE