

PATTERN NATION: WAVES

A Play for Young Audiences

by Andrew Perry

based on an original concept by
Emily Ball Cicchini

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Pattern Nation: Waves was first commissioned and produced by Pollyanna Theatre Company in Austin TX at the Long Center for the Performing Arts' Rollins Studio Theatre in May 2012. The original cast and crew were as follows:

AMBER OVAL:

Michelle Keffer

JADE TRIANGLE:

Robert Burkhalter

CYAN CIRCLE:

Jacob Trussel

PINKY RHOMBUS:

Aaron Alexander

DIRECTOR:

Judy Matetzschk-Campbell, Ph.D.

STAGE MANAGER:

Andrew Perry

SCENIC DESIGNER:

Ia Ensterä

COSTUME DESIGNER:

Ia Ensterä

LIGHTING DESIGNER:

Don Day

SOUND DESIGNER:

Andrew Perry

Cast of Characters

CYAN CIRCLE:

A young child and cousin
of AMBER OVAL.

AMBER OVAL:

A young girl and a
cousin of CYAN CIRCLE.

JADE TRIANGLE:

A young child.

PINKY RHOMBUS:

A young child.

Scene

Anywhere.

Time

The present.

SETTING: An empty space.

AT RISE: CYAN CIRCLE enters, quickly runs to center stage, and stands there for a brief moment waiting for a sound. CYAN CIRCLE looks at a watch repeatedly and gets very quickly anxious.

CYAN CIRCLE

My cousin, Amber, should be here by now! We have so much to do and I don't want to waste a single second. Every time she visits, the doorbell rings once right at this time and then she's here and we have fun and it's the most awesome day ever! That's our pattern! And then, after that, we have a snack. That's our pattern, too! Oooohhhh, I can't wait! Amber always has the best ideas, and there is so much we can do! What could be taking so long? Hmmm...

(CYAN CIRCLE begins pacing in a small circle around center and very soon is going too fast. They are overtaken by dizziness and stumble to one side. We hear a doorbell ring three times.)

That was three rings, instead of one! What does that mean? Hmmm...

(Again, CYAN CIRCLE begins pacing in a small circle and again gets dizzy. The doorbell rings three times.)

It WAS three rings! My cousin always rings once. So, if there were three rings... then does that mean... hmmm...

(Again, CYAN CIRCLE begins pacing in a small circle as AMBER OVAL, PINKY RHOMBUS, and JADE TRIANGLE enter. They watch as CYAN CIRCLE quickens pace while thinking. Finally AMBER OVAL tries to get CYAN CIRCLE's attention just as CYAN CIRCLE gets completely dizzy and comes up with the

solution.)

Cyan! AMBER OVAL

THREE PEOPLE!!! CYAN CIRCLE

(All are shocked for a brief moment by the yell as CYAN CIRCLE catches their balance.)

Four People! (cheerfully) PINKY RHOMBUS

Where? AMBER OVAL

What? JADE TRIANGLE

Who? CYAN CIRCLE

Huh? PINKY RHOMBUS

Why did you say that? JADE TRIANGLE

When? PINKY RHOMBUS

Three People! CYAN CIRCLE

Where? AMBER OVAL

Four People! PINKY RHOMBUS

Where? AMBER OVAL

JADE TRIANGLE

What is going on?

CYAN CIRCLE

Are there more of you coming?

AMBER OVAL

Nope. There's just us three. I hope it's okay that I brought my friends from school.

PINKY RHOMBUS

But there are four of us!

JADE TRIANGLE

Imaginary friends don't count!

AMBER OVAL

Hey! I bet my imaginary friends can count up to any number you can think of!

CYAN CIRCLE

Well, I'm not imaginary and I can count just fine. And I can see one, two, three people. And that's two more than usual!

PINKY RHOMBUS

I'm telling you there are four of us.

JADE TRIANGLE

Did you split personalities again without telling me?

CYAN CIRCLE

This is so confusing! How many people are going to be a part of today's adventures? All the plans I had will have to change... Hmm...

(Again, CYAN CIRCLE begins pacing in a small circle.)

AMBER OVAL

Wait! I think I know how to solve this.

CYAN CIRCLE

Finally! Amber, please use one of your brilliant schemes to figure this all out!

AMBER OVAL

Okay. Let's just introduce ourselves one at a time and count off until we know who all is here.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Ooo... Good idea!

JADE TRIANGLE

Neat! So, who gets to-

AMBER OVAL

I'll go first. Number one. I'm Amber Oval. Hello!
(waves in a fancy oval way)
Now you go, Cyan.

CYAN CIRCLE

Whoa. What was that?

AMBER OVAL

What was what?

CYAN CIRCLE

That thing you did with your hand. It was all crazy like...

(CYAN CIRCLE does a bad imitation of AMBER OVAL's wave.)

AMBER OVAL

What? I just waved. Don't you know what a wave is?

CYAN CIRCLE

Uhh...

JADE TRIANGLE

Come on! Everybody likes waving! It's like a signature in the air!

AMBER OVAL

That's right! Like my own special way of saying hello.

(AMBER OVAL does the wave again.)

PINKY RHOMBUS

Can we please get on with the count off?

AMBER OVAL

Okay, okay! Pinky, would you like to go next?

PINKY RHOMBUS

Ab-so-tively! Number two! Pinky Rhombus! Hiieee!

(PINKY RHOMBUS waves in a fancy rhombus way.)

CYAN CIRCLE

Wow.

AMBER OVAL

Now you, Jade.

JADE TRIANGLE

Eh-he-he-hem! Number Three! Jade Triangle! Hola-Howdy-Ohio-How-do-ya-do!

(JADE TRIANGLE waves in a fancy triangle way.)

CYAN CIRCLE

Come on! How am I supposed to follow that?

AMBER OVAL

Come on, Cyan! Count off and show us your wave!

CYAN CIRCLE

Okay... here goes. Uh... Number four... uh... wait, number four? Hey! I'm number four! There were four of us after all! The three of you plus me! I get it now!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Ha! Told you!

AMBER OVAL

Pinky!

CYAN CIRCLE

The three of you plus me. Well, it's very nice to meet you all. Any friend of my cousin's is a friend of mine. My name is Cyan Circle. Hello and how are you?

(CYAN CIRCLE waves in a fancy circle way.)

AMBER OVAL, PINKY RHOMBUS,
& JADE TRIANGLE

Oooooooooo.....

JADE TRIANGLE

Man, that wave is so good, it just makes me wanna wave right back!

PINKY RHOMBUS

A wave well worth the wait!

AMBER OVAL

Well done, cousin! That's a mighty fine wave you've got. What'dya say we have a little wave off?

JADE TRIANGLE

WAVE OFF!

PINKY RHOMBUS

WAVE ON!

(A wave dance begins. They each do their respective waves to the music. This can include a chanting of names if desired.)

CYAN CIRCLE

Wait, wait, wait! I thought waves were something else.

PINKY RHOMBUS

What do you mean?

JADE TRIANGLE

All I know is that this is my wave.

(JADE TRIANGLE does the fancy triangle wave with emphasis.)

AMBER OVAL

Actually, Jade's right. I'm pretty sure there are lots of different types of waves. I think I remember hearing about some in the library.

JADE TRIANGLE

Oh wait! I thought of one!

PINKY RHOMBUS
Ding! The beach!

JADE TRIANGLE
Hey!

AMBER OVAL
Oh yeah! The beach!

CYAN CIRCLE
What, like for vacation? Seems like a weird time to talk about that.

AMBER OVAL
Cyan! The waves. You know, like in the ocean?

CYAN CIRCLE
Oh! I get it. Ocean waves!

JADE TRIANGLE
But that was gonna be my idea!

AMBER OVAL
Don't worry, Jade. There are lots of waves. You'll get another idea!

PINKY RHOMBUS
Okay, it's a sunny day at the beach! And this is a story about... a dog! What's not to love about a wet and sandy dog?

CYAN CIRCLE
I love dogs!

AMBER OVAL
I get to make the waves and the sunshine!

CYAN CIRCLE
I get to be the dog! Pleeeeease?

PINKY RHOMBUS
Sorry, Cyan. I'm afraid not. I think we have to use your talents where they're strongest.

CYAN CIRCLE

What do you mean? I can be a great dog! Please let me prove myself to you! I'll be the best dog in the whole wild world!

PINKY RHOMBUS

You, Cyan Circle, get to be... the ball.

CYAN CIRCLE

What?

PINKY RHOMBUS

Um, the ball. You know, like, "Go fetch!" The ball...

CYAN CIRCLE

That... is... awesome! Such a good idea! I'll go get ready!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Okay. So, I'll be the kid who brings their pet dog to the beach. Which leaves just one thing...

JADE TRIANGLE

Uh-oh.

PINKY RHOMBUS

(like a proposal)

Jade, will you be my dog?

JADE TRIANGLE

Do I have to?

AMBER OVAL

Come on! It'll be fun!

PINKY RHOMBUS

I pinky promise that no animals will be harmed in the imagining of this story. And you might get a treat in the end if you're a good dog.

JADE TRIANGLE

A treat? Well... okay. Since you put it that way! Bark! Bark!

PINKY RHOMBUS

(petting and scratching
JADE TRIANGLE)

Good dog! Who's a good dog? That's right! You're a good dog, aren't you?

CYAN CIRCLE

Hey! What's taking so long?

AMBER OVAL

Yeah!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Okay, okay! Here goes! There once was a kid. That's me! Hi!
(waves in a rhombus way)

And this kid had a pet dog. The pet dog's name was Cucumber.

JADE TRIANGLE

Hey! I mean, Bark!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Cucumber was a true dog of the sea. In fact, you might even say they were a sea cucumber! Ha! Get it? Like the creature in the ocean?

AMBER OVAL

Uh, no.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Okay, uh, anyway. The kid, that's me, would take the dog, Cucumber, to the beach every day. Here, Cucumber!

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark, bark!

(We hear the sounds of
ocean waves.)

PINKY RHOMBUS

See, Cucumber? Look at those beautiful waves! Isn't the way that blue water rolls in amazing?

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark, bark!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Cucumber, did you know that the waves in the ocean are caused by the wind and the moon?

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark?

(During this next part, the motion of waves can be demonstrated with the use of a speed controllable fan, fabric, and a cut out of the full moon complete with smiling face.)

PINKY RHOMBUS

That's right! The wind blows over the water and pushes it onto land, but the weight of the water makes it fall back into the ocean only to be pushed up on land again by the wind in an endless cycle.

JADE TRIANGLE

(confused)

Bark, bark?

PINKY RHOMBUS

Also, the gravity of the moon pushes and pulls on the entire ocean and causes the tides, which make the waves slowly move higher and lower on the beach throughout the day.

JADE TRIANGLE

(even more confused)

Bark, bark??

PINKY RHOMBUS

And then, there are these under water earthquakes that can cause these huuuuuge waves called tsunamis that are so big, it would take, like, a surfboard longer than-

JADE TRIANGLE

Are you gonna throw my toy so I can fetch it or not?

AMBER OVAL

Yeah, I am trying to shine up here!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Alright, alright. Excuse me for thinking ocean waves deserve explanation. You wanna fetch? You wanna? See, Cucumber? Here's your toy.

(CYAN CIRCLE enters dressed as a big tennis ball that is badly dog-used, the kind no one ever really wants to touch.)

AMBER OVAL

Oh, gross.

CYAN CIRCLE

You have no idea.

JADE TRIANGLE

Wait, you want me to fetch that? But it's covered in spit!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Alrighty, Cucumber. Go fetch! Fetch!

(PINKY RHOMBUS pushes CYAN CIRCLE, as the ball, into the waves being created by AMBER OVAL.)

CYAN CIRCLE

Ahh!

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark, bark, bark!

(JADE TRIANGLE the dog chases CYAN CIRCLE the ball and returns to PINKY RHOMBUS, with great difficulty. Ideally, CYAN CIRCLE would have to be rolled. This is all repeated with music, establishing the pattern.)

PINKY RHOMBUS

Everyday, the kid and Cucumber would go to the sunny beach and play fetch. The kid would throw the ball into the waves and Cucumber would chase in after it and return it.

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark, bark! I got the ball! Bark, bark!

PINKY RHOMBUS

They would do this again...

(PINKY RHOMBUS pushes CYAN CIRCLE the ball again and JADE TRIANGLE the dog chases and returns again.)

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark, bark!

PINKY RHOMBUS

And again...

(PINKY RHOMBUS pushes CYAN CIRCLE the ball yet again and JADE TRIANGLE the dog chases and returns again, this time showing strain.)

JADE TRIANGLE

Bark!

PINKY RHOMBUS

And again...

JADE TRIANGLE

Seriously?

CYAN CIRCLE

I think I'm gonna be sick.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Go fetch, Cucumber, my loyal friend!

JADE TRIANGLE

Sigh. Bark.

(PINKY RHOMBUS again pushes

CYAN CIRCLE the ball. JADE TRIANGLE the dog chases and returns again, this time very slowly and not very dog-like.)

PINKY RHOMBUS

And again...

(PINKY RHOMBUS again pushes CYAN CIRCLE the ball to the waves, but this time JADE TRIANGLE does not fetch. CYAN CIRCLE the ball slowly disappears into the waves.)

What's wrong, Cucumber? Don't you wanna fetch?

JADE TRIANGLE

I fetched the ball already. Can we move on with the story?

PINKY RHOMBUS

But the story says they played fetch for a long time every day. And dogs need their exercise to stay healthy. I wouldn't want you to be a sick dog, now would I? Would I, good dog? Who's a good dog? Is Cucumber a good dog?

JADE TRIANGLE

Yeah. I'm a good dog.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Does Cucumber wanna fetch the ball?

JADE TRIANGLE

I dunno...

PINKY RHOMBUS

I know a certain somebody that might get a treat later if they're a good dog.

JADE TRIANGLE

A treat?

PINKY RHOMBUS

I dunno, though. My book of doggie manners says good dogs fetch when their supposed to.

JADE TRIANGLE

Uh...

AMBER OVAL

Hey, guys...

PINKY RHOMBUS

I guess I'll just have to enjoy the treat all alone after I go get the ball myself. Sure is a shame to not be able to share it with my best canine buddy.

JADE TRIANGLE

Aw. I wanna treat.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Then I guess you know what needs to happen.

AMBER OVAL

Guys!

JADE TRIANGLE

Do I really have to keep doing this? That ball is way heavier than it looks.

AMBER OVAL

The ball is gone.

PINKY RHOMBUS & JADE TRIANGLE

What!?!

AMBER OVAL

I said the ball is gone. I think it got pulled out to sea by the waves.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Aw. That was a good ball!

JADE TRIANGLE

My ball... is gone? But... my ball... I... HOWL!!!!

PINKY RHOMBUS

(resuming the narration)

Uh... And so... uh, this one day on the sunny beach... uh, the waves... uh, waved... and the ball was... waved away.

JADE TRIANGLE

HOWL!! I loved that ball!

PINKY RHOMBUS

Don't worry, Cucumber. I'm sure your ball has moved on to a better place. Just think. Somewhere out there in this wide ocean, there's a dogfish that's happier than it's ever been in its life! And it's 'cause of your ball.

JADE TRIANGLE

(weakly)

Bark. I guess that might be okay. Can I still have the treat?

PINKY RHOMBUS

No. It wouldn't be fair since you didn't fetch the ball. Sorry.

JADE TRIANGLE

Aw.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Well, since the ball is gone, we should do something else in the waves. Look! The sun is shining so brightly!

(AMBER OVAL creates a rainbow which comes out of the waves and sunlight.)

CYAN CIRCLE

Whoa! Look at that, coming out of the mist in the waves!

JADE TRIANGLE

A rainbow! How did that get here? There isn't a cloud in the sky!

PINKY RHOMBUS

It's a beach vacation miracle! Our own personal rainbow right in the waves! I just want to cry, it's so beautiful!

(PINKY RHOMBUS sobs unreasonably. AMBER OVAL makes the rainbow disappear back into the waves.)

JADE TRIANGLE

Aw. It went away.

PINKY RHOMBUS

Oh! It's coming back again! So beautiful!