

EVERYTHING IS ROUND

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by

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Everything Is Round was first produced by Pollyanna Theatre Company in Austin Texas at the Long Center for the Performing Arts' AT&T Education Room in March 2019. The original cast and crew were as follows:

CIRCLE:

Bethany Harbaugh

SQUARE:

Brent Welch

DIRECTOR:

Judy Matetzschk-Campbell

STAGE MANAGER:

Andrew Perry

SCENIC DESIGNER:

Zac Thomas

COSTUME DESIGNER:

Colleen McCool

SOUND DESIGNER:

Andrew Perry

## Cast of Characters

SQUARE: Solid and safe and prefers controlled adventures and familiar surroundings. Loves ALL kinds of shapes. Physical, but more cautious than CIRCLE. Not shaped like a square.

CIRCLE: Exuberant and demonstrative and risk-taking and adventure-loving. Loves anything new and... anything round. Very physical. Not shaped like a circle.

Neither is more powerful than the other. They are not necessarily siblings. They are approximately the same age. They can be any gender mix.

### Scene

We start on a beach. It is where SQUARE and CIRCLE live. We journey around the world: across the sea, into and under a city, up in an elevator, into the mountains, and down a stream back to the beach.

### Time

The present.

## Music

CIRCLE's theme is a variation on "Row, row, row your boat."  
SQUARE's theme is a percussive 'beat box' rhythm with lots of space for development. The rest of the sounds are electronic underscoring, or sound effects.

## Optional Script Cuts

If desired, the script includes sections which may be cut for time as they were in the original production. These points are noted as such:

v\*\*\*\*\*v

Cut-able section (between arrows)

^\*\*\*\*\*^

SETTING:

Home/Beach: There is a horizontal line across the upstage wall which separates the sky and the sea; light blue above, dark blue below. The floor in front of the wall is the beach. Two homes sit next to each other in the middle of the space. Stage right mid is a large cardboard box: SQUARE's house. Stage left mid is a large beach umbrella: CIRCLE's house. The audience sits facing the beach and the ocean. Maybe they sit on beach towels. Maybe there are beach chairs for adults. Behind SQUARE's box and CIRCLE's umbrella are 2-D cut-out cardboard shapes of various sizes and some 3-D shapes, cubes, balls, etc.; the props of the show. Maybe some of the cut-outs are flat on the floor.

AT RISE:

Square Day: We hear SQUARE's musical theme. Percussive, but not too busy. It has lots of space for later additional beats. SQUARE enters from behind the box carrying a large 2-D cardboard square. SQUARE places it above the horizon line and admires it.

SQUARE

Today is a square day. Square.

(SQUARE does a little angular dance celebrating the declaration of square day.)

Square. Today everything has corners.

(SQUARE travels a musical pathway with lots of corners and right angles that leads back to the box/home. We hear CIRCLE singing...)

CIRCLE

(Sings.)

ROUND, ROUND, ALL AROUND, EVERYTHING IS ROUND...

(Celebration of Round:

CIRCLE enters carrying two cardboard circles; one is the sun and fits within the outer edges of SQUARE's square. The other is the size of a Frisbee. CIRCLE goes to place the sun disk on the horizon. Sings.)

MY HOME IS ROUND, THE SUN IS ROUND, EVERYTHING IS...

(Sees the square sign and stops singing. CIRCLE is too late to make it a circle day. Statement of fact:)

Today is a square day.

(CIRCLE looks around. No sign of SQUARE. Sings surreptitiously.)

ALTHOUGH I LIKE THE OTHER SHAPES...

(CIRCLE places the sun disk on top of the square, declaring it a circle day after all. The sun fits within the frame of the square so both are visible. Sings joyously.)

...MOSTLY I LOVE ROUND.

v\*\*\*\*\*v

(Speaks.)

So sunny.

(CIRCLE transforms the other cardboard circle into a Frisbee and gives it a little toss across the floor.)

Zing.

(CIRCLE retrieves the circle and uses to hide face. These face reveals are not intended to engage the audience, so they

should be performed on an angle to the audience; opened out towards the audience but not directed to the audience. Maintain the fourth wall. The audience will respond, but the actor should not acknowledge or play to the audience. CIRCLE reveals happy face.)

CIRCLE (Cont.)

(Happy.)

Hello.

(Hides. Reveals sad face.)

Hello.

(Hides. Reveals scary face.)

Hello.

^\*\*\*\*\*^

(CIRCLE does a little circle dance, moving in a circle and circling the cardboard circle around. Sings.)

ROUND AND ROUND AND ROUND...

(CIRCLE exits behind the umbrella/house. Slowly an 18"-24" ball emerges from behind the umbrella, like the sun rising over the earth. CIRCLE dances the ball from behind. Speaks.)

The sun is round, and it goes round and round.

(CIRCLE stops. Bounces the ball once. An idea.)

Mmmmmm.

(Dribbles the "basketball" ball. Shoots the ball.)

Swoooooosh.

(Kicks the "soccer" ball. With effort.)

Ughhhhh.

(Hits the "volley" ball with fist. The ball doesn't go very far because it hurts.)

CIRCLE (Cont.)

Ouch.

(Rolls the "bowling" ball. It's a strike.)

Yay!

(Rolls the ball again and runs to catch it before it reaches the other side. So speedy.)

Aha!

(Tosses the ball into the air and catches it with two hands. Aren't I great?)

Ta-da.

(Again, the 'ta-da' moments are not directed to the audience. CIRCLE is performing for his/herself. Throws the ball up with one hand and catches with the other. How about that?)

Ta-da.

(CIRCLE places the ball on the floor and quickly goes behind the beach umbrella. Meanwhile, SQUARE peeks around the box to see CIRCLE reenter with an umbrella and a 'spotlight' circle. SQUARE watches the following from behind the box. CIRCLE places the 'spotlight' circle on the floor. Steps into it. Squints into the spotlight. Drumroll. Opens the umbrella with a dramatic flourish. This is the finale. CIRCLE bounces the ball to test it. With the open umbrella in one hand,



CIRCLE balances on the spotlight as if on a tightrope, and then lofts the ball into the air- not too high- and catches it one handed. CIRCLE's performance is extraordinary because CIRCLE's attitude is so exuberant.)

CIRCLE (Cont.)

Ta-da.

(Takes many bows.)

Round, round, I love-

(Howls.)

rouwwwwwwwwnd.

SQUARE

Stop.

(CIRCLE stops. SQUARE emerges from behind the box and points to the square on the wall without looking at it.)

Today is...

CIRCLE  
(simultaneously)

SQUARE (Cont.)  
(simultaneously)

Round.

Square.

(SQUARE discovers that the sun disc is covering the square.)

SQUARE (Cont.)

(Statement of the rules.)

Square. Today is a square day.

CIRCLE

(Hopeful that there can be exceptions.)

The sun is round.

SQUARE

(Removes the sun.)

I was here first.

CIRCLE

(Agrees.)

Yes.

SQUARE

(Hands sun disc to CIRCLE.)

Today everything has corners.

CIRCLE

(Okay. Just today.)

Today.

SQUARE

(They shake hands.)

Today.

(New energy.)

Now, to start our square day... breakfast.

(My Head Is Round: SQUARE begins to construct a breakfast table by unfolding a flat cardboard box and making a table cube. CIRCLE looks into the cardboard sun disc as if it were a mirror.)

CIRCLE

(Speaks softly.)

My head is round. My eyes...

(CIRCLE gets an idea and begins an opera. Sings.)

MY HEAD IS ROOOOOOOOOOOUNDUH. MY EYES ARE ROOOOOOOOUNDUH.

SQUARE

(Interrupts the table assembly and speaks.)

Kinda.

CIRCLE

MY NOOOOOOOOOOSE IS ROUND.

SQUARE

(Stops working and joins the opera. Sings.)

NOT REEEEEEEEEEEAALLY.

CIRCLE

(With much ornamentation.)

MY MOUTH IS ROU OW OW OW OW OW ND.

SQUARE

(Amazed.)

YOUR MOUTH IS BI I I I I IG.

CIRCLE

(Not troubled by the interruptions.)

ROU OW OW OW OW OW ND.

SQUARE

(Pressing the point.)

BI I I I I I IG.

CIRCLE

(Starts again. Soft to loud.)

MY EARS ARE... ROUND.

SQUARE

(Stunned. Soft to... soft.)

MY EARS... HURT.

CIRCLE

(Very loud.)

EAAAAAAAAAAAAARS.

SQUARE

(Competitive. Very loud.)

HUUUUUUUUUUURT.

(The grand finale. A duet.)

CIRCLE

EVERY, EVERY, EVERY THING...

SQUARE

EVERY, EVERY THING...

CIRCLE

...IS ROU OW OW OW...

SQUARE

(Covers ears.)

OW OW OW OW OW OW OW...

CIRCLE

OWWWWWWWWWWW... ND... UH.

SQUARE

(Defeated. New idea.

Recitative)

What about... your tongue?

(CIRCLE tries to make a round tongue and dies a dramatic death. A couple of times.)

CIRCLE

MY TONGUE? MY TONGUE? AG. AG. AG. MY... TONGUE.

(Set The Table: At the end of CIRCLE's lengthy death, SQUARE tries to get the day back on track.

SQUARE

(Speaks.)

Set the table.

(Indicates table.)

The square table.

(CIRCLE rises from the dead and retrieves the disc that has been the mirror/Frisbee.)

CIRCLE

(Sings softly.)

MY PLATE IS ROUND.

(SQUARE gives CIRCLE a pleading look. CIRCLE freezes. SQUARE retrieves a small box which contains a square place setting. SQUARE holds up a square plate.)

SQUARE

(Can we just play by the rules?)

Today. Square.

(CIRCLE acquiesces and retrieves a small circular box- hatbox?- with circle place setting. From it CIRCLE withdraws a round/cylindrical cup. SQUARE displays two square napkins.)

SQUARE

Square napkins.

(CIRCLE displays the cylindrical cup.)

CIRCLE

(Sings softly.)

MY CUP IS ROUND.

SQUARE

My cup is...

(SQUARE displays square/rectangular cup.)

CIRCLE

Square.

(CIRCLE replaces the round cup. SQUARE displays a fork...)

SQUARE

Your fork is...?

(CIRCLE removes a fork.)

CIRCLE

(Speaks.)

Not very round.

(CIRCLE has lost this round. Begins to

mumble/sing under breath  
and display a round bowl.)

CIRCLE (Cont.)

My bowl is round.

(SQUARE has the upper  
hand.)

SQUARE

(Displays knife.)

Your knife...?

CIRCLE

(Shocked.)

Knives are dangerous.

SQUARE

(What was I thinking?)

Yes. Dangerous.

(Carefully, SQUARE puts the  
knife back in the box.  
Scoring a point.)

And yet... not round.

CIRCLE

(Holds up a large spoon  
with a very round end.)

My spoon.

SQUARE

(Not willing to give up.)

A little round.

(What Shall We Eat?:)

SQUARE

(Changes the subject.)

What shall we eat?

CIRCLE

(Can't be contained.)

Pancakes? Round pancakes?