

NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED

THE ROCK EXPERIENCE

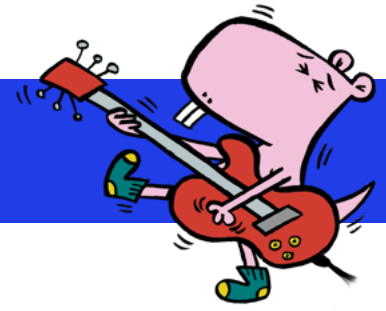
HOME ACTIVITY GUIDE



**Alliance
Theatre**

YOUR STORY. YOUR STAGE.

INTRODUCTION



A ROCKIN' WAY TO LEARN!

This activity guide will lead you through an exploration of Alliance Theatre's production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. You can do all of these activities from your very own home (or tunnel!) with just a few materials and some help from the adult mole rats in your home.

We will be covering 5 different ways you can be a part of Alliance Theatre's production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. Feel free to spread out the fun over 5 separate days, or you can rock it out all in one day!



Erik Poger Abrahamsen and Alexandria Joy in the Alliance Theatre's 2019/20 production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. Photo by Greg Mooney.

- 1 Setting the Scene:** Exploring the colony
- 2 Rock on:** Sing your heart out with a ballad
- 3 Costumes:** Fashion show, baby!
- 4 Proclamation to the Nation:** Building your own speech
- 5 Pitch your own adaptation:** Tying it all together

Share each activity on social media. Tag [@alliancetheatre](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

SETTING THE SCENE: EXPLORING THE COLONY

COOL FACTS ABOUT NAKED MOLE RATS

Naked mole rats are the only characters in the play *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. They are unusual and unique animals that lots of people don't know about. We did the research for you so you can learn some cool facts about the characters in this hilarious play.

SIZE AND APPEARANCE

Naked mole rats are very small — usually three inches long — and weigh only 1.5 ounces – 3 pounds. They have tiny tails and long whiskers and are pinkish in color and very wrinkly with no hair. They have two long teeth on the top and two longer ones on the bottom. They have very poor eyesight and five appendages (toes) on their four limbs (legs).



HABITAT:

- Naked mole rats are found in eastern Africa, specifically in Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Somalia.
- They live in underground burrows and tunnels in grassy and partially dry areas. The tunnels can total up to 2.5 miles.

HABITAT:

- Naked mole rats are herbivores. They eat roots and tubers by digging.
 - A tuber is food, such as a potato.
- They do eat feces, which makes them coprophagic.
 - Feces is waste matter that is discharged from the intestines.
- They don't need to drink water — their food gives them all the water they need.



SETTING THE SCENE: EXPLORING THE COLONY

ADAPTATIONS AND OTHER FACTS:

- They are neither a mole nor a rat. They are a mammal related to guinea pigs and porcupines.
- They roll around in their own feces so they all smell the same, and then, they can smell an intruder.
- If a dangerous animal tries to enter the tunnel to eat the queen, naked mole rats called *soldiers* block the entrance by stacking on top of each other in a big pile.
- A naked mole rat has strong jaws to dig and can move its teeth separately to pick up food.
- Naked mole rats live in colonies with only one female that has the babies, like a beehive.
- Naked mole rats are also called *sand puppies* and can live up to 30 years.

Lowrey Brown, Alexandria Joy, Juan Carlos Unzueta, Danielle Hopkins, and Erik Poger Abrahamsen in the Alliance Theatre's 2019/20 production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. Photo by Greg Mooney.

The Alliance Theatre designer and artists built a larger than life tunnel system on our stage for our actors to rock out in. Check out this picture of what we made! The design started with a drawing that the artists used to build the real thing.



SETTING THE SCENE: EXPLORING THE COLONY

CAN YOU CREATE A DRAWING OF WHAT YOU'D WANT YOUR OWN COLONY TO LOOK LIKE?

Design your own naked mole rat colony using paper and crayons. Design 5 different rooms in your tunnel system for your colony. How many mole rats live in your colony? What are your rooms used for? Exercise? Schoolwork? Video games? Make sure you include enough space for your mole rats to rock out on the guitar! **Once you finish, make a video telling us about your colony! Make sure you tag @alliancetheatre!**



Special Thanks: Kim Bowers-Rheay Baran, Clairemont Elementary Jr. Dramaturgs with teacher Tom Seetoo, The Museum School of Avondale Estates Jr. Dramaturgs with Emily Gardner and Elaine O'Mast



ROCK ON: SING YOUR HEART OUT WITH A BALLAD

Wilbur gets to sing his heart out in the Alliance Theatre's performance of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience* in the song "Is it Time to Get Dressed?" This is a chance for Wilbur to explore what he wants to discover in his love for clothes.

[Here is the song performed by Juan Carlos Unzueta at Alliance Theatre.](#)



Listen to the song one time. Be sure to just listen!

- 1 Are you passionate about something like Wilbur is about getting dressed? What is it?
- 2 What parts of the song stood out to you?

Listen to the song again. Hum along when you can this time.

- 1 Is there a part of the song that seems harder than the rest?

Listen to it again! Sing along when you can this time.



TIME TO GET DRESSED

From *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*

Book and Lyrics by Mo Willems

Music by Deborah Wicks La Puma

What is that? Is that a hat?

Would it be wrong to try it on?

Oh wow. It feels good, like a brand new friend.

If I had a friend that was a cotton-poly blend.

Oh — Feel like I like myself with somethin' on.

But what if it's something that's frowned upon?

Is it time to get dressed? Should I even begin?

Can I be my best with something on my skin?

If I try this bit, and if it fits, would it be wrong?

A shirt. Here in the dirt.

Who would it hurt if I try it on? Oh yeah!

It fits me, like a glove I've yet to try.

Imagine a world that's raining suits and scarves and ties!

Feel like I want to shout or cry or sing!

I think my life could use some tailoring!

Is it time to get dressed? Can these clothes make me whole?

Will they make me my best? Can clothes make the Mole?

Is it time to get dressed?

I have waited so long for this surprise!

And now I've found something that is just my size.

It is time to get dressed! And uncover my soul!

I'm gonna be my best!

'Cuz clothes make this Mole!

Yes it's time to get dressed.

Yeah! 'Cuz these clothes really make this mole whole!



ROCK ON: SING YOUR HEART OUT WITH A BALLAD

Speak the words aloud without singing. Find a fellow mole rat and say it to them. Have them say it to you.

Spend some time practicing the song on your own.

Try singing the full song without the video on your own!

Feel ready to sing it on your own?



Try singing the song with just the band.

Record yourself singing the song and post to social media. Remember to tag @alliancetheatre so all of us can see!



COSTUMES: FASHION SHOW, BABY!

These drawings by the costume designer are called costume renderings! They show the costume makers the designer's idea so they can start to cut, sew, and build the actors' costumes.



Give costume design a try! Color our original costume design using your favorite colors.



COSTUMES: FASHION SHOW, BABY!

CLOSET SHOPPING

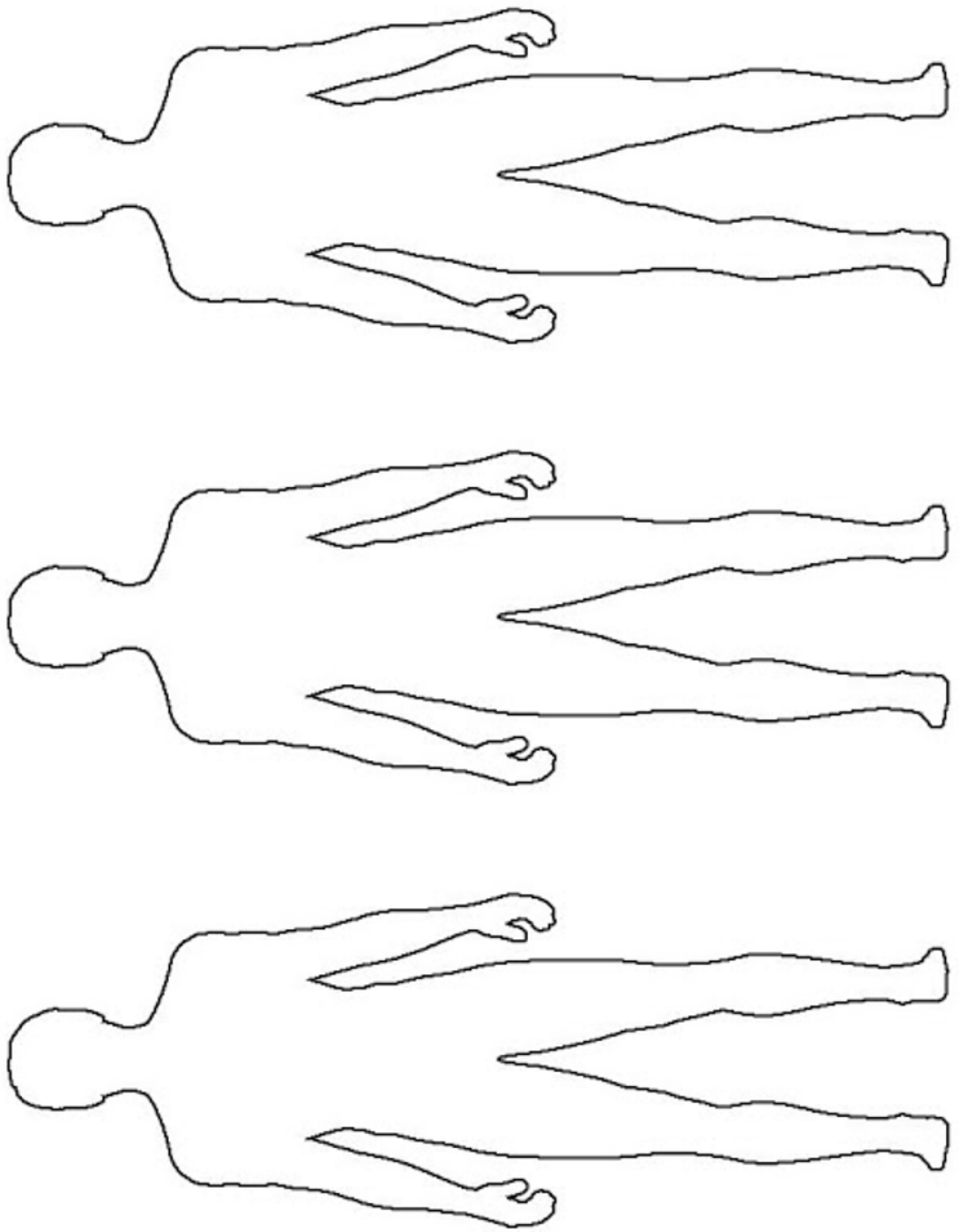
Wilbur gets to end the show by having a fashion show with all of the other naked mole rats. Now it's your turn to have a fashion show by completing the [#atfashionchallenge](#). Here are the rules:

- 1** Go into your closet and create three separate outfits.
- 2** Give each outfit a story. Who is wearing it? A grandma? A king? A spy?
- 3** On the next page you will find three empty costume renderings. Use these to draw the three closet costumes. You can print this template, trace it from the screen, or freehand it!



Juan Carlos Unzueta in the Alliance Theatre's 2019/20 production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. Photo by Greg Mooney.





COSTUMES: FASHION SHOW, BABY!

- 4 Build a runway. You can use dining room chairs, stuffed animals, and even parents to be a part of your runway. Put a camera at the end of the runway to film.
- 5 Put on some of your favorite music, and show off your costumes! How does your character walk? How do they smile? Show off! Make your family pick a costume to model too!
- 6 Post your runway video to social media and tag [@alliancetheatre](#) and use [#atfashionchallenge](#)



PROCLAMATION TO THE NATION: BUILDING YOUR OWN SPEECH

Granpah Mole Rat delivers a very important proclamation in Alliance Theatre's production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. His speech is something that he believes is very important and wants to share with the rest of the colony.

What is something that you believe is important? What is something that you believe in? We would like to hear your proclamation! Can you write a speech on something that you feel passionately about? It could be the importance of washing your hands or the importance of being a good friend.

The speech needs to have a beginning, middle, and end:

- 1 Beginning:** Introduce your colony to what is important to you!
- 2 Middle:** Why is it important? Why should everyone listen to you?
- 3 End:** What can your colony do in the future to help you with your cause?

When speaking, it is important to speak loudly and project your voice. Also, use your teeth, tongue, and lips to make sure all of your words are clear.

Video your proclamation and post it to social media!

Tag @alliancetheatre

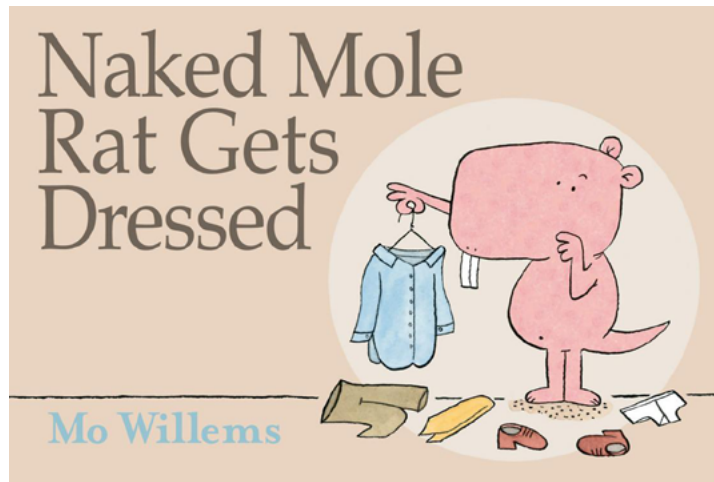


Lowrey Brown in the Alliance Theatre's 2019/20 production of *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience*. Photo by Greg Mooney.



PITCH YOUR OWN ADAPTATION: TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed: The Rock Experience is based off of the book *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* by Mo Willems. Have you read the book? Click the picture of the book to order it online. Grab an adult mole rat to help.



- What is your favorite book? Can you see your favorite book as a musical?
- Imagine that you get hired by the Alliance Theatre to write and direct the musical of your favorite book.
- What would your set look like? Can you draw the design?
- What kind of songs would your characters sing? What things do they want and care about? Can you write the lyrics to one of your songs?
- What do your characters' costumes look like? Can you create one from the clothes in your closet?
- What speech would one of your character's give? Can you write one from their perspective using their voice?

Show us! We want to see your ideas. Pitch us the idea for your new musical by videoing your ideas and posting to social media. **Be sure to tag @alliancetheatre** Who knows? You may see it on the Alliance Theatre stage one day!

