



PERFORMANCE GUIDE

UNDER THE BLUE

**CREATED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE HAWAII STATE ART MUSEUM
BY DANICA ROSENGREN & THE HTY ENSEMBLE**



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ALOHA FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ERIC JOHNSON

Aloha and welcome to the work of Honolulu Theatre for Youth! We are delighted to share these resources with you. We believe wholeheartedly in the power of stories to bring us together across time and distance. When that happens we often find great similarities with our fellow humans that strengthen our sense of belonging, heritage and shared purpose. We also find profound differences which should be equally celebrated. Differences stretch our sense of self and tickle our curiosity for what is possible. Coming from a place that is both geographically remote and culturally diverse, we treasure stories in our community and are deeply honored to share this one with you now. If you would like more information on the company or our work, look us up at htyweb.org.





OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

This show was created in collaboration with

The Hawai'i State Art Museum
The Hawai'i State Department of Health

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Created by Danica Rosengren & The HTY Ensemble

Directed by Danica Rosengren

Music by

Jarren Amian

Additional Music by

Sean-Joseph Choo

Mattea Mazzella

Set Design by

Eric West

Lighting Design by

Chesley Cannon

Costume Design by

Iris Kim

Sound Design by

Sean-Joseph Choo

Prop and Puppet Design by

Eric West

Emily Wright

Michelle Schwengel Regala

Performed by

Jarren Amian

Emily Wright

Special Thanks

State Foundation of Culture and the Arts:

Art in Public Places Program



ABOUT THE SHOW

When Emily loses her bottle cap, she embarks on a magical journey into the depths of the ocean. She meets sea creatures that live in each level of the ocean and learns about the importance of taking care our environment.

Students will enjoy joining in the fun as Emily investigates the various layers of the ocean and explores our aquatic wonderland through music, puppetry, and a lot of imagination!

NOTES AND INSPIRATION FROM CREATOR, DANICA ROSENGREN

Under the Blue was inspired by the vastness and diversity of ocean life. As I began researching the five zones and the creatures found there, the team began to envision different stories and characters. Many of the vignettes stemmed from fun facts we learned about the ocean through conversations with scientists. One of the scientists highlighted the astronomical amount of garbage in the ocean (NASA even has a specific dumping ground for space parts they no longer want). That conversation lead to the decision to include human-made debris in each level of the ocean in our performance.

We meshed our discoveries from scientific research with aesthetics inspired by the Art in Public Places Collection (which is a part of the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts). Photos and paintings from the collection inspired Under the Blue's sail design and costumes.

This is actually the second iteration of Under the Blue! The first took place at the Hawai'i State Art Museum as an immersive performance for people with developmental differences. You can view the space and see some images and videos on [HiSAM's website!](#)

Mahalo nui loa for diving deeper and deeper to the bottom of the ocean with us!

WHAT ARE ZONES IN THE OCEAN?



Diagram of the five layers of the ocean. © Sea and Sky

LEVEL I: THE SUNLIGHT ZONE (THE EPIPELAGIC ZONE)

Scientists have divided the ocean into 5 main layers. These layers are known as “zones.” The surface layer of the ocean is known as the Epipelagic Zone, and it extends from the surface to 200 meters (656 feet). It is also known as the “sunlight zone” because this is where most of the visible light exists.

LEVEL II: THE TWILIGHT ZONE (THE MESOPELAGIC ZONE)

Below the Epipelagic Zone is the Mesopelagic Zone, the “twilight zone,” extending from 200 meters (656 feet) to 1,000 meters (3,281 feet). The light that penetrates to this depth is extremely faint. Temperatures decrease rapidly in this zone, and a great diversity of strange and bizarre fishes can be found here.

LEVEL III: THE MIDNIGHT ZONE (THE BATHYPELAGIC ZONE)

The depths from 1,000-4,000 meters (3,300 - 13,100 feet) comprise the Bathypelagic Zone. Due to its constant darkness, this zone is also called the midnight zone. The only light at this depth and lower comes from the bioluminescence of the animals themselves.

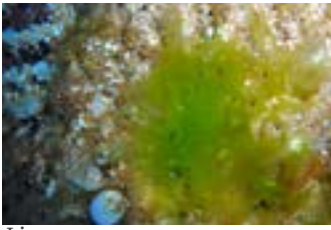
LEVEL IV: THE ABYSS (THE ABYSSOPELAGIC ZONE)

The Abyssopelagic Zone (extends from 4,000 meters (13,100 feet) to 6,000 meters (19,700 feet). It is the pitch-black bottom layer of the ocean. The water temperature is constantly near freezing, and only a few creatures can be found at these crushing depths. The name, “The Abyss,” comes from a Greek word meaning “no bottom.”

LEVEL V: THE TRENCHES (THE HADALPELAGIC ZONE)

The deepest zone of the ocean, the Hadalpelagic Zone extends from 6,000 meters (19,700 feet) to the very bottom, 10,994 meters (36,070 feet) in the Mariana Trench. Despite the formidable pressure and cold, life can still be found here.

WHO DOES EMILY MEET IN THE OCEAN DEEPS?



Limu



Hawaiian Coral



School of Akule



'Uhu

Our main character meets a variety of ocean creatures on her journey. Here is a list of the real-life ocean animals that were the inspiration for the beautiful puppets used in the show.

LEVEL I: THE SUNLIGHT ZONE

- Limu (seaweed)
- Coral
- 'Uhu (parrotfish)
- Akule (big-eye scad)

LEVEL II: THE TWILIGHT ZONE

- Vampire Squid

LEVEL III: THE MIDNIGHT ZONE

- Bioluminescent Jellyfish

LEVEL IV: THE ABYSS

- Angler Fish

LEVEL V: THE TRENCHES

- Plastic Bottle (Example of Marine Debris)



Vampire Squid and Marine Snow



Jellyfish in the Abyss

WHAT IS MARINE DEBRIS?

Marine debris is one of the biggest pollution problems threatening oceans and waterways today. Marine debris or marine litter is human-created waste that has been deliberately or accidentally released in a sea or ocean. Plastics are the most common types of marine debris, but rubber, cloth, glass, metal, and paper litter make up ocean trash, too. Plastic, like the plastic bottle in our show, has been found in deep ocean trenches!

Fun Fact... The ropes and fishing nets used in the show were actually found in the ocean. They were donated to the production by the Center for Marine Debris Research.



Angler Fish

CAN TRASH BECOME ART?

Our show is a collaboration with The Hawai'i State Art Museum. Artists like Ethan Estes make art from the rope collected by the Center for Marine Debris. (You can learn more about him and his art here: <https://www.outrigger.com/stories/2022/january/ethan-estes-waikiki>.)

In the show, some of the plastics found in the ocean became a beautiful lei. What else can you make out of recycled materials?

For inspiration, here are some pictures of art pieces by artist, Angela Haseltine Pozzi, who uses recycled materials in her works.

[Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea | Smithsonian Ocean](#)



**INSPIRATIONAL IMAGES:
CREATING PERFORMANCE FROM VISUAL ART!**

This show was inspired by art pieces curated by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts for the [Art in Public Places Collection](#). The creative team looked at the different images of the art pieces and created a story for our play based on what they imagined.

Instructions

- Look through the collection and choose an image.
- How does the image make you feel?
- If someone or something is in the image, who are they? What are they doing?
- Create a story about what you imagine is going on in the image.

Here are some of the images that inspired us.

The color palette for the costumes was inspired by:

Upon the Waves by Karen Kunc



The costume design was inspired by:

Palolo Kid #6 by Eric Yanagi



The Opening scene of the show was inspired by:

Kaulele (Taking Flight) by Kim Duffett



ACTIVITY: CREATING PERFORMANCE FROM VISUAL ART (CONTINUED)

The Swimming Girl was inspired by:

Underwater #15 by Wayne Levin



The shape of the sail/ map was inspired by:

Painting of Artist's Interpretation of the Archaic Form of Voyaging Vessel (Eastern Polynesia) by Herbert Kawainui Kane



The Coral Level was inspired by:

Encounters by Jim Stewart



The Deep Ocean was inspired by:

Deep by Winnifred Hudson



BONUS ACTIVITY: See the Art, Be the Art

Take another look at a piece in the collection, notice what is going on in the image. Look at: the colors, the shapes, the textures, and who or what is in the piece. Then, use objects around your house to make a replica of the piece!

FUN FACTS, VIDEOS AND WEBSITES

Here are some additional resources to enrich your UNDER THE BLUE experience.

Limu

- Here is some information about Limu in Hawai'i! [https://kids.kiddle.co/Limu_\(algae\)](https://kids.kiddle.co/Limu_(algae))
- There are so many species of limu found in Hawai'i! Here is a fun little Seaweed (Limu) dance to get you moving: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0tm1LM346Y>

Coral

When the Coral appear in the show, they say, "Home? Home!" This scene depicts coral spawning. What is coral spawning? It is when baby coral are born! The baby coral float around in the ocean until they find a spot to attach. When they find that spot, they attach and grow. Here is a video about spawning: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO_2JJynlOA

'Uhu

'Uhu, or parrot fish, really do poop out sand. Here is a video about the 'uhu-- the first minute is about the 'uhu pooping! <https://www.pbs.org/video/gross-science-beaches-made-fish-poo/>

Marine Snow

Marine Snow isn't the snow we think of on land. Marine snow is a shower of organic material falling from upper waters to the deep ocean. It includes decaying matter from animals and plants and other inorganic matter. The decaying material is referred to as "marine snow" because it looks a little bit like white fluffy bits as it falls through the water. Here is the video for Marine Snow: <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/marinesnow.html#:~:text=Marine%20snow%20is%20a%20shower,also%20known%20as%20marine%20snow.>

Jelly fish

Here is a great video about Jellyfish: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmynApko5XE>





ABOUT HTY

Honolulu Theatre for Youth (HTY) is a theatre of place, deeply rooted in the cultures and people of the Pacific and dedicated to serving young people, families and educators across the Hawaiian Islands. Founded in 1955, HTY is one of the oldest professional TYA companies in the country and is recognized for its long history of innovative drama education programming and the creation of original theatrical works that celebrate the diverse cultures of Hawai'i.

OUR COMPANY

Becky Dunning
Managing Director

Stu Hirayama
School Reservations

Brad DeCaires
Box Office

Fay Ann Chun
Grants Manager

Jian Gu
Accounting

Eric Johnson
Artistic Director

Reiko Ho
Artistic Associate/Marketing

Moses Goods
Artistic Associate/Actor

Annie Cusick Wood
Artistic Associate

Artistic Team
Jarren Amian
Chesley Cannon
Sarah Danvers
Serina Dunham
Iris Kim
Lokomaika'i Lipscomb
Mattea Mazzella
Kaonohiokalaealohilohinei Muller
Hermenigildo Tesoro Jr.
Eric West
Emily Wright

Daniel A. Kelin, II
Director of Drama Education

Lily Crumpton
Asst. Director of Drama Education

Tamara Smith
Drama Ed. Administrator

Clara Whippy
Teaching Artist

Ana Narrajos
Teaching Artist

Chloe Tower
Teaching Artist