



Freaky Friday

April 24 - May 3, 2020

Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 pm

Sundays at 3:00 pm

2nd Street Stage

Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center

120 South 2nd Street

Book by Bridget Carpenter

Music and Lyrics by Tom Kitt and Brian Yorkey

Based on the 1972 book *Freaky Friday* by Mary Rodgers and its 1976 and 2003 film adaptations

About the Musical

An adaptation of the 1972 book and 1976 and 2003 films, *Freaky Friday* explores the roles of mother and daughter—with a twist. When a workaholic mom and her rebellious teen daughter unexpectedly switch bodies, they must figure out how to switch back before Mom's wedding day.

About the Thalian Association



Thalian Association Community Theatre is a non-profit, membership organization that's dedicated to enhancing the rich artistic environment of the Cape Fear region. Tracing its roots back to 1788, the Thalian Association Community Theatre was founded to provide arts education and bring the excitement of the performing arts to Wilmington, North

Carolina. Today the Thalian Association Community Theatre produces five major productions annually on the Main Stage at historic Thalian Hall, offers a Youth Theatre program and professionally manages the [Hannah Block Historic USO/Community Arts Center](#) for the City of Wilmington. In 2007, the North Carolina legislature named the Thalian Association Community Theatre the Official Community Theater of North Carolina.

Lesson Plan

In this lesson, students will learn about Ellie, the main character of “Freaky Friday”. Students will read song lyrics and discuss what the lyrics tell us about Ellie and her family.

Objectives

The objective of this lesson is to analyze the thoughts, feelings and actions of Ellie and her mom Katherine. Students will discuss how Ellie and Katherine change over the course of the play.



Freaky Friday poster for the musical

Lesson Directions

Step 1: Learn about the main character, Ellie, her mother, Katherine, and her brother, Fletcher.

One day Ellie wakes up to discover that she has been switched into her mother’s body. Interest and tension begin to build as the audience wonders how this amazing switch happened and how it will affect both Ellie and her mom.

- Ellie: Ellie is a typical but disorganized student who doesn’t always get along with her mom. Before the body switch, she believes that being an adult is not that hard.
- Katherine: Katherine is a single mother to Ellie and Fletcher, Ellie’s younger brother. Katherine runs her own catering business and is about to get married.
- Fletcher: Ellie’s younger brother. He loves to annoy her, but he also secretly looks up to her.



Katherine and Ellie

Step 2: Examine the lyrics from the song “Just One Day” from the musical *Freaky Friday*. This song is near the beginning of the musical, before Ellie and Katherine switch bodies.

“Just One Day” with verses sung by Ellie and Katherine.

ELLIE: (Verse 1)

Just one day, that's all I need
Just a day without her nagging
Just one day, I beg, I plead
But the drag just keeps on dragging
While I wish for just one Monday or a
Friday to be free
Free to slouch and sulk and mumble
and be messy and be me
All I ask is for twelve hours to live my
life my way
Just one simple, awesome, crazy,
wonderful day

ELLIE: (Verse 2)

One more day, she's on my back
She's been riding me forever
On my faults and all I lack
And all I, oh whatever
'Cause I'm lazy and I'm average and I'm
sloppy for a start
And I know she'd like a daughter who
was pretty, thin and smart
And I know she's perfect, but I'll never
be that way
Not for a single, solitary day

KATHERINE: (Verse 3)

Tomorrow is the wedding and tonight is
the rehearsal
And there is no room for error, I mean
not one flaw
We've got guests in just ten hours
Dress the tables, trim the flowers
I want beauty and perfection
I want total awe

KATHERINE: (Verse 4)

Now breathe
And in fact, that is the story
So get moving, move this produce and
remove this mess

KATHERINE: (Verse 5)

Just one day is all I want
With my family united
Fears at bay
No fights, no taunts
Just the four of us delighted
I mean look, I love my kids, I love my
work, I love my life
And I love my fiancé and in a day, I'll be
his wife
And I'll throw the perfect wedding and
I'll throw the bride's bouquet
And we'll have one happy, loving, family
day

ELLIE: (Verse 6)

Mother, Fletcher is annoying me again!

KATHERINE: (Verse 7)

One more day, she'll fight and fuss
When her joy is all I'm after
It's been a long, tough time for us
Now it's time to hear some laughter
'Cause I only want her happy and well,
punctual and clean
But she mumbles and she grumbles and
at times she's outright mean
She's bright and so in cycle, but those
traits aren't on display
Well, not lately, often, ever
Not today



Katherine and Ellie

Step 3: As a class or in groups, discuss what the song lyrics tell the audience about Ellie and Katherine before they switch bodies.

- In Verse 1, what does Ellie say she wants?
- In Verse 2, what are some of the things Ellie says about her mom? What does she believe her mom wants her to be like?
- In Verse 5, what does Katherine want?
- In Verse 7, what does Katherine say she wants from her daughter Ellie?

Step 4: Discuss how the process of switching bodies might affect Ellie and Katherine.

- What do you think caused Ellie and her mom to switch bodies?
- What might Ellie and her mom learn about each other when they switch bodies?
- What are the benefits of switching bodies for Ellie? What about the downfalls?
- What are the benefits of switching bodies for Katherine? What about the downfalls? What upcoming major event in Katherine's life might be complicated by this situation?

Step 5: Discuss what Ellie's thoughts and feelings might be after finding herself in her mother's body.

- What are her primary thoughts and feelings associated with this new situation?
- Is she upset, happy, confused, angry, surprised, something else? Why?
- Discuss Ellie's other feelings associated with finding herself in her mother's body.
- Make a list of at least five of the most significant thoughts and feelings Ellie might have.

Material Sources

Bookrags.com, Wikipedia.com, backstage.com