LIVE AT THE DENVER CENTER OF PERFORMING ARTS!!

THIS GREAT ENTERPRISE: THE PANAMA CANAL

DIRECTIONS: Find which scene you are going to be performing in and with who. Find your fellow actors and actresses and begin to plan your performance! Assign roles to each other. Your performance will be tomorrow. Bring any costumes or props you may need!

SCENE I: Chris D, Angel, Avery

For years people dreamed of a channel crossing the isthmus of Panama, a 37-mile-wide strip of mosquito-infested jungle separating the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Faced with many obstacles, Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president of the United States, was the man who finally made that dream come true.
SCENE II: Braeden, Konnor K, Licia, Andrew G

I proclaim that this new sea, and all the land it touches, belongs to His Majesty King Ferdinand of Spain.

25 days to go 45 miles—this place is fit for El Diablo!

In 1513, Vasco Núñez de Balboa was the first European to cross the isthmus of Panama to reach the Pacific Ocean.

I know a thing or two about canals. I built the Suez Canal. This one should be a piece of cake.

Quel Dommage! This project—she is impossible.

In 1881, after buying the rights to the isthmus from Colombia, the French began construction of a canal under Ferdinand De Lesseps. Great profits were anticipated.

The French were eager for a shortcut to avoid the long and dangerous route around South America and Cape Horn.

I'm outta here. I never want to see another mosquito!

Whew, it's hot here!

The French efforts ended in 1889, troubled by the harsh climate, disease, and financial mismanagement.
SCENE III: Race, Josh, Matthew, Olivia, Garrett

Roosevelt and his Secretary of State, John Hay, knew that whoever controlled the completed canal would have a military and economic advantage.

We can pick up where the French left off—only better.

Let's make it happen!

We'll give France $40 million for the partial canal and all the equipment.

Oui, oui, it’s a deal. Now all you need is the okay from Colombia.

If it were up to me, it would be a go. The Colombian Congress doesn’t like the deal.

Grrrrr! Teddy will find a way!

You know, Mr. President, the Panamanians want their independence from Colombia.

Let’s make sure they get it.

In support of Panamanian independence, ten U.S. warships were sent to Panama City, as well as a large U.S. military force.

November, 1903
SCENE IV: Weston, Chandler, Grace, Connor

When Panamanian leaders declared independence, Colombia was powerless to stop it.

Viva Panama! Libertad! Adios, Colombia!

Woo Hoo! Problem solved!!

But not everyone on Capitol Hill was happy.

How can Teddy send U.S. troops without our approval? He's gone too far.

Panama? Why there? It should be in Nicaragua!

Two days later, the newly formed nation of Panama signed a treaty with the United States, securing the canal zone and rights to build for $10 million.

Get me the best engineers and commanders—we're building a canal.

Colombia is furious with us. This will hurt our relationships in Latin America.

I took the isthmus, started the canal, and then left Congress not to debate the canal, but to debate me... But while the debate goes on, the canal does too.
SCENE V: Jada, Dylan, Jennifer, Wally, Mairekk

“.JLabel
All we have to do is dam the
Chagres River, using several
locks, to create lakes and
control the water flow.

The isthmus is above sea level. A system of
locks is needed to raise ships to the higher
elevations, then back down to sea level.

Constructions began in 1904,
but from the beginning, the effort
was riddled with problems.

Problems included
blazing heat and humidity.

Along with torrential rains
and dangerous mudslides.

Poor housing and food.

Most serious of all, disease and illness plagued
the canal workers. Mosquitoes that carried
yellow fever and malaria were everywhere. After
one year, the effort seemed destined for failure.

Teddy will fix
this problem!
SCENE VI: Chase, Azariah, Adam, Cody, Alex

Things started to look up when John Stevens was appointed chief engineer in 1905.

You've built railroads through swamps, deserts, and mountains. Stevens, I want you to take over canal construction and get us back on track.

Official Order: Halt Construction, Kill Mosquitoes First

The mosquitoes had to be controlled for construction to be successful. The first thing Stevens did was ask Colonel William Gorgas to put his anti-mosquito strategies to work.

Gorgas had standing water and ditches drained and screens installed. Within two years most of the deadly mosquitoes were eliminated, reviving canal constructions as well as local towns and businesses.

Pedro Miguel Canal Zone: The President visited the canal construction zone personally in 1906, trying his hand at operating a steam shovel and eating lunch with canal workers.

It’s hard to keep a guy like Teddy sitting around at home.

Hey! Watch it!
SCENE VII: Andrew B, Travis

In May 1913, the Panama Canal—a system of lakes, locks, and dams—was completed. It was one of the greatest feats in engineering history. The canal required a tremendous amount of time, labor, and money, as well as the personal force of a remarkable president, to build.

It's about time.

President Roosevelt, though no longer in office at the time of its completion, had left a lasting legacy.

"Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat."

-Theodore Roosevelt, “The Strenuous Life"