



# Curriculum Connection:

## *Dead As A Dodo* Performance Overview

**Presented by:** Southern Plains Productions & Wakka Wakka Theatre Company

**Location:** Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center

**Genre:** Theatrical performance / Puppetry / Musical Odyssey

**Awards:** Drama Desk 2025 Nominee; From Obie and Drama Desk Award-winning Wakka Wakka Theatre

---

### Show Overview

**Recommended Ages:** 7 and up

**Length:** 70 minutes, no intermission

**Themes:** Friendship • Resilience • Imagination • Hope

**Special Effects:** Puppetry • Music • Lights • Fog

---

### Educational Benefits

#### Academic Connections:

- Science: Extinction, evolution, environmental impact
- ELA/Theatre: Allegory, puppetry, nonverbal storytelling
- Social Studies: Social structures, cultural practices, and identities
- SEL: Identity, loss, transformation, and friendship

#### Learning Takeaways:

- Interpret metaphor and symbolism
- Connect art to real-world science and history
- Reflect on emotional growth and change
- Experience storytelling through movement and visuals

---

### Field Trip Details

**Dedicated School Performances:** Thursday, October 23 at 10:30 AM & Friday, October 24 at 10:30 AM

**Ticket Prices:** Students: \$15, Chaperones: \$20 (Seating is extremely limited, early reservation is highly encouraged.)

**How to Reserve Tickets:** Contact Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center's box office directly to book. Group reservations available.

**405 951 0000 // [info@okcontemp.org](mailto:info@okcontemp.org)**





## Synopsis

In a glittering, underground world made entirely of bones, a skeletal boy and his best friend—a skeletal dodo—struggle to survive by collecting new bones to stay whole. Their world is whimsical yet eerie, reminiscent of the darkly playful style found in Tim Burton films. With its offbeat visuals and slightly spooky charm, the setting feels both fantastical and emotionally grounded. The bond between the two friends is central, as they rely on each other in a place where disappearing is a real danger if they lose too many parts.

The story takes a dramatic turn when the dodo begins to sprout real feathers—an impossible transformation in their skeletal world. This triggers panic and chaos, attracting the attention of the Bone King and his Bone Princess, who hoard bones and now want the transforming dodo for their collection. The boy and the dodo are forced to flee, embarking on a surreal and visually imaginative journey. Along the way, they travel through strange and dreamlike realms—including a sassy gondolier's boat on the River Styx, lands filled with odd monsters, devils, a glowing neon whale, and other fantastical creatures—all presented in a theatrical, abstract way that's more playful than frightening.

In the final act, the dodo continues to come back to life, growing into a full, living bird. The boy, however, begins to fade—suggesting he may not escape with his friend. As the dodo rises to the surface world, fully alive and free, the boy's fate is left unresolved, ending the story on a poignant, bittersweet note. The show balances themes of friendship, change, and letting go, with a mix of humor, heart, and a touch of the surreal. While the story touches on death and transformation, it does so in a creative and sensitive way designed to spark conversation and imagination, rather than fear.

**Show Trailer:** <https://youtu.be/XavkcQwiBqo>

---

## Reviews & Press

*"Wakka Wakka never underestimates their intelligence and willingness to engage in serious matters."*  
—**New York Times**

*"Wakka Wakka has been astounding audiences for years with innovative stories and mind-blowing puppetry—and Dead as a Dodo is no exception, delivering an experience that feels like a well-rehearsed symphony."*  
—**Theatermania**

*"The world leader in visual theatrical imagination, Wakka Wakka returns with the cutting-edge Dead as a Dodo—an experience that can be summed up in one word: wow."*  
—**Broadway DNA**



**SOUTHERN PLAINS  
PRODUCTIONS**