

THEA 201 Presents: Our Planet, Earth

*The audience is led into the Shared Studio by MISS ANDREWS, a perky, somewhat ditzy substitute teacher in stereotypical librarian-garb. She improvises chatting in a friendly way as she leads them into the studio.*

MISS ANDREWS

Right this way, fantastic, let's just have everyone take their shoes off here at the door and put them in these cubbies, great.

*There is a sign on the door to the studio, in large Comic Sans font: "THEA 201 Presents: Our Planet, Earth." Inside the studio MISS ANDREWS escorts the audience into chairs lined against the back wall, facing the mirrored wall, and asks them to sit, handing out programs. In the space, JEREMIAH, EMILY and MEGAN are warming up at the dance bar and stretching on the floor. They are the students of the class, dressed in all black and dance wear. They don't acknowledge the audience. After a few minutes pass MISS ANDREWS begins the performance.*

MISS ANDREWS

*(Standing before the audience)*

Welcome, everyone, thank you so much for coming to our work-in-progress showing. As you know in addition to serving as a substitute for the College I have found the time to work with the Theater 201 students in a bit of extracurricular dance theater training, because of my background, as you all know, in modern dance. So here we have Jeremiah, Emily and Megan to present to you a dance piece about the planet based on history. So our first movement is here about what, you know, "primitive" people thought about what the planet looked like.

MISS ANDREWS *plays the initial track on CD player and announces the exercises. The students move to represent the following conceptions of Earth:*

*a flat platter floating on water*

JEREMIAH *lies down on the ground – he is the Earth. EMILY and MEGAN each hold one end of a blue scarf at DS which they undulate to represent the waves of water.*

*a cylinder, on the top of which existed a disc-shaped habitable world*

*The group stands close together with their arms over their heads and waggles their fingers – the "life" on the surface of the cylinder*

*a square*

*They struggle to form a square in mid air using an assortment of their limbs. JEREMIAH's longer limbs have the advantage as he forms the top and SR side ultimately, and the other two combine to form the bottom and left.*

*flat, supported by four elephants, standing on the back of a turtle*

*The group looks concerned. JEREMIAH begins by waving his arm like an elephant trunk and ends up on all fours – EMILY gets down on the ground and slowly moves towards him as the turtle. MEGAN, clearly left out, looks confused and then lies down across JEREMIAH'S back as a plank – the Earth.*

*We wait for EMILY to crawl over, but its clear logistic failure causes the next exercise to be announced.*

*a sphere*

*palpable relief amongst the group. While MEGAN and EMILY attempt forward rolls – because spheres are round and round stuff rolls – JEREMIAH gets the large red exercise ball from behind the USSR curtain where it is hiding. He stands at CS between them and pulls an “Atlas.”*

*MISS ANDREWS claps loudly, forcing the audience to do so. The group continues in an encore – heliocentricity versus geocentricity. Wow.*

*EMILY runs to the USL curtain and extracts a smaller blue ball.*

*They orbit for awhile until the audience's applause and admiration ends the performance.*