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The Great-West Life Assurance Company

**Great-West Life**  
ASSURANCE COMPANY  
STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER™

**NOV. 21 – DEC. 27, 2009**

Book by Jeffrey Lane | Music and Lyrics by David Yazbek | Based on the film Dirty Rotten Scoundrels written by Dale Launer & Stanley Shapiro & Paul Henning | Directed and choreographed by Max Reimer

**A PLAYHOUSE THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION**

# PLAY GUIDE

## PART 2: LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

Movie Links: “Six Degrees of Separation” | Grade 9 and up

Created by Dr. Warren McKinnon, UBC Continuing Studies, PTAB\* Member

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**DOWNLOAD OTHER PARTS (GLOSSARY, QUOTES, LINKS)**

**AND MORE LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES AT [VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM](http://VANCOUVERPLAYHOUSE.COM)**

Created to provide you with explorations and insights into this production beyond the actual performance, this Play Guide includes information on its creators and characters, notable quotables and more:

**You can download additional suggested practical lessons and activities at [vancouverplayhouse.com](http://vancouverplayhouse.com)!** As a teacher, you can adapt these to your classroom activities before or after your performance. As a parent, you can draw on some activities to enhance your child’s theatre experience. And, as a patron at large, these activities might stimulate your own exploration or offer a new insight into the production.

**\*Playhouse Teachers Advisory Board**

## **MOVIE LINKS: “SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION”**

**Type:** post-viewing (recommended) or pre-viewing | **Suitability:** grade 9 and up

### **Read:**

***Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - 3<sup>rd</sup> Script Segment*** – Act 1, Scene 3 (pp. 24 - 28)

In this segment, Freddie asks Lawrence to help him move from being a petty thief to a big-time operator. The big-time, punctuated by the phrase “Great Big Stuff”, is a parodied portrayal of the extravagant lifestyle of the rich and famous – in and out-of-country winter/summer mansions, servants, stylish clothes, exotic foods, gambling, wild parties/sexual escapades, anti-suicide pill-popping, hummer/personal Zamboni, unnecessary surgery, and gout! To gain access to all this, Lawrence advises Freddie to not try to develop any particular talent but to “charm” his way into these circles by using his “imagination”, expressing “supreme confidence”, and having the appearance of “classic good looks.”

***This segments can be downloaded at [vancouverplayhouse.com/education-outreach](http://vancouverplayhouse.com/education-outreach).***

### **For Discussion:**

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> segment (above), Freddy asks Lawrence to help him move from being a petty thief to a big-time operator. The big-time, punctuated by the phrase “Great Big Stuff,” is a parodied portrayal of the extravagant lifestyle of the rich and famous. Lawrence advises Freddy to not try to develop any particular talent but to “charm” his way into these circles by using his “imagination”, expressing “supreme confidence”, and having the appearance of “classic good looks.”

1. After viewing actor Will Smith in the film, “Six Degrees of Separation,” describe how he charms his way into the life of high-fliers, New York art dealers, Flanders and Lousia Kittredge. Explain how pretension is also a part of the Kittredge lifestyle and “Great Big Stuff” serves as “props” in their show.
2. How are we seduced by the image-makers in our society?