

Between the Lions[®]

Production Facts for Seasons 9 and 10

- Seasons 9 and 10 are currently in production. Ten episodes for Season 9 will premiere in fall 2009; ten more episodes will roll out for Season 10 the following fall. Each 30-minute episode consists of two halves that center around a book or other reading experience. The series features puppets, animation, live action, and music, all designed to teach key literacy skills.
- Pre-production takes more than a year and involves establishing curriculum priorities, selecting books and stories, writing and finalizing scripts, recording songs, producing animated and live-action segments, creating sets and props, and planning the studio shoot.
- Post-production (final editing, sound mixing, closed captioning, DVS, and delivery to PBS) takes several months to complete for each season.
- The series is produced by WGBH Boston, Sirius Thinking, Ltd., of New York, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB). Cast and crew from Boston and New York joined the MPB creative and production teams in Jackson for shooting during February 2-20. Nearly 500 pages of scripts are shot in 3 weeks.
- The series is set in a library run by a family of lions: Theo (father), Cleo (mother), and their cubs, Lionel and Leona. Additional puppets include Click the Mouse and a variety of monkeys along with a hound dog, lizard, duck, hen, pelican and a puppet singing group called "The Beetles."
- Keriø (Car reeø), a Cajun dog puppet from Louisiana, debuted in Season 8 and will make cameo appearances in the new episodes. The puppeteer for Keriø is MPB's own Keri Horn, who is also the puppeteer and voice for several other secondary characters.
- The library (the "maneø set") stands 26ø wide, 26ø deep, and 13ø tall. Many scenes are also shot on the rooftop of the library. Sets are elevated so the puppeteers can stand and hold their puppets above their heads when they perform.
- MPB produces a recurring segment for the series that features more than 20 children from the Jackson, Mississippi, metropolitan area each season. This "Words Beginning with" segment reinforces the beginning sounds of words.
- In January 2009, *Between the Lions* aired on PBS stations in 100% of the top 50 television markets in the U.S.
- *Between the Lions* is funded in part by The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Education's Ready to Learn grant, and by the Barksdale Reading Institute.