

KNOW

About the Artist



The Story Theatre Company creates productions for young people that build confidence through literacy and imagination. The company works with simple costumes, sets, and props so that students and teachers alike will see that “they can do it too” with their stories and an imaginative use of simple, easily found objects.

Our actors greet the audience, introduce themselves, and build a personal rapport from the very beginning. When the show begins, the kids see these same actors transform into various characters who take them on a magical journey. The Story Theatre style allows for direct contact with the audience and, as the stories, games, and music unfold, everyone is invited to be part of the imaginative experience.

About the Performance

- This 50 minute presentation combines stories from the wise man/woman traditions, looking at and solving problems in creative ways with the playful use of poetry to encourage the love of language, and of word play and to develop critical thinking skills. It includes the always popular Nursery Rhyme Revue and a demonstration of our one word and phrase improv games.

About the Art Form

Before man learned to write, he had to rely on his memory to learn anything. For this he had to be a good listener. A good story teller was always respected. He could easily find an audience, eager to devour every exciting bit of information in their stories. These stories were also shared with others in faraway lands, when people traveled. The stories traveled with them. And when they returned home, they brought with them exciting new tales of exotic places and people. <http://www.storytellingday.net/history-of-storytelling-how-did-storytelling.html>

The power of storytelling is unquestionable. We are all storytellers and we live our lives through a network of stories. The cornerstone of the International Storytelling Center is a belief in a single, immutable principle of life—storytelling. People crave, remember, and honor stories. And now, after years of scientific research in 17 different fields, analysts conclude that storytelling is our most powerful tool for effective communication.

In fact, it is believed by most historians and psychologists that storytelling is one of the many things that define and bind our humanity. Humans are perhaps the only animals that create and tell stories. <http://www.storytellingcenter.net/experience/about-isc/>

The Story Theatre style combines the telling of the story with the acting out of the words, using simple sets and costumes to encourage students to be fully engaged in the performance and leave the theatre believing that they too “can put on a show”.

WONDER

Links to Curriculum

- So, why Story Theatre Company? Because building confidence through literacy, language arts and citizenship is our focus. We have fun telling stories and enjoy it most when audiences are having fun, too.
- <http://www.storytheatre.ca/resources.htm>

Pre-Performance Discussion Questions

Two or three questions for students prior to the performance:

Do you know someone in your family or neighbourhood who likes to tell stories or recite poetry?

Who is the wisest person you know and why?

Post-Performance Activities

- * Download PDF file to make story cubes to encourage children to create stories with a roll of the dice. <http://www.storytheatre.ca/resources.htm>
- *Use familiar stories/tales and encourage children to act them out in small groups.
- *Make your own fridge poetry sets.
- *Speak only in rhymes during your next meal.
- *Act out familiar stories in small groups

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Post-Performance Discussion Questions

- Two or three inquiry-based questions:
- Would you have been able to solve the puzzles in the same way?
 - How might you have settled the dispute?
 - Where do you thinking poetry and rhyming came from?

Learn more about this artist online at artstarts.com/aotd