Seasonal & Special Themed Programs

Frederick Douglass
Akbar Imhotep

Frederick Douglass’ story is a story of legends and myths...but his is an actual story. It is a story of a man who was once enslaved, who escapes to his freedom and becomes a world celebrated abolitionist. Storyteller/Puppeteer/Actor Akbar Imhotep portrays Frederick Douglass and shares this fascinating journey of how he liberated himself from mental and physical slavery and his mission to free others. His message encourages young people to be literate and to embrace reading and education.

Grade Level: 1st-4th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance

Marshalling Justice
John Doyle

Follow the life of our first African American Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall. Known as “Mr. Civil Rights”, Marshall stood up for equality and justice for many years prior to his appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. The elderly Marshall reflects on his early years, his work as a Civil Rights lawyer, and the momentous changes in the United States during his lifetime in this 50 minute first person play. Students will reenact his important Supreme Court case: Brown v. Board of Education. The presentation includes primary source images as a backdrop.

Grade Level: 5th-8th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance
The Boy Who Would Be King: 
The Martin Luther King, Jr. Story
John Doyle

In this reflective, biographical and often humorous portrayal, young Martin shares his adventures exploring the uncharted, wonder filled wilderness of Atlanta’s Auburn Avenue. Every inch a boy’s tale, filled with mischief and dreams, the boy King recounts the extraordinary community of individuals who will shape his ideas and ideals. The play celebrates how King’s youth before destiny, complete with its triumphs and tragedies, led this unassuming Atlanta boy to become one of the most admired Americans of his generation.

Grade Level: 3rd—5th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance

Civil Rights Movement: Learning from Primary Sources
Evan Lee

This hands-on presentation introduces the causes, course and consequences of the Civil Rights Movement as it unfolded over the 20th century. Working with large format photographs from the Library of Congress, students will analyze visual images for evidence of the inequities of segregation. Students will use primary resources to build a timeline of the struggle for civil and voting rights in the United States, gaining an understanding of the contributions made by individuals and groups whose beliefs led to change in our world. Working with vintage LIFE magazines, students can understand the context behind Martin Luther King, Jr.’s and other leaders’ decisions. Students will make connections between events, such as the Vietnam War and the concurrent growth of technology in this era.

Grade Level: 5th-8th
Maximum # of Students: 35 per class
Program Length: 1 workshop per class
Mary McLeod Bethune: Building on a Dream
Mama Koku

Mary McLeod Bethune spent her life improving educational and career opportunities for African American students. Born to parents who were enslaved, she was the first in her family to receive an education. She became the first African American woman to be president of a college; the first African American woman to serve on a presidential cabinet; and became an advisor to Eleanor Roosevelt in establishing the mission statement for the United Nations. She was the recipient of many awards, a beloved teacher to thousands of students, calling herself “a diamond in the rough”. She left behind a legacy of hope and love and encouraged students to follow their dreams.

Grade Level: 3rd—5th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance

Susan B. Anthony
Cathy Kaemmerlen

Learn about the struggles for American women to gain the right to vote led by Susan B. Anthony, who spent her life devoted to this cause. Among her many struggles and achievements was her arrest in 1872 for voting in the presidential election and challenging the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution. Travelling cross country, she made thousands of fiery speeches to garner support for women’s rights. Fourteen years after her death, the 19th amendment to the Constitution, known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, was passed, granting women the right to vote.

Grade Level: 3rd—5th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance
Eleanor Roosevelt
Cathy Kaemmerlen

In this depiction of Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, students will be captivated by her story as a young girl, niece of Theodore Roosevelt, granddaughter of Roswell’s Mittie Bulloch; as the wife of one of our most famous Presidents; as the US representative to the United Nations; and as a lifelong fighter for human rights. From a shy, awkward, too tall young girl, she became more famous and popular than her husband. She was a wife, mother, newspaper columnist, United Nations ambassador, and activist. Learn how this remarkable woman emerged from her shell to become a woman who made a difference.

Class participation with specific reading roles for multiple students and actual historical photographs add to the engagement of the performance.

Grade Level: 3rd - 8th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance

Ruby Bridges Goes to School
Cathy Kaemmerlen

What was it like to go to first grade at a school where you were the only person of color? Meet Ruby Bridges, the first African American student to attend the William Frantz School in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1960. The Supreme Court had just ruled against segregation in America’s schools. With the support of her mother and her faith in the goodness of people, Ruby was the first to test this ruling at this New Orleans school. Accompanied by US marshals, she faced significant challenges just entering the school, but her friendship with her teacher, Barbara Henry, helped her to persevere. Learn about segregation in the 60’s in America and how to face up to bullying.

Grade Level: 1st-3rd
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour performance
Mapping Flamenco
Julie Galle Baggenstoss

Explore the music and culture of Latin American countries, including rumba, Punto Cubano, and Argentinian tango, and find out how ideas about the arts traveled the Columbian Exchange to finally blend with the culture of Spain to create a large and lively portion of Flamenco, across a history of international commerce, wars of independence, and acts of solidarity. Kids dance and create Flamenco rhythms during this assembly program that always includes Spanish vocabulary words and can be presented totally in Spanish upon request.

Grade Level: 3rd—8th
Maximum # of Students: 150
Program Length: 1 hour assembly

A Musical Tour through Latin America
Havana Son

Grab your sombrero as Havana Son leads a whirlwind adventure through Latin America. The musical itinerary includes stops in Cuba, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Panama, and Puerto Rico, as students sample each country's unique sounds and rhythms. Havana Son plays authentic Latin rhythms such as salsa, merengue, son, cha-cha, and boleros. They play traditional and modern styles of Latin music the way you would hear them in their native countries.

About Havana Son: Cuban native Rene Herrera is a seasoned veteran of Cuban symphonies and bands, a recording artist, and an accomplished composer and arranger. His wife and partner Lillian Herrera uses her background in classical music in concert with her Cuban roots to create an intoxicating, soulful, and exciting sound of her own.

Grade Level: K—8th
Maximum # of Students: 200
Program Length: 45 minute performance (2 performances min.)
**A Walk in the Woods**  
*Lee Buechele and Stephen Banks*

This Pulitzer/Tony-Nominated play is based on actual events. It's set in “a pleasant woods on the outskirts of Geneva,” Switzerland, from summer 1984 to spring 1985. Two arms negotiators meet informally after hours at the bargaining table. The Russian veteran, Botvinnik, is humorous but cynical about what the current negotiations will accomplish. His younger American counterpart, Honeyman, is earnest, formal, a bit stuffy, but optimistic about what can be achieved.

They continue their walks and forge a complex, human, often funny relationship, while telling one of the 20th Century's most dramatic stories. Their conversations range from nuclear weapons and missiles, through US vs Soviet culture and history, all the way to their favorite colors and Babe Ruth. As the Cold War comes alive, we see the deepening bond between these men, but also their frustration as they try to “prevent the total destruction of every living thing on this planet.”

Still relevant today, this play supports GSE standards in US and World History, Drama and English. It raises questions, challenges assumptions, and entertains. Extended Talk Back or small group Q &A Sessions are optional and available to fit your school’s needs.

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<td>Maximum # of Students:</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Program Length:</td>
<td>50 minute performance (2 performances min.)</td>
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