

Program Name: Kachina Drums – Mask Making

Artist: StoneLion Puppet Theatre

## Special Requirements:

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Tempera paint; sink with running water; chalkboard or overhead projector

Please note: This workshop is 60 minutes. For the 2-3 day residency, students develop their masks and a greater understanding of Hopi and Navajo cultures

## Other programs by this artist:

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- [-The Emperor Penguin's New Clothes](#)
- [-Fairytale or Rabbit Rod Puppets](#)
- [-I'd Rather Be a Hummingbird](#)
- [-It's a Jungle Out There](#)
- [-Kachina Drums](#)
- [-Little Red Hen's Garden](#)
- [-Stella Luna](#)
- [-Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)
- [-Wind in the Willows](#)

## Workshop Description

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Students will create their very own Kachina Mask utilizing Hopi and Navajo symbols. In the first part of the workshop, StoneLion Puppet Theatre will lead a discussion of the geography of the Navajo and Hopi, the concept of symbols, the symbols of the Kachinas. They will also discuss what symbols the participants know, want to use, or can create.

The concept of Kachinas as wishes will be explored as well as what kind of "wish" mask participants want to create, using Navajo and Hopi symbols or their own.

StoneLion will then give instructions on materials and construction of the masks and students will spend most of the workshop constructing their own masks.

To close the workshop, participants will share the masks they created and the "wish" behind them.

This workshop is a great hands-on learning experience for students kindergarten through sixth grade.

## Educational Objectives & Standards

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Students will:

- learn what a Kachina is and be introduced to the symbology of the art form and the meaning of drumming
- become aware of the similarities and differences of the two Southwest cultures, Hopi and Navajo

Standards addressed:

- Knows how a culture's art works and artifacts reflect its values and beliefs
- Knows how places and regions serve as cultural symbols
- Understands the emotional and social impact of dramatic performances in other cultures



## Artist Bio

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**Heather Nisbett-Loewenstein** is the Founder, Artistic Director, and a Company Puppeteer of StoneLion Puppet Theatre in Kansas City, Missouri. She has performed, designed, and/or directed more than 70 different productions for StoneLion, and works as a puppet builder and costume designer for professional theaters.

Heather has also been a Kansas City Art Institute Continuing Education Teacher and taught Puppetry and Costume at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

She holds a Bachelor of Theater Arts degree from Boise State University and earned a Certificate of Theatre at the University of Dublin, Trinity College.

## Vocabulary

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### List of Resources:

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#### Books:

Kachina Dolls: The Art of Hopi Carvers by Helga Teiwes provides an example of how Native Americans, even members of tribes rooted in centuries of tradition, adapt to modern technologies and opportunities.

Kachinas: Spirit Beings of the Hopi includes more than 75 Kachinas painted by a Hopi-Tewa and discusses the differences in the Kachinas as they appear on each of the three mesas where the Hopi make their home. The Kachinas will enlighten those who wish to learn about and appreciate the Spirit Beings of the Hopi.

#### Online Resources:

The official website of the Hopi Tribe  
<http://www.hopi.nsn.us/>

The official website of the Navajo Nation  
<http://www.navajo.org/>

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022  
KCYA.org

**Hopi:** a member of an American Indian people of northeastern Arizona

**Kachina Doll:** masked dolls who represent spirits and are presented to the women and children of the Hopi tribe

**Kachinas (or Katsinas):** Hopi spirit messengers who send prayers for rain, bountiful harvests, and a prosperous, healthy life for humankind.

**Mineral:** a solid chemical element or compound (such as diamond or quartz) that occurs naturally in the form of crystals and results from processes not involving living or once-living matter

**Navajo:** a member of an American Indian people of northern New Mexico and Arizona

**Ochre:** an earthy, usually red or yellow, and often impure iron ore used as coloring matter

**Symbol:** something real that stands for or suggests another thing that cannot in itself be pictured or shown

**Turquoise:** a blue, bluish green, or greenish gray mineral that contains copper and aluminum, takes a high polish, and is used in jewelry

## Post-Workshop Activities

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1. Create a Kachina using a paper bag and objects you find around your house. What does your Kachina represent?
2. Read about Kachina dolls and their role in Hopi culture.
3. Make a color wheel and label what the colors mean to you. What do the colors *symbolize* to you? Why? Do any of them match the Kachinas?
4. Koshare is the trickster Kachina. He symbolizes mischief and is always playing tricks. Can you draw another Kachina mask that symbolizes mischief?
5. We have seen the Hopi Grandfather Sun. Can you draw a mask of Grandmother Night? What symbols and color make her up to you?