

Program Name: Kachina Drums

Artist: StoneLion Puppet Theatre

Special Requirements:

20' x 20' minimum space requirement; access to electrical outlet; space available one hour before and after performance for set up and load out.

Performance Description

Written by Phil (Blue Owl) Hooser and Heather Nisbett-Loewenstein with musical arrangements by Shawn Sorrell, *Kachina Drums* tells the stories of Mischievous Coyote, silly Koshare, Father Sky and Mother Earth who dance and sing to the beat of Southwestern Native American Indian Drums.

These stories of communication focus on the importance of being true to yourself and thinking of others. Masks, direct manipulation mouth puppets, and Kachinas will delight all in this wonderful performance.

Kachina Drums is actually three stories in one, all sharing the same theme of living together in

harmony, while still being a unique individual. We are guided through the story by Grandfather Sun and Koshare (Ko-shar-eh). Koshare is a Kachina, which are the Native American spirits of the Navajo and Hopi tribes who are called upon for many different purposes, including ceremonies and celebrations.



Educational Objectives & Standards

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: StoneLion Puppet Theatre



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

List of Resources:

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/>

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. There are over 250 different types representing various beings, from animals to clouds.

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

Root - the leafless usually underground part of a plant that absorbs water and minerals, stores food, and holds the plant in place

Seed - the grains of plants used for sowing

Soil - the loose surface material of the earth in which plants grow

Stem - the main stalk of a plant that develops buds and shoots and usually grows above the ground



Post-Performance Activities

1. Create your own 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. Discuss what Father Sun and Mother Earth, as well as First Boy and First Girl, were arguing about.
4. How did Coyote try to imitate his friends? Why did he imitate them? What happened to him when he imitated them? Discuss what you think it means to “be yourself”.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

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