THE EXCITEMENT OF
DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE
AND STORYTELLING
COMES TO YOU!

BOXTALES
Leyendas de Duende
LET’S GET STARTED!

Enclosed is a packet of information about the scheduled program. Please review all of the documents carefully, as they are the materials you will need to sponsor a successful program.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

It is important that the daily schedule be maintained as specified on the confirmation document. If special circumstances occur once the project has begun, notify Music Center staff as soon as possible. Changes may be accommodated pending artist availability (which can be limited). We request that all participants be seated in the performance area and ready to begin at the scheduled times.

STUDENT SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL SITES

In accordance with California law, The Music Center requires that a classroom teacher be present with students at all times. It is expected that teachers will attend events with their class and actively participate in the learning experience.

YOUR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

About a week after the performance, you’ll receive an invoice in the mail. You have 30 days to pay upon receipt of the invoice. We do ask that you wait until you receive the invoice before sending payment.

ARTIST INTRODUCTION & STAGING REQUIREMENTS

Please introduce the artist with the enclosed introduction. There is also specific information you will need to prepare for the arrival of each artist. Please give the tech sheet to the school personnel in charge of setting up the performance area well in advance of the scheduled dates. Be sure to have ready any equipment which may be required.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

These pre- and post-event classroom activities are designed to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of the program. Please duplicate this preparation material and distribute to all teachers whose students will be attending the event to allow them to fully prepare the students.

PRESS RELEASE AND POSTER

A pre-made press release is available should you wish to publicize the event. A premade poster is also included so that your school community can be aware of the upcoming event.

We applaud your commitment to arts education and look forward to working with you.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call us at 213-972-4310.
"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. Boxtales is a storytelling theatre company which uses masks, movement, storytelling and live music to present myths and folklore from around the world. Performers Matt Tavianini, David Guerra, and Michael Andrews combine their diverse talents to create this interactive and high-energy theatrical experience. Please welcome Boxtales!"

Feel free to encourage the adult members of your audience to share the experience on social media! Tag us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at @MusicCenterLA and we might repost your photos!
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

**SPACE**
- 15' wide x 20' deep minimum, 20' x 20' preferred
- Artist prefers a performance area that is near to the audience
- Outdoor performances are determined on a case by case basis

**SURFACE**
- Wood is preferred but any surface is okay
  - Freshly mopped (not waxed)
  - Irregularities covered with tape
  - Extraneous clutter removed

**DRESSING AREA**
- One private, secured dressing area close to the stage or two dressing rooms

**EQUIPMENT**
- 100-watt PA system with one microphone stand
  - Water for three people

**ARRIVAL**
- Artists will arrive one hour prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

**PARKING**
- One space near the venue for loading and unloading

**ASSISTANCE**
- Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed

**START TIME**
- Please prepare to start the program on time
- Students should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times
BOXTALES—Leyendas de Duende

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: Mexican and Puerto Rican

MEET THE ARTIST:

Boxtales is a storytelling theatre company which uses masks, movement, storytelling and live music to present myths and folklore from around the world. Performers Matt Tavianini, David Guerra and Michael Andrews combine their diverse talents to create a professional, high energy, interactive theatrical experience for young audiences. The Spanish term duende comes from within, as a physical/emotional response to art. Like art itself, it has aspects that are both appealing and dangerous. The Spanish poet, Federico Garcia Lorca, says, “These dark sounds are the mystery, the roots thrusting into the fertile loam known to all of us, ignored by all of us, but from which we get what is real in art...” The Boxtales philosophy is that duende is there to challenge us to keep our ears open to the ‘dark sounds,’ to keep our touch with the earth and with the ghosts of those who have come before. We should never refuse the struggle which is needed to keep the forces of life working on the side of truth.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Myths help us better understand the values and references of a specific culture. These stories, found in civilizations throughout the world, have been passed from one generation to the next through the ‘oral tradition.’ Many are older than the art of theatre and have themes that are universal to the human experience.

Summary of the featured stories:

La Calavera - Mexican folk tale
This wonderfully scary ghost story from Mexico is a classically eclectic mix of themes, motifs and characters from Spanish and indigenous traditions. In keeping with the Dia de los Muertos* celebrations, this story follows a young healer who tries to outsmart godmother - Death. Death gives him great healing power, but always lets him know who’s boss. Some very interesting characters cross paths with the healer’s father as he tries to choose a god-parent for his young son. The characters include: Senor Diablo, Coatluc - the Aztec goddess of earth and fire, mother of the gods and of the stars in the southern sky; and Chaac - the Mayan god of rain who is associated with creation and life.

* A traditional Mexican celebration, held on November 1-2, when the dead are remembered.

Paco and the Witch - Puerto Rican folk tale
Paco is a good boy who likes to help his mom; however, when he goes to town to run a errand for her, he has to pass through the dark forest where legend has it that a bruja (witch) is waiting to snatch little boys and girls. He is taken by the bruja who puts Paco to work preparing her stew. She casts a spell on him that can only be broken by his guessing her nombre (name). While at the riverbank, Paco meets a cangrejo (a crab) who teaches him a song to remember el nombre (the name) de la bruja. The bruja is angry that she was betrayed and Paco is set free.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

This production, directed by renowned Mexican theatre artist Sigfrido Aguilar, explores the rich indigenous and Hispanic folklore and mythology of Latin America. The stories include “La Calavera,” from Mexico, and “Paco and the Witch,” from Puerto Rico. The program also includes an Afro/Cuban rhythmic composition and song, sung during ceremonies of Santeria. Masks, designed by Ann Chevrefils, are worn by the actors to enhance the qualities and expressions of the characters they portray. The production, created in Guanajuato, Mexico, is performed in both English and Spanish.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Select either the story of “La Calavera” or “Paco and the Witch.” In two or three sentences what would you say to give the ‘big idea’?
- Who are the characters who helped Paco? How did each help? What might have happened without their support?
- If you had 15 minutes to spend with one of the characters in either of the stories, which character would you choose? Why? What would you talk about? What questions would you ask of them?
- Choose one of the stories. Then, name the specific character with which you most identified. Give reasons for your choice. Which character did you find the scarier? Why?
- What were some of the obstacles that Paco faced on his journey? How were these challenges dealt with resolved?
- Can you identify any lessons learned in “La Calavera?” Discuss what you thought was important and give reasons to support your answer.
- Discuss Dia de los Muertos and its traditional meaning. Ask students who celebrate this important holiday to share their family traditions.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY:

A Message in a Bottle Project: Students will write a tale about an imaginary adventure that leaves them stranded on an island off the coast of Mexico, South America or the Caribbean. Students can work alone, in pairs or small groups. Direct them as you do for creative writing assignments, incorporating research.

What you need:
Maps of Mexico, Central and South America
Plastic bottles with caps (one per story)
A basin or glass tank of water or basket/box

Write the story:

Study the maps; then select a starting place and destination. Locate an island where they will be stranded. Using place names, create a journey map.

Decide who they are, the type of transportation they use and the events that lead to being stranded. Describe in terms of size, weather, plants, animals, etc. Make a map of the location; draw the island. Write the story.

Share:

All tales will be rolled into bottles, then place bottles in the water or basket. Different students select a bottle, other than their own, and read the tale. Discuss the story. Design a rescue plan.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Review the key elements of a story, Who? What? Where? When? and How? Select one of the stories from the performance and answer each of the above questions. Did this process help you better comprehend the story and its meaning? If so, explain how or why. What new understanding did you gain?
- In order to fully enjoy a story, a person must be able to imagine the characters, places, time period and actions. The better the imagination, the more vibrant and interesting the story. Here is an exercise to sharpen your ability to see the details of specific images. Using this description of the Puerto Rican parrot, draw your impression: The parrot is a large, bright green bird with a red forehead, blue primary wing feathers, and flesh-colored bill and feet. It feeds on wild fruits, flowers and tender shoots.
- Most cultural stories were passed on orally. As they were told over and over, sometimes they also changed in different ways. Although many of these stories are now written down, students can learn to tell one of these stories in the oral tradition. It is also all right to add a few new ideas in the telling. Divide students into storytelling teams. Using books or the internet, have students research stories and then select one to learn and tell. The story should say something important about the culture from which it comes. Students should think of the beginning, middle and end, as well as the key characters, main problem, resolution and sequence.
- Write the title of each story on the board with two large, overlapping circles (Venn Diagram). Ask the class to compare and contrast each one. Write the things unique to each in the open part of each circle and similarities in the overlapping space. Discuss these.
- In the story, “La Calavera,” there are symbols that represent ideas or objects. For example, when La Calavera appeared at the foot of a sick person’s bed, it meant that the person would get better. At the end of the story, the candles in the cave represent people’s lives. Working in pairs, select three ideas from the story and select an object, symbol or person as a representation for each one. Give your reasons. Share with class.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


School Contact Name: ______________________
Phone: ______________________

________________________ AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

BOXTALES TO PERFORM ON ______________________

________________________ and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Boxtales performance. As part of the school’s continuing efforts to enrich its curriculum and its students’ educational experience, the school will present a special performance by Boxtales. The performance is presented by The Music Center’s education department which provides many offerings including live performances, classroom workshops, scholarship and training programs, online arts curriculum, on-campus events and professional development.

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Schools can choose from more than 70 performances in music, dance, theatre and storytelling from an internationally acclaimed roster of artists seen across the globe in films, theaters, concert halls, television shows and museums.

About The Music Center
As L.A.’s performing arts destination, The Music Center is L.A.’s home to the world’s greatest artistic programs and events. With four iconic theaters and four renowned resident companies – Center Theatre Group, the LA Master Chorale, the LA Opera and the LA Philharmonic – and recognized for its illustrious dance programming, Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Music Center is a destination where audiences find inspiration in the very best of live performance, as well as nationally recognized arts education and participatory arts experiences. With The Music Center On Location, the non-profit performing arts organization brings events and activities to locations outside of its Downtown Los Angeles campus. The Music Center also programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free programming. For more information, visit musiccenter.org Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@MusicCenterLA).

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For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3338. Members of the media are welcome to cover this performance. Please contact The Music Center prior to sending a reporter or photographer to the school.
THE MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

BOXTALES

DATE: ____________________  TIME: ____________________

SCHOOL: ____________________

musiccenter.org/ontour
ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Music Center’s teaching artists work in the classroom facilitating student learning and modeling effective instructional strategies for teachers. Essential skills and vocabulary in music, theater, dance, or visual art are connected to universal themes and integrated with other content areas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Professional Development targets arts integration strategies for K-12 teachers in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Teachers learn creative and effective approaches for integrating the arts into their content areas. Additionally, The Music Center offers the Summer Arts Studio for Educators. This program consists of events tailored for classroom teachers, arts teachers and educators.

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES

Each year Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center offers free student matinee dance performances. All performances include a teacher orientation session and curriculum guide for students.

THE BLUE RIBBON CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL

The Blue Ribbon Children’s Festival, designed specifically for fifth grade students, is an annual admission-free program at The Music Center. Students experience a live professional performance at a world-class performing arts center, then gather together to perform a short choreographed dance inspired by the production.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual admission-free event celebrating the artistic achievements of students with disabilities and their mainstream peers. The festival features student and professional performances on two stages, visual and performing arts workshops, and a student art exhibit created around a central theme.

SPOTLIGHT

Much more than a competition, Spotlight is a scholarship and training program, which encourages personal and artistic growth, while exploring new possibilities in the arts.

ARTSOURCE®

The Music Center’s Arhtsource® curriculum is designed to bring the expressive world of the arts into classrooms. The materials are available online free of cost.

OTHER ON-CAMPUS MUSIC CENTER OFFERINGS:

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, Dance Downtown, Symphonic Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: