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

DAVID PRATHER
The World of Myths
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. This performance is titled “World of Myths” and it features David Prather. He is going to introduce, and explore with you, tales based on ancient myths, fables and folk stories. Please welcome David Prather!"

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
- 10' wide x 10' deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed, with steps leading up to the stage

SURFACE
- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES
- Shaded
- Protected from wind, traffic and playground noise
  - Good acoustics
- Sound system with one microphone stand is required

EQUIPMENT
- One microphone with a stand
  - Sound system
  - One 4-6 foot table

ARRIVAL
- Artist will arrive thirty minutes 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
DAVID PRATHER—The World of Myths

ART FORM: Theatre/Storytelling
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: American/European

MEET THE ARTIST:

David Prather, a charismatic actor and author, has earned a Princeton education, as well as training at the American Conservatory Theatre in San Francisco, California. Combining all that he learned, he has utilized his experiences and knowledge to create original works for young audiences. Whether performing his school assembly programs in multi-purpose rooms, or sharing the stage with Julie Andrews at the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Mr. Prather uses improvisatory humor and wit to engage and entertain his audience. As “Cap’n Dave,” he delighted thousands over many years as the host of “Summer Sounds” at the Hollywood Bowl. He has performed with the L.A. Phil, the Pacific and San Francisco Symphonies, as well as at the Getty Center, the Skirball Cultural Center and other arts institutions. At The Music Center, he has performed Shakespeare at the Mark Taper and hosted concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

In The World of Myths, David Prather tells tales based on ancient legends and stories from different civilizations of times past. The program is designed to encourage students to use their imaginations, to wonder, and to ask questions about the world around them, as well as space and its celestial bodies. Myths and stories from several countries and cultures are selected from the following repertoire: China—“Panku;” Guatemala—“The Corn People;” Greece—“Orpheus in the Underworld;” India—“Where Did People Come From;” and “Ganesha’s Fight with the Moon;” as well as, “Where Do the Stars Come From?” from New Guinea.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Long, long ago there was no earth, no sun, no moon. No stars shone in the heavens. There was only the darkness of space. From that time to this, the overwhelming question for mankind has always been, “How did all this come to be?”

People have always asked questions about the world around them, about the sun, moon, and stars in the sky, and about themselves. Before there were scientists, teachers, libraries or schools, people had to create their own answers to their questions. Looking carefully, listening intently, and using their imaginations, early people created answers in the form of beautiful stories. These stories are called myths.

The creation of myths provided mankind with a way of explaining a world full of mysterious and threatening phenomena. Thunder and lightning, the sea, earthquakes, clouds, the sun, moon and stars— all were given human qualities, or were said to be ruled by gods with human sensibilities. Through ritual, the acting out of myth, men felt they could placate the gods and gain power over the elements. Hence, myth became an important and essential part of people’s lives.

Then in Greece, about 2,500 years ago, a new point of view dawned in the minds of men. A scientific method evolved which changed the way the world was viewed. Suddenly, there were people who believed that all things were made of atoms; that the Earth was actually a planet going around the Sun, not a sentient being. The Greeks were great thinkers and had a passion for knowledge, something that is evident even in their language. Our word for ‘school’ comes from the Greek word for ‘leisure,’ since they believed that given leisure, man would surely use it in thinking and finding out about things.

Slowly, myth began to play a lesser part in people’s lives. Still, like the ancients, we continue to seek answers about our infinite universe. Perhaps this is why we can listen to the old myths with interest and appreciation. We can see how far we’ve come in our quest for answers, but we can also see how far we have to go in our search for the meaning of life and our universe.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What is a myth? (an imaginative way of exploring natural, observable phenomena or human nature)
- How is a myth different from a fairy tale?
- What was your favorite myth? Why?
- How many students have heard a storyteller (someone who tells a story, not someone who reads stories)? What is the difference between listening to a storyteller and watching TV or film?
- Define ‘imagination.’ Look at the root word, ‘image,’ and talk about how one can listen with one’s imagination.
- How did students feel about being seen, or seeing other classmates, on stage? Did the students on stage need to be good listeners to be able to perform their task? What other skills does someone need to perform a storyteller?

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ Discuss the use of listening as a way of discovering things about the world around us. Sit quietly for 1-2 minutes; listen for sounds you hear in and outside of your classroom. Name sounds that tell us things: sirens, school bells, car brakes, etc. Discuss tone (quality) and its meaning. How does your mother say your name when she is angry with you, pleased, worried? You might have students hold a conversation in gibberish where meaning is understood only through tone.

● Ask students to imagine that they are the first people on earth. Everything is new; nothing is named. Have them close their eyes and walk through a forest looking at things in detail. What do they see? What do they hear? (light and shadow, trees moving, the sound of the wind, leaves falling, etc.) Have them open their eyes and write or tell about what they saw or experienced, and what they discovered.

■ Remind your students that long ago people used to look at the sky at night just as we might watch TV. Ancient people saw the picture of a bear, an archer, a centaur, or a swan in groups of stars they studied. The names of these groups of stars (constellations) were given long ago, but are still used by us today. Encourage your students to look at the night sky and write down what they observe (bright stars or planets, twinkling stars, phases of the moon, etc.). If constellations had not been named until the 21st century, what might some of the names be? (e.g., the refrigerator, the bicycle, etc.) Have them name a new constellation and write a story about how it came to be named.

◆ Find and read a myth to your class. Ask students what questions it answers. Define myth as an imaginative way of explaining natural, observable phenomena, or exploring the realities and mysteries of nature through images.

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES:

Storytelling can be a wonderful link to many aspects of science, including the study of astronomy. Astronomers and physicists today ask the same questions that ancient man asked: How did the world come to be? Where does space end and time begin?

In China, Polaris - the North Star, was said to be the emperor of heaven, who sat upon an immovable throne while all the other stars paid him homage. This myth transforms accurate observations into metaphor and poetry.

Ask students to choose a natural phenomenon, such as a constellation, the sun, the patterns of an animal or bird, or a specific type of storm like a tornado. Ask them to write a paragraph that imagines how the animal got its shape or pattern, how the tornado became a storm element or how the sun or constellation came to shine from the sky. They may want to turn their selected phenomenon into a character, or may wish to create mythical characters that influenced the behavior of their selected phenomenon. Ask students to present their “myths” to the class. An example might be: “How did the peacock get eyes on its tail?”

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


Legend

★ Artistic perception
● Creative expression
■ Historical & cultural context
◆ Aesthetic valuing
♦ Connections, Relations, Applications
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
DAVID PRATHER TO PERFORM ON ______________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming David Prather 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 of David Prather. 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.

Dubbed the “Maker of Merry” by the L.A. Times, actor David Prather has shared his lively blend of improvisation, verbal wit and physical comedy with audiences from schools to concert halls across California. Whether appearing with Julie Andrews at Disney Hall as host of the L.A. Phil’s Holiday Sing Along, or engaging an assembly of rapt students in a multi-purpose room, Prather makes it his mission to entertain and enlighten. He has delighted audiences at the Hollywood Bowl (where he appeared for ten seasons as ‘Cap’n Dave’ of Summer Sounds) and in family programs at the Getty, Skirball, and Autry Museums. Mr. Prather is a graduate of Princeton University and the American Conservatory Theatre.

The Music Center on Tour is the premiere resource for high-quality performing arts performances in Los Angeles County. For more than 35 years, schools and communities have benefited from the program’s roster of diverse and compelling performing artists who serve as models of artistic excellence, inspire creative thinking and introduce young audiences to the world’s diverse cultural traditions. Music Center artists represent and celebrate the finest artistic contribution of the world’s cultures – from the colorful regional dances of Mexico and the exquisite music of the China, to the pulsating rhythms of Brazil and the golden harmonies of 20th century America.

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, Glória 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

DAVID PRATHER

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 Artsource® 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, Symphonian Campus Tours, Grand Park

PROGRAM SUPPORT PROVIDED BY: