THE MUSIC CENTER ON TOUR

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

DIANE FERLATTE

Aesop Alive and Well
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. Diane Ferlatte and Erik Pearson present Aesop: Alive and Well. You will hear fables that teach lessons and learn about the life of the man who created these fables. Please welcome Diane Ferlatte and Erik Pearson!"
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

SPACE
- 6’ wide x 9’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed with steps leading up to the stage

SURFACE
- A clean and safe freshly mopped (not waxed) floor for performing
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES
If the performance must be held outdoors, the following conditions must be met:
- Shaded performance area
- Protected from wind, excess traffic and playground noise

EQUIPMENT
- One armless chair
- Two microphones on stands required
- Drinking water (room temperature, no ice) and cup

ARRIVAL
- 15-30 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
DIANE FERLATTE—Aesop Alive and Well

ART FORM: Storytelling
STYLE: Traditional
CULTURE: Greek

MEET THE ARTIST:
A native of New Orleans, storyteller Diane Ferlatte recalls with fondness her childhood years of sitting on the porch of her grandparents’ home, captivated by the oral stories of family generations past. She now carries on that tradition with tales filled with spirit, journeys and fantasy. Diane offers three different performances: Have I Got a Story to Tell, a solo show of stories from Africa and the American South; We Were There, that brings to life the stories of African Americans in history; and Aesop, Alive and Well, featuring the fables of Aesop and the music of Erik Pearson. Diane views the art of storytelling as an effective way of stirring the imagination to promote reading readiness and literacy. Diane has toured in Austria and New Zealand, and has been a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Hollywood Bowl. She was honored by the mayor of Oakland for her role as co-director of the city’s National Storytelling Festival.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
Aesop, Alive and Well presents not only five fables, but also the story of the fabulist himself. Accompanied by the music of Erik Pearson, Diane Ferlatte tells her own version of the fables credited to the famous Aesop, including “Poor Crow,” the story of a thirsty but determined crow, “The Ant and the Dove,” a tale about helping others, “The Shepherd Boy” (or The Boy Who Cried Wolf), “The Monkey and The Donkey,” in which a donkey learns to be himself, and “Bone Day,” a story about a dog who learns to appreciate what he has. As we listen to the stories, we also come to appreciate the wit and wisdom of Aesop. A brief question and answer period may follow the presentation. Teachers may prepare their students for the performance by introducing them to the information provided in these pages.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
There are many ancient regions, islands and countries of the Mediterranean that claim to be the birthplace of Aesop: Thrace, Phrygia, Aethiopia, Samos, Athens and Sardis all historically claimed the prize. The respect for this time-honored storyteller, who was born in 620 B.C., is all the more impressive when you consider his difficult beginning: Aesop was born a slave. With no rights or privileges of a freeman of Greece, Aesop strove, thought and learned. Through his wit, intelligence and ability to learn and share his knowledge, Aesop earned his freedom. He became an active participant in the public affairs of Greece, impressing all with his stories. He traveled through many countries, driven by his desire to instruct and be instructed. Aesop’s fables were known and quoted far and wide by adults, who also shared them with their children. Aesop eventually became a well-respected ambassador for the court of Croesus, king of Lydia, and was sent by him on many diplomatic missions. Using his fables as his tool, Aesop’s ability to settle arguments between nations and states was legendary. His death, sometime around 560 B.C., only added to his fame. He died at the hands of the people of Delphi, who were then visited by illness and other disasters, until they believed that they were cursed. Aesop was honored after his death with the creation of a statue of him by Lysippus, one of the most famous sculptors of Greece. The statue was placed in Athens.

Fables are stories with a very high purpose: to teach a lesson about honorable behavior, often without letting the listener know they have been educated. Through the use of fictitious characters, often animals, the listener is gently led to decipher the meaning of the message on their own. No one is teaching them; they are being encouraged to examine the behavior presented in the tale and decide what is right or wrong.

Fables always end with a moral, an important rule for living. Through examples, they guide listeners toward valuing honesty, honor and good behavior instead of dishonesty and bad a. Aesop knew that presenting simple stories with humor would succeed, especially when it was his purpose to educate or influence a resistant or difficult audience.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• Think about the stories you heard in the performance. Which was your favorite? Why?

• A “moral” is a saying that states an accepted societal “rule.” Each of Aesop’s stories have morals. The Shepherd Boy teaches us that “Honesty is the best policy.” What are some of the other morals that you remember from the performance?

• What tools did Diane Ferlatte use during her performance to tell the stories? (voice, face, movement, body)

• Aesop was born in 620 B.C. How many years ago was he born? (Add the current year to 620 to get the answer.) Have the morals and lessons that he wrote about become obsolete?

• If Aesop died a long time ago, why do you think this performance is called Aesop: Alive and Well?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Long before television, movies, radio, video games and even books, people told stories to entertain and teach. The stories were about real or imagined events, but the main point was to share information and enjoyment. Traditionally, stories change with each new telling and each new audience, because each storyteller will add his or her own special talents and experiences to the mix, as will each listener.

Discuss what makes a good story. Point out to students that good storytellers create pictures in the minds of their listeners by the way they describe the place where the story happens (setting); how the people, animals or objects in the story look (characters); the things the characters say (dialogue); and the things the characters do (action).

Ask students to sit together in a circle and create a story. Start the story with an opening line such as “Once upon a time there was a student who kept talking in class.” Go around the circle and ask each student to add a sentence to the story. Students should focus on listening and speaking. Afterwards, discuss the story to see what worked and what students would change.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Discuss how the performance painted pictures in your mind with words, music and actions. Select one of those mental pictures and draw it, using colors to help express the feelings the story created. Use the drawing of your image to retell what happened in that part of the story, what you remember about it and why.

• There are many well-known sayings, or morals, that come from Aesop’s fables. Some examples include “Honesty is the best policy,” “United we stand, divided we fall,” “Misery loves company,” and “You can’t please everybody.” With a partner, select one saying and create a story that illustrates that moral.

• Aesop was born a slave, as were many people from many different countries throughout history. Sometimes people who were enslaved were able to earn or buy their freedom. Other times they were slaves for life with no hope of ever being liberated. Aesop earned his freedom with his stories. Find out more about slavery by research a specific country’s history, the ways people became enslaved, and if slaves from that country were ever able to earn their freedom.

• Discuss why telling stories is a good way to educate and teach an audience. If an audience enjoys hearing a story, are they more likely to remember details?

• Diane Ferlatte uses tools to tell her stories:

**Voice** -- She changes her voice to fit the story’s action or the character’s emotions (inflection and pitch.) She may also speak loud or soft (dynamic), and fast or slow (tempo).

**Face** -- Diane changes her facial expressions to match the different feelings in each story.

**Movement** -- She moves her body and hands to help listeners picture the characters and the actions of the story.

**Music** -- Diane Ferlatte sings some parts of the stories, and Erik Pearson plays the music to help audiences imagine what is happening.

Looking at the tools of the storyteller listed above, try to think of what other professions might use some of these tools, and why? (Teachers, politicians, ministers, policemen?)

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
DIANE FERLATTE TO PERFORM ON __________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Diane Ferlatte 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 Diane Ferlatte. 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.

Style and wit, New Orleans charm and world-wide travels have made Diane Ferlatte an internationally renowned storyteller. She has wowed audiences on six continents as she brings her performances to life through stories, songs, sign language, humor, and audience participation with a repertoire of folktales, myths, legend, fables, as well as personal and historical stories. While many of her stories & songs have African-American roots, she loves to tell any story that holds truths touching upon our common humanity while inspiring students as she passes on values, history, and culture. Awards for her recordings include a Grammy nomination, multiple Parents’ Choice, American Library Association, iParenting Media, Storytelling World, & National Parenting Publications awards. Additional national awards include the NSN’s Circle of Excellence Award, NABS’ Zora Neale Hurston Award, & the California Arts Council’s Highest Ranking.

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, 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

DIANE FERLATTE

DATE: _____________________ TIME: _____________________

SCHOOL: _____________________
OTHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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: