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

DIANE FERLATTE
Have I Got a Story to Tell!
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 brings you stories from yesterday and today, stories of childhood and growing up. She has told stories all over the United States, in New Zealand, Europe, and right here in Southern California at the Hollywood Bowl. Please welcome Erik Person and Diane Ferlatte!"
SPACE
- 6’ wide x 9’ deep minimum
- Portable stages must be sturdy, level and securely lashed

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
- 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:
Diane Ferlatte weaves her tales from many cultures, but her favorite stories have African, Southern and African American roots. Enhancing her gift in the oral tradition is her skill in American Sign Language allowing the art form to be embraced by the hearing impaired community.

In her performances, the multi-talented Ferlatte sings, signs stories, plays the spoons and other instruments (drum, marimba, rattles), and tells folktales, fables, nursery rhymes, and personal stories to the delight and enjoyment of audiences of all ages, cultures and ethnic backgrounds!

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
The black oral heritage is alive and growing among people of African blood, whose ancestors presumably originated storytelling with the creation of civilization in Africa, and among other ethnic groups as well. Brought into the Americas by African captives, the art form remained largely dormant among descendants of the original captives, except in family and church meetings. Now, however, the art is being resurrected and calls for storytellers are crisscrossing the nation and much of the world. Audiences vary from intimate family gatherings to international storytelling festivals. Since the beginning of time, folks have always wanted to spread the word. The ones who can spread the word the most effectively have the ability to “talk dat talk” and “walk dat walk.” They can grab the imagination of the listener and hold on to it for as long as they like, conjuring up images of the good and the bad, the weak and the strong, and the trickster and the fool. They have the ability to make you laugh until you cry, cry until you laugh, stand up and shout, or stare in amazement at their gestures and characterizations.

In the African American culture, past and present, these folks have gone by many names. Today they are called preachers, healers, teachers, comedians, blues singers, poets, dancers, rappers, liars, and historians. Among African people the historian is known as the griot. The griot is a revered individual in the society who is entrusted with the exact cultural history. This exalted position is inherited. There are families in West Africa who have claimed this honor for many generations. The art of the griot requires music and song skill and also an unerring memory.

In a performance, all storytellers will use whatever it takes to get the story across. To hear them is to hear the drum, the heartbeat of Africa. To see them tell the story is to experience highlights of African ritual at its best, a total theatrical performance.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What was your favorite story from the performance?
- What characters did you like the best? Why?
- How did Diane use her body and voice to portray various characters in the stories?
- Did you hear or learn any new words in an African language or in American Sign Language (ASL)?
- What lessons did you learn through the experience of the stories?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

Maps help us find places, but they can also help us find stories. Study maps of the United States and Africa, the two primary locales from which Diane Ferlatte draws her tales. The United States has many regions where people of particular ancestry and culture have settled. Identify a place you are interested in or have always wanted to visit and learn a story which originated there or is associated with that particular area. Examples might be: a Native American legend from the Navajo in the Southwest; a Scandinavian folktale from the Swedes, Norwegians or Finns in Minnesota; or a Latino legend from peoples of Mexican or Central American heritage in California. The continent of Africa is composed of many countries with different cultural groups, each of which has a unique tradition and oral history. Refer to books on African storytelling to find examples from a variety of tribes. Have students share their stories with the class, incorporating the map and/or the journey of a story in the telling.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

- Read a selection of African folktales, such as those featuring the adventures of “Spider” and African American folktales, such as the “Brer Rabbit” stories. Describe what commonalities the folktales of different origins share. Analyze how the stories’ lessons or morals are similar or unique.
- Begin a journal recording daily observations of your life and home environment. Select an entry to use as the basis for a personal history story.
- Give each student an index card which has a “story starter,” a line with which to begin a tale. Have students write their stories and then transcribe them into small blank books. Finally, have them illustrate their work, creating original storybooks.

Suggestions for “story starters”:

I woke up in the middle of the night and...
If I could have three wishes, I think I’d choose...
The funniest thing that has ever happened to me was...

- Look at examples of African art: textiles, masks, sculpture, basketry, beadwork and jewelry. Pick out elements - line, shape, color - that typify the unique aspects of African art in the various media. Observe how the design and style of traditional African sources has influenced and enriched contemporary art and culture.

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: ____________________

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: