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

THE CHAMELEONS
The Wonder of Words
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. The Chameleons have performed their highly acclaimed programs for over one million children and adults all over the world, including North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Please welcome mime artist Keith Berger of The Chameleons performing The Wonder of Words!"
**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

**SPACE**
- 10' wide x 10' deep minimum if on a stage
- Portable stages must be sturdy and securely lashed with no gaps between planks of wood

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

**DRESSING AREA**
- One clean, secured dressing area will be needed either backstage or in the wings

**EQUIPMENT**
- Electrical outlet and extension cord
  - Three chairs
  - Drinking water and cups

**AUDIENCE SEATING**
- Audience should be seated in front of the performers, not to the side

**ARRIVAL**
- 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

**PARKING**
- One space close to 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
THE CHAMELEONS—The Wonder of Words

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Contemporary
CULTURE: American

MEET THE ARTIST:

The Chameleons are a delightful mime duo composed of Keith Berger and Sharon Diskin. When they were children they didn’t dream about being mimes, however each studied acting and appeared in dramatic productions. As teenagers they both attended a performance by world famous mime artist Marcel Marceau, who had an extraordinary ability to create characters without using words. Marceau’s ability had tremendous impact upon each of them, opening their imagination up to a new world of expression and artistry. Keith sought formal training at The American Mime Theatre in New York City and became one of the very first street mimes. Sharon began her mime work with the Oberlin Mime Players. They met and began working as a team in 1985, and have since performed throughout Europe and North America. Their performance style features natural characters involved in real-life dramas in which strong emotions are expressed. The Chameleons are masters of traditional mime illusions and acclaimed for their original mime repertoire. Artistic collaborators, as well as husband and wife, their performances demonstrate that silence, indeed, is golden.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:

Mime, one of the earliest forms for self-expression, was probably first used by ancient cultures as a way to express their adventures, myths and traditions. From the beginning, mimes actions were integral to the national theatres of Japan and China. In the West, mime established its own art form. Greek mime was farcical (in jest) in intent and performed during fall and spring theatre festivals. Roman mime evolved into exaggerated, often obscene, silent shows that were extremely popular. During the Middle Ages, mime was performed by the traveling jester, who was the probable forerunner of today’s comic mime performer. Mime was also presented in more subtle form in church dramas. The Renaissance brought a re-birth of mime as a significant dramatic form that was an important part of Italy’s traveling Commedia dell’Arte. By 1800, mime was popular in many countries as dramatic entertainment. It was incorporated into the performances of the Noh theatre of Japan, and the melodramas of France and America. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the French transformed the art form. Jean-Gaspard Debureau took what had once been crude and slapstick and turned mime into real theatre by creating stories with realistic scenes, fully developed characters, and plots about everyday life. His son began the formal teaching of mime as a systemized technique. After World War I, Etienne Decroux, a student of traditional mime, created a modern system of mime technique with theories, exercises, and specific illusions. His student, Marcel Marceau, inspired an international enthusiasm for the art form with a style based on exacting physical technique, simple, cleanly drawn movements, and the lovable ‘Everyman’ character, named Mr. Bip.

In 1952, Paul J. Curtis founded The American Mime Theatre in New York City. American mime, noted for its strong percussive physicality and its naturalistic playing, represents an exciting alternative to the traditional schools of mime.

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:

Words abound, words all around, everywhere a verb, adjective or noun! “The Wonder of Words” is a mime mystery about words. The Chameleons’ captivating solo performance combines the magical actions of mime with the wonder of words to tell a story about a box of nouns mysteriously missing from the famous Wordheimer Library. Nimbus the Mime finds clues among the verbs and adjectives and, assisted by the audience, puts the clues together to solve the mystery. The performance is designed to create a strong association between actions and words. Three basic parts of speech—nouns, verbs and adjectives - are dramatized and referred to throughout the presentation so that their basic usage and functions become clear, even to the youngest children in the audience.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What part of "The Wonder of Words" did you find most memorable? Why?
- What mime illusions did the performer use to tell the stories?
- How did the mime adjust his posture or movements to indicate the discovery of a clue? What did the mime do to indicate that he wanted assistance from the audience?
- What kinds of feelings or thoughts did you have as you watched the performance? Did you know what happened to the box of nouns or were you surprised?
- What do you think 'the wonder of words' means? Did you need words to understand the story?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—SCIENCE:

A mystery is a story that draws upon the detective's brain-power, keen observation, intelligent guesswork, and ability to imagine and understand motives. "The Wonder of Words" is a mystery that can be used as a model for this writing exercise. Mysteries almost always involve a loss of some kind, a search for - and discovery of clues, witnesses, motives, and of course, a criminal.

Ask students to imagine a room in their home in very specific detail. What are the colors in the room? What kind of furniture, fabric, lighting, and objects are in that room? Are there pictures on the wall? Are there windows? Next, imagine walking into this room and discovering that something isn't right. Look around, and realize that something very important is missing. What is it? What does the object mean to you?

State the problem or mystery, then invent the character who stole the object. Describe the character's appearance and personality. What was their motive for stealing the object? Make up clues and a possible witness. Have students write the story of how they discovered the criminal. After the class has completed writing their stories, divide them into small groups to rehearse and perform their mysteries as mime theatre.

ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

★ In "The Wonder of Words," nouns and verbs are pantomimed. Have students practice their pantomime skills by exploring various nouns and verbs. On index cards, write a short pantomime scene. Have students choose a card and then create a short pantomime scene. Make sure to have a clear beginning and ending. Some suggestions are: get dressed; tie your shoes; make your bed; fly a kite; blow some bubbles.

◆ Have students imagine they are robots with no feelings or emotions. Their movement is stiff and limited to arms and legs moving at right angles and their eyes looking straight ahead. They can speak only in robot-like monotonies. Next, have students slowly become human. They can move freely. They can turn their heads or wave their arms. They have feelings and can laugh or speak. Use their creative movement experience to generate writing in which students describe the differences in movement and expression in being a robot and a human. Ask which they liked best, and give reasons why.

◆ Creative writing comes both from the 'real world' and the imagination. Have students write a short paragraph about 'The Most Amazing Thing I've Never Seen.' They can write anything as fantastic or unlikely as their imaginations will allow. Then, re-orient the assignment by removing the letter ‘N,’ so they write about 'The Most Amazing Thing I've Ever Seen.' It must be something incredible, but real. Suggest they consider the everyday miracles we take for granted - the beauty found in nature, or the sight of a smile spreading across a loved one's face.

★ Have your students practice creative movement which involves the whole body. Guide them on a journey of the imagination by narrating an experience they can physically create. Begin by asking them to walk to the following words: backward, forward, on their toes, on their heels, sad, happy, sneaky, afraid. Next, have students walk over different surfaces - slush, hot sand, ice, a sticky floor, mud. Ask them to consider how their bodies change to express the different circumstances.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE
THE CHAMELEONS TO PERFORM ON ________________________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Chameleons 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 The Chameleons. 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.

The world-renowned Physical Theater duo called The Chameleons, also known as Keith Berger and Sharon Diskin, have captivated thousands of young people world-wide with their electrifying performances. Their highly acclaimed children’s programs are a celebration of theatre magic, wonder and surprise. Magical electric stairways transport audiences through an amazing array of imaginary objects, characters and places. Through audience participation and observation, students are amazed to discover how far their imaginations -- and the Chameleons -- can take them.

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

THE CHAMELEONS

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: