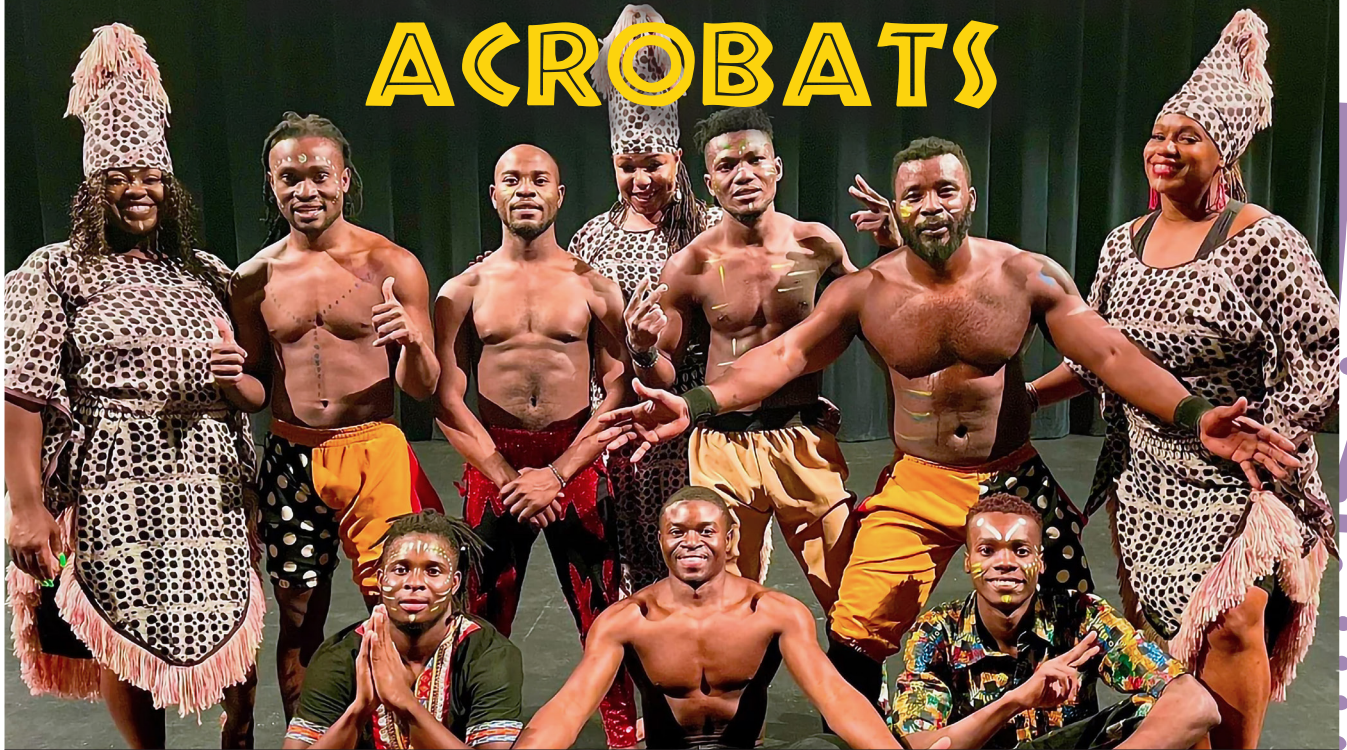




PRESENTS

ZUZU AFRICAN ACROBATS



2022-2023
FIELD TRIP
EDUCATOR GUIDE

Dear EDUCATORS,

Welcome to ArtsBridge's 2022-2023 Field Trip Season!
We are thrilled to present ZuZu African Acrobats to you and your students.

Hailing from Tanzania, ZuZu African Acrobats celebrate the two-thousand-year-old Bantu culture of East Africa. Each member of the cast has received special instructions from elders in the Bagamoyo Arts and Cultural Institute to perform these ancient traditions to audiences around the world.

Thank you for sharing this special experience with your students. We hope this field trip guide helps you connect the performance to your in-classroom curriculum in ways that you find valuable. In the following pages, you will see guidelines regarding your field trip, contextual information about the performance and related subjects, as well as a variety of pre and post discussion questions and assessment activities. On page 17, you'll find the Curriculum Connections included in ZuZu African Acrobats. Please "pick and choose" materials and ideas from the guide to meet the unique needs of your class.

We look forward to inspiring and educating your students through the arts on October 24, 2022 at the world-class Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre!

See you at the theatre,

The ArtsBridge Team

GUIDE CONTENTS

About Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.....	3
Field Trip Guidelines.....	4
Transportation Information	5
Directional Map	6
Local Dining.....	7
Theatre Etiquette.....	8
About the Troupe.....	9
About the Artistic Director.....	10
Pre-Show Activities	11
Theatrical Vocabulary	12
Pre-Show Discussion Topics	13
Vocabulary Words	14
Activities	15-16
Resources	17
Curriculum Connections	17

About Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre



The landmark Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre is a cultural, entertainment and special events venue of a national significance. Atlanta's first major performing arts facility in four decades, Cobb Energy Centre boasts state-of-the-art systems, amenities and design features that allow the expression of any artistic idea and captivate performers, patrons and event planners. The Centre's strong suit is versatility. It can accommodate events as diverse as Broadway, concerts, corporate functions, private parties and family entertainment.

The Centre's distinctive façade and three-story lobby – highlighted by a 65-foot, floor-to-ceiling glass curtain wall – offer visitors a grand welcome and stunning introduction to a venue of great warmth, elegance and possibilities. Nothing speaks "special occasion" like the majestic lobby – a gathering space and promenade with two grand staircases, specially designed, colored-glass chandeliers and walls of Venetian plaster.

The Centre's 2,750-seat John A. Williams Theatre captures the richness and intimacy of vintage theatres. Yet, it incorporates modern touches and technology – including advanced sound, lighting and acoustical elements – that allow fine-tuning for each performance. With equal poise, the Theatre can host concerts, opera, drama, comedy, lectures, dance and spoken word.

The Cobb Energy Centre is a premier location for black-tie balls, galas, wedding receptions, corporate meetings, banquets, bar and bat mitzvahs, and parties.

- 10,000-square-foot ballroom, divisible into 3 sections, holds up to 630 for a seated meal, 800 in theatre setting and up to 650 for a reception
- 2,750-seat theater ideal for graduations or general sessions
- Unique special event spaces on theater stage, 3-level lobby, and outdoor terrace

The Centre is equipped to ensure ArtsBridge's vision of making sure everyone has access to arts experiences. Designated seats in various locations are available at every event for guests with disabilities and those needing special assistance. The venue is equipped with wheelchair accessible restrooms, elevators, plaza ramps, wheelchair accessible ticket windows, phonic ear devices, wheelchair accessible drinking fountains, and handicapped parking. Please call for more information about this and sign language interpreted performances. For safety purposes, ArtsBridge follows the Safety-First Guidelines of the Centre.

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 250,000 patrons visit the Cobb Energy Centre each year.
- The Cobb Energy Centre opened in 2007.
- The Cobb Energy Centre has two main spaces:
 - John A. Williams Theatre, 2,750 seats
 - Kessel D. Stelling Ballroom, 10,000 square feet
- No seat is more than 160 feet from center stage in the John A. Williams Theatre.
- There are 1,000 parking spaces on site.
- The Centre is located one mile from the new Braves stadium and only 15 minutes from downtown Atlanta.
- ArtsBridge programs began in 2007 and reach 30,000 students each year.

Field Trip Guidelines

Below are simple guidelines for ArtsBridge Field Trips to Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. Please read carefully and contact us at (770) 916-2805 if you have questions.

Reservations: All field trip admissions are to be made in advance. Please do not bring more than the number of seats reserved. Performances are expected to sell out and we will not be able to accommodate an increase in numbers at the last minute. All patrons, including teachers and chaperones, must have a reservation in order to attend these performances. Children under the age of three are not permitted to attend.

Payment: Payments must be made in full, 4 weeks prior to the day of show, or we will not be able to accommodate your reservation. An invoice will be given to you at the time your reservation is made. Once you have paid in full, we will send a confirmation, which will serve as your school's ticket into the performance. ArtsBridge reserves the right to cancel unpaid reservations after the payment due date.

Transportation: The Centre can accommodate school buses, vans and cars. Please be aware that vans and cars will incur a \$15 per vehicle parking fee. A third party contractor runs the Centre's garage and charges this fee. There is no charge for parking school buses. All buses, vans and cars must comply with directions provided by on-site staff.

Arrival: All vehicles should approach the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre from AKERS MILL ROAD (map enclosed). Upon entering the driveway, buses will be directed to the circular drive where they will temporarily pull up to the curb for unloading. A Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre representative will board the bus and check-in your school. Students will be immediately unloaded and buses will be directed to their designated parking areas.

Seating: Students are seated as they arrive, starting with the floor level, first row. The exception to this is for programs with older and younger students in attendance at the same time. In this case, students in kindergarten and first-grade will be seated in the first few rows of the theatre. There are three levels of seating, with the back row of the top level no more than 160 feet from the stage.

Restrooms: Please seat your entire group, before taking restroom breaks, so that you can be easily found. Students **MUST** be accompanied by adult chaperones when going to the restroom. We encourage that you take groups so there are fewer trips.

Chaperones: Chaperones have a job to perform while at the Centre. Please make sure that your chaperones are interspersed among students, and that they are prepared for the day's responsibilities. Please discuss restroom visits, emergencies, behavior, etc. with your chaperones prior to arrival.

Behavior: Students and teachers are encouraged to enjoy performances, applaud and express enthusiasm in a manner that is appropriate for the performance, yet not disruptive for others. We request that all phones, tablets and any other electronic devices be completely turned off or on silent mode during the performance. We ask that chaperones on upper levels watch for students tossing or throwing items to lower levels and prevent students from climbing or leaning on railings. No student can leave the audience chamber without an accompanying chaperone. Students/classes that are disruptive may be asked to leave the performance with no refund. (See *Theatre Etiquette* on Page 8)

Departure: Performances last approximately one hour. Upon conclusion of the performance, classes will be dismissed to the designated parking area to board their buses and return to school.

Lunch: There is no facility for students to eat lunch in the Cobb Energy Centre. We recommend students eat lunch at the Galleria Specialty Mall, Cumberland Mall, at a park on the route to/from the venue or on their bus. Check Page 7 for some of ArtsBridge's favorite restaurants to eat at around the theatre! Snack Packs will be provided for students, teachers and chaperones attending an 11am or noon performance. For more information, visit www.ArtsBridgeGA.org/snack-pack-program.



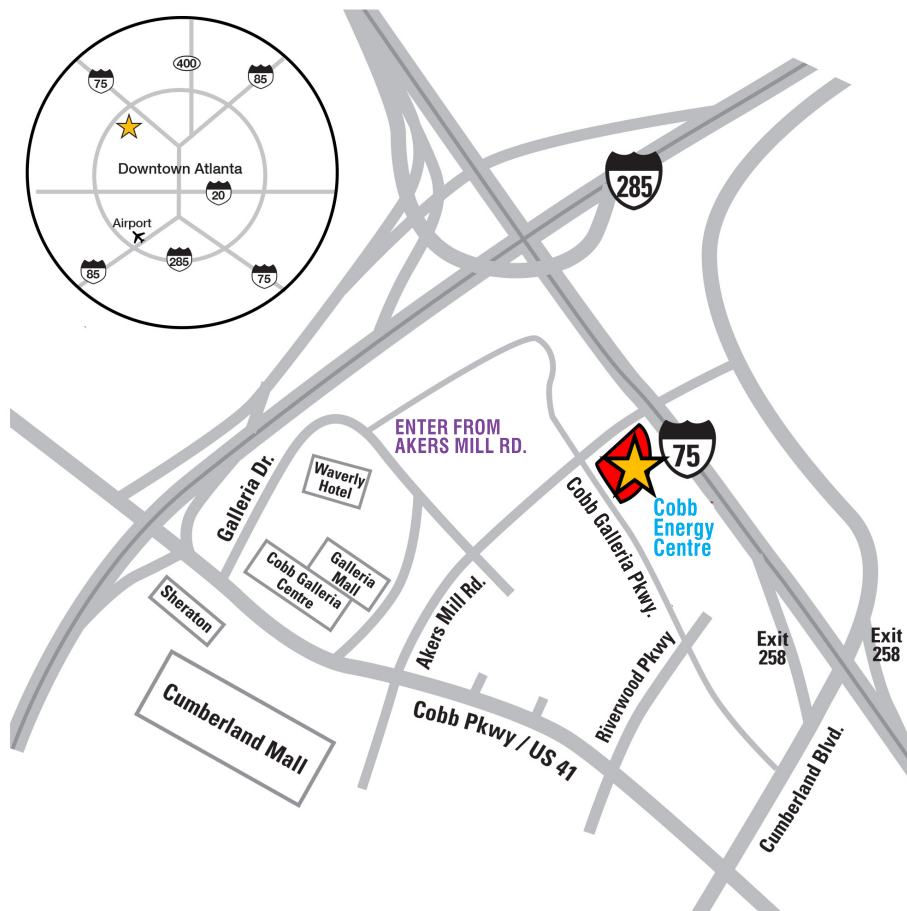
Transportation Information

Buses: All school buses must approach the building from AKERS MILL ROAD on the North side of the building. This will be crucial in assuring a fairly smooth flow of traffic. There will be Centre representatives guiding you. Buses will pull onto the site from behind the building and then drive to the front. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR DRIVERS USE THE MAP BELOW. There is no charge to park school buses on-site.

Checking In: When you arrive at the front of the building, a representative from the Centre will board your bus to check-in your school. You and your bus driver will be given a large number that will be taped to the bus windows. Please remember your number, as it will help you find your bus after the performance.

After the Show: After the performance, buses will be parked in the Centre's surface lot in numerical order and representatives will assist you in locating your bus(es). We encourage everyone to board their buses as quickly and safely as possible. For safety reasons, we hold all buses until everyone has boarded, so please make your way directly to the surface parking lot following the performance (see map below).

Cars/Vans/SUVs: You will approach the building in the same manner, but will park in our parking deck. Please note there is a \$15 per vehicle parking fee for cars/vans/SUVs. After you have parked, make your way to level 2 of the deck and to the west side (theatre side) of the building. When you emerge from the parking deck, there will be a Centre representative to check you in and direct you to your seats.



Additional Map for All Vehicles Attending



2800 Cobb Galleria Pkwy, Atlanta, GA 30339

Local Dining

Food Sponsors

ArtsBridge Program Food Sponsors within driving distance of Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre:

1. Grub Burger
2. Murph's
3. Chick-fil-A
4. Subway

Other Nearby Restaurants

5. Bonefish Grill
6. C&S Seafood and Oyster Bar
7. Carrabba's
8. Chipotle Mexican Grill
9. Chuy's Tex-Mex
10. Cinco's Mexican Cantina
11. Copeland's of New Orleans
12. Fresh To Order
13. Kuroshio Sushi Bar & Grill
14. Longhorn Steakhouse
15. Maggiano's Little Italy
16. Olive Garden
17. P.F. Chang's
18. Stoney River Legendary Steaks
19. Taco Mac
20. Ted's Montana Grill
21. The Cheesecake Factory
22. Top Spice
23. Blaze Pizza
24. Zoe's Kitchen



Theatre Etiquette

A live performance is a unique experience shared between performers and audience members. Unlike television or movies, audience distractions can disrupt the performers, production and audience. Before you arrive at the Cobb Energy Centre, please review the following information with your students and chaperones, and help ArtsBridge create a meaningful experience for all.

- Arrive early. Groups are seated on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats are not assigned for ArtsBridge events.
- Food, drink, candy, gum, etc. is not permitted in the theatre.
- Silence or turn off all electronic devices. We encourage you to share your ArtsBridge experience at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre via social media, but please refrain from doing so or texting during performances; the glow from your device is distracting.
- Photography and video/audio recording of any kind is not allowed in the theatre during the performance.
- Respect the theatre. Remember to keep your feet off of the seats and avoid bouncing up and down.
- When the house lights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please stop talking at this time.
- Talk before and after the performance only. Remember, the theatre is designed to amplify sound, so the other audience members and the performers on stage can hear your voice!
- Use the restroom before the performance or wait until the end.
- Appropriate responses such as laughing and applauding are appreciated. Pay attention to the artists on stage – they will let you know what is appropriate.
- If you need assistance during the show, please find your nearest volunteer usher.
- As you enter and exit the theatre, remember to walk and stay with your group.
- Open your eyes, ears, mind and heart to the entire experience. Enjoy yourself!





ABOUT THE TROUPE

Hailing from Tanzania, ZuZu African Acrobats celebrate the two-thousand-year-old Bantu culture of East Africa. Each member of the cast has received special instructions from elders in the Bagamoyo Arts and Cultural Institute to perform these ancient traditions to audiences around the world.

ZuZu African Acrobats exhibit gravity defying stunts while simultaneously displaying the beauty of the Tanzanian culture of East Africa. This interactive 60-minute show includes human pyramids, dish spinning, stick balance, contortion, chair balance, unicycling, juggling, hand to hand balance, pole acts, hoop diving, as well as comedy and more. Each acrobat has graduated from the Baba Watoto School for Performing Arts which is internationally renowned for producing the highest quality performers.

Some of the highlights of this training include proficiency with the ngoma (drum), contortion (ubishi wa solo), dish spinning (sahani inazunguka), chair balance (kusawazisha kiti), unicycles and bicycle tricks (baiskeli), human pyramids (mazoezi ya viungo) and much more all to the sounds of African beats! The grace, beauty and strength of Africa stands as living testimony presented through living human art and entertainment.





MATIGA KOB

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ZUZU AFRICAN ACROBATS

Percussionist | Dancer | Choreographer | Acrobat | Painter



Matiga Koba is a drummer, dancer, and self-taught painter originally from Tanzania. He grew up surrounded by art, music, and dance in the historical town of Bagamoyo (a village that lies along the Indian Ocean in East Africa). From a very early age he was performing music and dance throughout Tanzania and abroad, with Shada Group, the SAMAWA project and Bagamoyo Spirits Band (led by Vitalis Maembe). His passion in the performing arts naturally led him to pick up a paintbrush and explore the new stories that he could tell with it. In 2008, Matiga participated in the Fredskorpset exchange program, where he traveled to Norway to live and teach African dance and drumming to schoolchildren, as well as hold exhibitions of his artwork. Upon his return to Tanzania, Matiga completed a course in Traditional Dance & Music at the renowned TaSUBa College of Arts in Bagamoyo. He also performed music at festivals (most notably Sauti za Busara and ZIFF festival in Zanzibar) throughout Tanzania with bands such as Jhikoman & Afrikabisa Band, Ashimba, John Nsombi, Bagamoyo Spirits, and Warriors from the East.

In 2010, Matiga moved to the US where he continued performing with various groups, teaching, and

displaying his artwork at numerous exhibitions in Maryland, DC and NYC. In 2012 Matiga re-united with the Mother Afrika Circus, based out of Tanzania, to perform in Dar Es Salaam, as well as take the show on the road for a tour in France and parts of Europe, under the production of Cirque Phenix-Cirkafrica. In Fall 2013, Mother Afrika Circus came for their US premiere and Matiga was thrilled to perform with them on Broadway at The New Victory Theater. That following spring, Matiga joined Mother Afrika Circus for performances at Dollywood and in Costa Rica. From 2013-2018, Matiga performed with Circus Zuma Zuma, where he was based at Jungle Island in Miami, Disney's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, in addition to numerous colleges, festivals and theatre across the US. In early 2020, Matiga joined ZUZU African Acrobats for a US-based tour and has had a summer residency at San Diego Safari Park Zoo in 2020 and 2021. During the typical touring months in 2021, the group pivoted to live-streaming virtual performances for schools and colleges. Matiga is thrilled to expand upon this relationship with Zulu African Acrobats as the Artistic Director, by helping direct and choreograph new and exciting theater performances in the years to come.

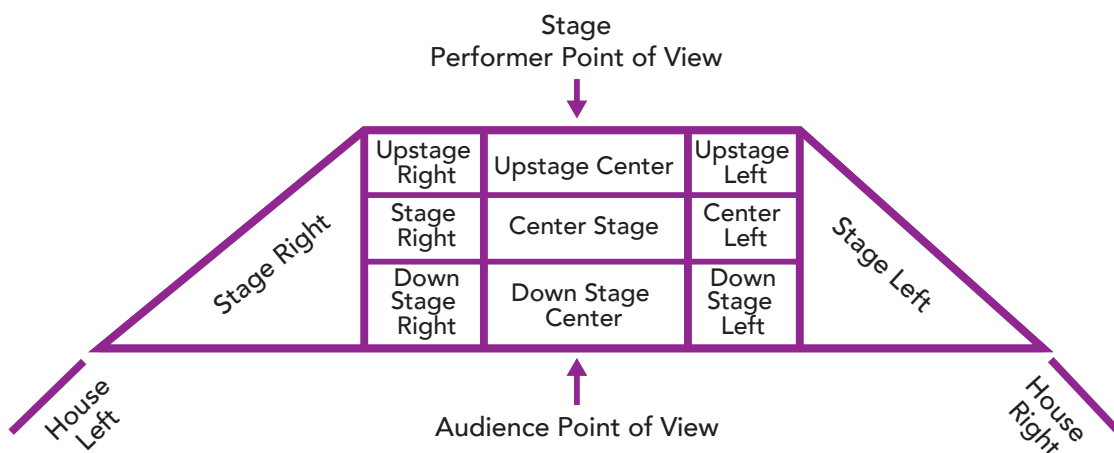
Pre-Show Activities

Before attending an ArtsBridge Field Trip, review the following questions and vocabulary with your students:

1. How many of you have experienced a live theatre performance? What did you see?
2. What are some of the differences between going to the theatre and watching television or going to a movie?
3. The BAD Audience Member! A fun way to review theatre etiquette with your students is to have them point out bad audience behavior during a show. Here's one way to illustrate this concept:



- a. Have students present something to the class. The key is they are “actors” and the class is the audience.
 - b. Once they are into the activity, you (the teacher) leave the room and then re-enter. Enter loudly, chew gum, step on people’s feet, talk to them, etc. Be the worst audience member. Find a seat and continue to talk to others, ask what’s going on in the performance, take pictures, talk on your cell phone etc.
 - c. Ask the class to list all the bad behavior. Write these on the board.
 - d. Ask the audience members how they felt when the bad audience member came into the theatre. Could they hear the actors? Were they distracted?
 - e. Ask the actors how they felt. Could they concentrate on their performance?
4. Review the stage diagram below with the students. Draw the diagram on the whiteboard and have students come up and write in each part of the stage.



THEATRICAL VOCABULARY

Review the following theatrical terms with your students before attending the performance! This will help them better understand all of the elements of a production.

Author – the writer of a script; also called the book

Audition – to perform to get a role for the production; usually includes singing, dancing, and reading scenes from the show; usually takes place in front of the Director & Creative Team

Ballad – a slow song for actors to showcase vocal clarity

Blocking – the specific movement of actors on stage; usually given by the Director

Box Office – a booth inside the theater where tickets are sold

“Calling the Show” – the process of calling out the lighting, sound, and scene-change cues during a performance; usually done by the stage manager

Casting – the process through which actors are chosen for roles in the production

Casting Agent – one who chooses actors for roles in the production

Choreographer – one who designs dance sequences and teaches them to the cast of the production

Composer – one who writes the music

Conductor – one who directs the orchestra

Costumes – a set of clothes in a style typical of a particular country or historical period

Curtain Call – the appearance of one or more performers on stage after a performance to acknowledge the audience’s applause

Director – one who supervises the creative aspects and guides the artistic vision of the production

Dress Rehearsal – rehearsal in which performers practice with costumes, props, lights, and microphones

Dresser – one who assists performers with their costumes during dress rehearsals and shows

Electrician – one who works with the lighting designer to adjust and operate lighting instruments

Ensemble / Chorus – typically singers, dancers, or actors who perform in group numbers

Head Carpenter – one who builds the sets for the production

House Left – the left side of the theater, when facing the stage (audience’s point of view)

House Manager – one who oversees all aspects of the audiences; responsible for ushers and audience safety

House Right – the right side of the theater, when facing the stage (audiences point of view)

Lighting Designer – one who decides where the lighting instruments should go, how they should be colored and which ones should be on at any particular time to affect mood, visibility, and to showcase costumes and sets

Lyricist – one who writes the words to a song

Makeup Artist – one who applies cosmetics to a performer’s face and body

Music Director – one who teaches and rehearses the music with the orchestra

Orchestra Pit – the lowered area in front of a stage where the orchestra (musicians) sit and play during the performance

Overture – an orchestral piece at the beginning of an opera, suite, play, oratorio, or other extended composition

Producer – a person responsible for the financial and managerial aspects of staging a play, opera, musical, ballet, etc.

Program – a listing of the order of events, names of the cast and crew, and other relevant information for the production

Property (Props) Manager – one who manages all items used on stage that cannot be classified as scenery, electrics, or wardrobe

Proscenium arch – the arch opening between the stage and auditorium; the frame of the stage

Read-through – the cast reads through the script without movement or music; typically done at the first rehearsal

Set Designer – one who creates the scenery for the stage

Sitzprobe – the first rehearsal with both the performers and the orchestra, with no staging or dancing

Sound Designer – one who plans and executes the layout of all sound playbook and equipment for the show

Sound Operator – one who handles the sound playbook and mixing equipment for the show; works with Sound Designer

Sound Board – a desk comprising a number of input channels where each sound source is provided with its own control channel through which sound signals are routed into two or more outputs; controls all microphones and music

Spotlights – a lamp projecting a narrow, intense beam of light directly onto a place or person, especially a performer on stage

Standby / Understudy – one who studies a role and is prepared to substitute a performer when needed

Stage Left – the left side of the stage, when facing the audience (performer’s point of view)

Stage Manager – one who is responsible for the quality of the show’s production, assists the director, and oversees the show at each performance

Stage Right – the right side of the stage, when facing the audiences (performer’s point of view)

Technical Rehearsal – rehearsal incorporating the technical elements of a show such as the scene and property shirts, lighting, sound, and special effects

Uptempo Song – a fast, upbeat song for actors to showcase dancing and acting ability

Usher – one who guides audience members to their seats

Wig Master / Mistress – one who obtains and customizes wigs for performers to wear

PRE-SHOW DISCUSSION TOPICS

Use the following questions for classroom discussion before attending Zuzu African Acrobats:

1. What is Africa?
2. Point to where Tanzania is on this map of Africa.
3. The ZuZu Acrobats celebrate their niche culture of Dar Es Salaam through jaw dropping acrobatics, live music, singing, dancing, and more. If you could choose a favorite, what would yours be?
4. Where and how can people learn to dance, sing, and do acrobats?
5. What type of skills might acrobats need to use to conduct their feats?



VOCABULARY WORDS

Baiskell: the art of unicycle and bicycle tricks

Bantu: relating to or denoting a group of Niger-Congo languages spoken in central and southern Africa, including Swahili, Xhosa, and Zulu

Dar es Salaam: city in eastern Tanzania; largest city in the country and largest Swahili-speaking city in the world

Elder: a person of greater age

Kusawazisha Kiti: the art of chair balancing

Mazoezi Ya Viungo: the art of building human pyramids

Ngoma: a drum used by certain Bantu populations of Africa

Sahani Inazunguka: the art of dish spinning

Tanzania: country in East Africa; most populous country south of the Equator; contains Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain

Ubishi Wa Solo: the art of contortion, or the art the skill of twisting and bending one's body into strange and unnatural positions, as a form



ZUZU
African Acrobats
celebrate the
two thousand
year old Bantu
culture of East
Africa.

ACTIVITY #1

Name the countries in Africa and color in Tanzania.



ACTIVITY #2

Fun Facts About Tanzania! Choose the best answer below.

.....

What is the name of the tallest free-standing mountain in the world that is in Tanzania?

- A. Mount Everest
- B. Mount Kilimanjaro
- C. Mount Fuji
- D. Mount Olympus

What colors are in the Tanzanian Flag?

- A. Red, white and blue
- B. Black, red and yellow
- C. Light blue and white
- D. Green, black, light blue, and yellow

What famous river is in Tanzania?

- A. Nile
- B. Amazon
- C. Ganges
- D. Danube

What is the name of the wildlife reserve in Tanzania that is larger than the country of Ireland??

- A. Yellowstone National Park and Reserve
- B. Amazon Rainforest and Wildlife Reserve
- C. Serengeti Nature Reserve
- D. Masai Mara Game Reserve

Which of the world's largest crustaceans is found in Tanzania?

- A. Lobster
- B. Crab
- C. Barnacle
- D. Shrimp

What animal is known for climbing trees in Tanzania?

- A. Lion
- B. Cheetah
- C. Leopard
- D. Hyena

With nearly 130 languages, which is the most spoken language in Tanzania?

- A. English
- B. Swahili
- C. French
- D. Yemba

What is the world's second largest freshwater lake in Tanzania?

- A. Chala
- B. Natron
- C. Tanganyika
- D. Victoria

What is considered the favorite sport of Tanzania?

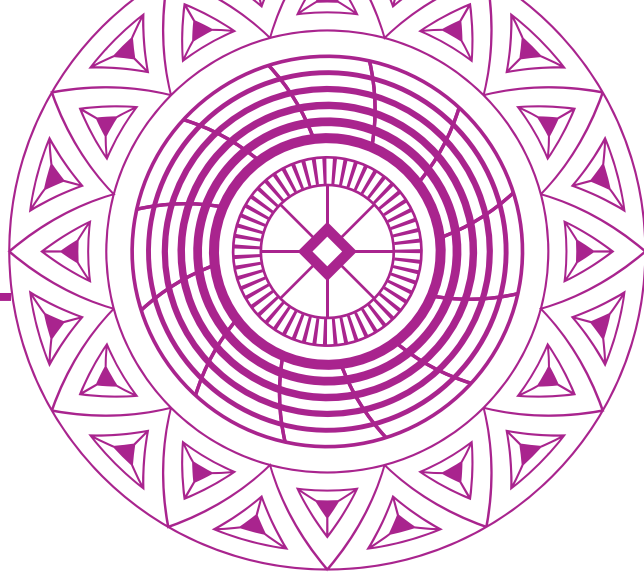
- A. Tennis
- B. Basketball
- C. Football
- D. Soccer

What is the capital city of Tanzania?

- A. Dar es Salaam
- B. Zanzibar
- C. Dodoma
- D. Moshi

Answers: 1. Mount Kilimanjaro 2. Green, black, light blue, and yellow 3. Nile 4. Serengeti Nature Reserve 5. Crab 6. Lion 7. Swahili 8. Victoria 9. Football 10. Dodoma

Resources



WEB LINKS

Africa:

<https://fee.org/articles/25-fascinating-facts-about-africa/>

Bantu:

<https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Bantu>

Tanzania:

<https://unitedrepublicoftanzania.com/>

ZuZu African Acrobats:

<https://www.zuzuafrikanacrobat.com/>

Curriculum Connections

World Dance Forms; Dance History; Music Appreciation; Social Studies -African History; Social

