


artsbridge
foundation
PRESENTS



2016-2017

FIELD TRIP EDUCATOR GUIDE

Dear Educators,

Welcome to ArtsBridge’s 2016-17 Field Trip Season! We are thrilled to present *Rock the Presidents* to you and your students where you too can become president! A rollicking, multi-mediafilled musical revue spanning 223 years of the American presidency with stories of the 44 men who rose to the highest office in the land – from George Washington to Barack Obama. From rockin’ *Sons Of Washington*, the groovy/psychedelic *I’m Not All Bad* to the twangy, horse-riding country western style of *Ronald Reagan*, Childsplay’s *Rock The Presidents* brings our top executive office to life!

Rock the Presidents was created by Childsplay, a professional non-profit theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families. Their Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.

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 18, you’ll find the Common Core and Georgia Performance Standards included in *Rock the Presidents*. Please “pick and choose” materials and ideas from the guide to meet your class’ unique needs.

We look forward to inspiring and educating your students through the arts on February 14, 2017 at the world-class Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre!

See you at the theatre,

The ArtsBridge Team

This study guide was written by Natalie Barrow and Cara Myler and designed by Gibbs Creative.

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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.

For special occasions and events – from wedding receptions and themed parties to corporate banquets and black-tie galas- the Centre's flexible spaces include a 9,500-square-foot Courtyard, 3,100-square-foot Terrace and 10,000-square-foot Ballroom – divisible into three independent spaces, each with autonomous sound and lighting controls. The Ballroom's pre-function area is ideally suited for pre-and post-event gatherings.

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 – 40,000 to 50,000 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, 3 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 \$6 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 7)

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.



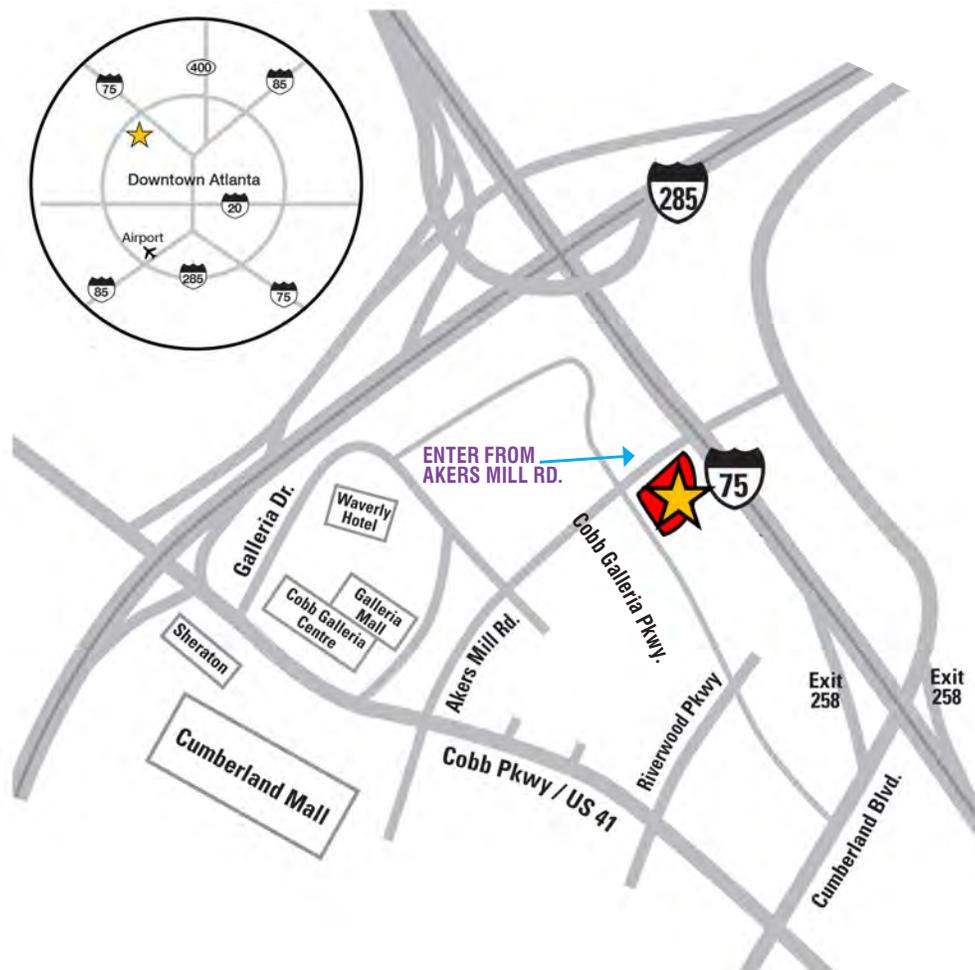
TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

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.

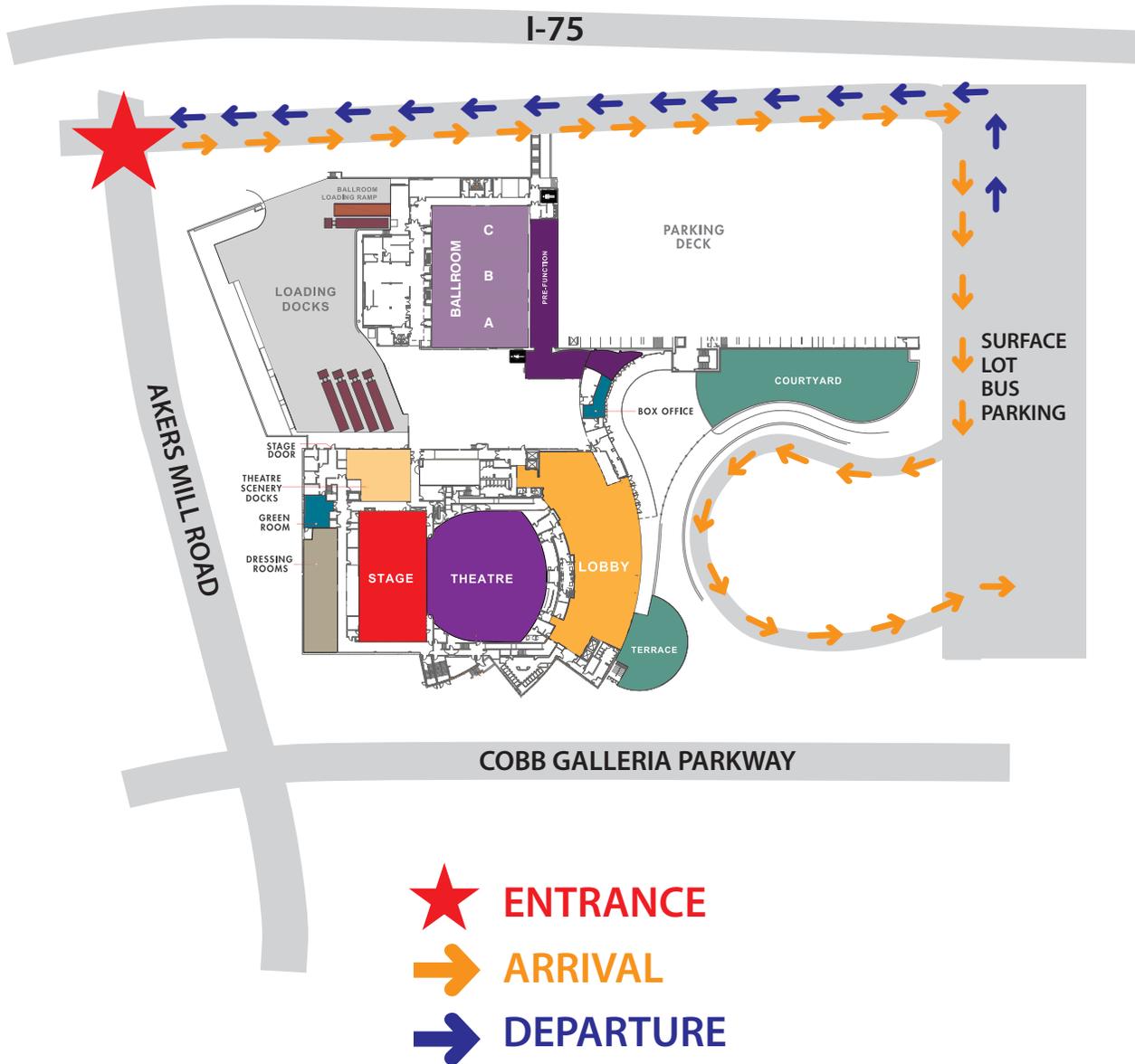
Checking In: When you arrive at the front of the building, a representative from the Centre will board your bus to check-in your school. You and your bus driver will be given a large number that will be taped to the bus windows. Please remember your number, as it will help you find your bus after the 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 \$6 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

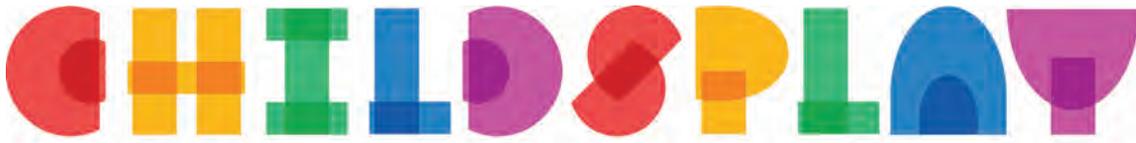
THEATRE ETIQUETTE

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



MISSION: “To create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, those hallmarks of childhood that are the keys to the future.”

Childsplay serves an average annual audience of 200,000 students, teachers, and families.

Founded in 1977, Childsplay is a nationally and internationally respected professional theatre company whose chosen audience is children. At Childsplay we believe that young people deserve to experience challenging, thought-provoking theatre of the highest artistic quality.

Our respect for children’s intelligence and creativity drives us to produce new and innovative works by theatre’s finest artists. Equally, our understanding of the challenges facing Arizona’s classroom teachers leads us to offer arts education resources in 40 communities annually. In the past 36 years, we have educated and inspired more than four million young people and families.

Founder David Saar recognized during his MFA studies that children could reap great benefits from experiences with professional theatre. After graduating, Saar gathered

classmates in a 1964 Chevy Impala, and equipped with basic sets and costumes, began performing in local classrooms. Today, performing in schools remains a core Childsplay activity with three annual touring productions that visit hundreds of schools throughout Arizona. It is estimated that one in five Arizona K-6 students will see a Childsplay production at their school. More than half of this audience lives at or below the poverty level. Alongside the tour season, Childsplay’s annual programming includes: nine months of in-house productions for school and family audiences at the Tempe Center for the Arts; an on-site academy of theatre classes throughout the year; and a variety of education outreach programs embedded throughout the greater Phoenix community.

Childsplay has educated and inspired more than four million young people and families in the past 36 years.

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

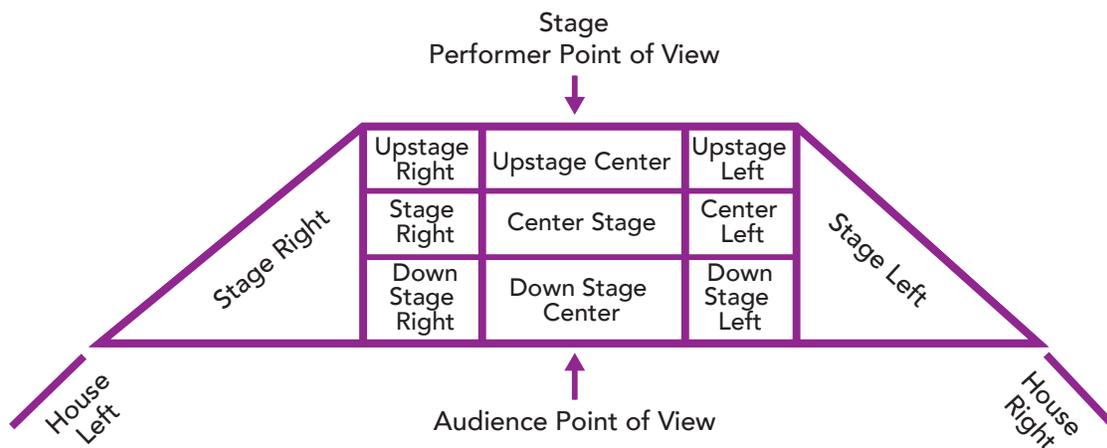
Before attending an ArtsBridge Field Trip, review the following questions and vocabulary with your students:

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 theatre 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 typically 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 theatre, 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 theatre, when facing the stage (audience’s 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 designs 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 audience (performer’s point of view)

Technical Rehearsal – rehearsal incorporating the technical elements of a show such as the scene and property shifts, 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 QUESTIONS



- 1 How many presidents have there been? Name the first 3 presidents that come to your mind. Why do you think you remembered them?
- 2 What does it mean to be a leader?
- 3 What does the President of the United States do?
- 4 What is the difference between seeing a play, seeing a musical and seeing a musical review?
- 5 What stories can you recall about a president? Are there stories that are most likely myths?
- 6 Many presidents have been given nicknames (for example Calvin Coolidge was Silent Cal). Do you know any of these nicknames?
- 7 Throughout history, there have been many political parties. What political parties are you familiar with? Why do we have different political parties?
- 8 First ladies always choose a cause or platform when they are in the White House (Michelle Obama's is fighting childhood obesity). If you were the First Lady or the First Gentleman, what would your cause or platform be?



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE



Rock the Presidents is a high octane, multi-media -filled musical revue spanning 223 years of the American presidency – from George Washington to Barack Obama. The 44 men who rose to the highest office in the land are brought to life through all-new rock, pop and folk music. Audiences young and old alike will learn something new about our Presidents, while perhaps seeing something of themselves reflected in the stories on stage. With songs like “The Sons of Washington”, a driving rock anthem honoring Washington’s revolutionary idea of peacefully giving up power, and the jazz-inspired “Who In the World is Millard Fillmore?” celebrating some of the lesser-known Commanders in Chief, *Rock the Presidents* is sure to entertain and inform audiences of all ages.

Dwayne Hartford, book and lyrics, is a Phoenix based playwright, director and actor. He is an associate artist and playwright in residence with Childsplay. Sarah Roberts, music, is a singer, songwriter and sound designer. She is a member of the musical group The Ladies Gun Club. She lives in Los Angeles, California.



THEMES AND CURRICULAR TIES:

- ★ United States History/ Presidents
- ★ Musical Styles
- ★ Historical Media
- ★ Social Studies – Government
- ★ Biography
- ★ Rhyming
- ★ Storytelling
- ★ Unlikely Heroes
- ★ Actions and Consequences
- ★ Ethics and Morality
- ★ Civics/Citizenship
- ★ Visual Elements of Design



10 INTERESTING Presidential Facts*



1 **RONALD REAGAN** once tried stand-up comedy. In 1954, Ronald Reagan's acting career was going so badly that he took a gig as a Las Vegas stand-up comic for a few weeks.

2 **GROVER CLEVELAND** and his wife had a child, Ruth, who was the namesake of the candy bar Baby Ruth.



3 **WARREN HARDING** lost the White House china in a poker game! Our 29th President really like to gamble, although it seems he wasn't very good at it. In one poker game, he bet the White House china collection and lost it all in one hand.



4 **GERALD AND BETTY FORD** were fashion models. In the 1940's Gerald Ford did a bit of modeling and even posed on the cover of "Cosmopolitan." His wife Betty was also a dancer and fashion model, who signed with the John Robert Powers modeling firm to finance her dance education.

5 **JAMES A. GARFIELD** was ambidextrous. Not only was he the first president to be both righty and lefty, but it was said he could write a sentence in Latin with one hand and write it in Greek with the other hand.

6 **ULYSSES S. GRANT** got a speeding ticket...on a horse! The 18th President Of The United States was given a \$20 speeding ticket for riding his horse too fast down a Washington street. You'd think he could have talked his way out of that one.

7 Supposedly, President **VAN BUREN** popularized one of the most commonly used phrases to date: "OK", or "Okay". Van Buren was from Kinderhook, NY which was also called "Old Kinderhook". His support groups came to be known as "O.K. Clubs" and the term OK came to mean "all right."

8 **HERBERT HOOVER** moved his family to China before becoming President, and he and his wife learned to speak Mandarin Chinese fluently. They would speak the language around the White House to prevent others from understanding them.

While in the Navy, **RICHARD NIXON** noticed that his friends were winning money in poker games. Always the opportunist, Nixon had the best poker player in his unit teach him how to play the game. Within only a few months, Nixon had won around \$6,000 in poker games, which he used to fund his first congressional campaign.

President **BARACK OBAMA** collects "Spiderman" and "Conan The Barbarian" comic books, and has even read every "Harry Potter" book.



*From The Huffington Post, 22 Ridiculous Things You Didn't Know About US Presidents, 2/21/11, www.huffingtonpost.com

PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA



- 1** Who are the four presidents carved into the Mount Rushmore monument?
- A.** Lincoln, Roosevelt, Truman, Nixon
 - B.** Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Lincoln
 - C.** Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison
 - D.** Adams, Jefferson, Carter, Bush



- 2** How many presidents died in office?
- A.** 8 **B.** 6 **C.** 3 **D.** 11

- 5** What is John F. Kennedy's middle name?
- A.** Frederic
 - B.** Frank
 - C.** Filbert
 - D.** Fitzgerald

- 7** What was one of Ronald Reagan's nicknames?
- A.** The Great Communicator
 - B.** The Gipper
 - C.** Ronnie
 - D.** All of the above

- 3** Which president never lived in the White House?
- A.** Harrison
 - B.** Washington
 - C.** Garfield
 - D.** Carter

- 6** President Coolidge had many unique pets including one named Billy. What was Billy?
- A.** a goat
 - B.** a rabbit
 - C.** a pygmy hippo
 - D.** a parrot

- 4** Who was the first president to appear on a US coin?
- A.** Obama
 - B.** Kennedy
 - C.** Lincoln
 - D.** Jefferson



Trivia Answers:
1=B, 2=A, 3=B, 4=C,
5=D, 6=C, 7=D

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FIRST LADIES?



Here are some interesting facts:



Sarah Polk, 1803-1891

James Polk's wife worked as the president's secretary without taking a salary, and forbid dancing and card playing the White House.



Lou Hoover, 1874-1944

Herbert Hoover's wife was the first woman to graduate from Stanford University with a geology degree. She also spoke Chinese fluently.

Pat Nixon, 1912-1993

Richard Nixon's wife created White House tours for the blind and deaf, and was the first first lady to wear pants in public.



Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962

Franklin D. Roosevelt's wife was the first first lady to hold regular press conferences, write a daily newspaper column and a monthly magazine column, and host a weekly radio show.



Barbara Bush, 1925-

George H.W. Bush's wife is the second first lady to be both the wife and mother of a president (Abigail Adams was the first), and the only one to write a memoir from her dog's perspective.



Michelle Obama, 1964-

The first African American first lady, she started Let's Move!, a campaign to fight childhood obesity and Joining Forces, a campaign to raise awareness of military families' unique needs pertaining to employment, education and wellness.

WORD SEARCH



Circle the names of the presidents. Even though some presidents had the same name, there are no duplicates in this puzzle! Names can go up, down, diagonally or backwards. Check the names off as you find them.

Word List:

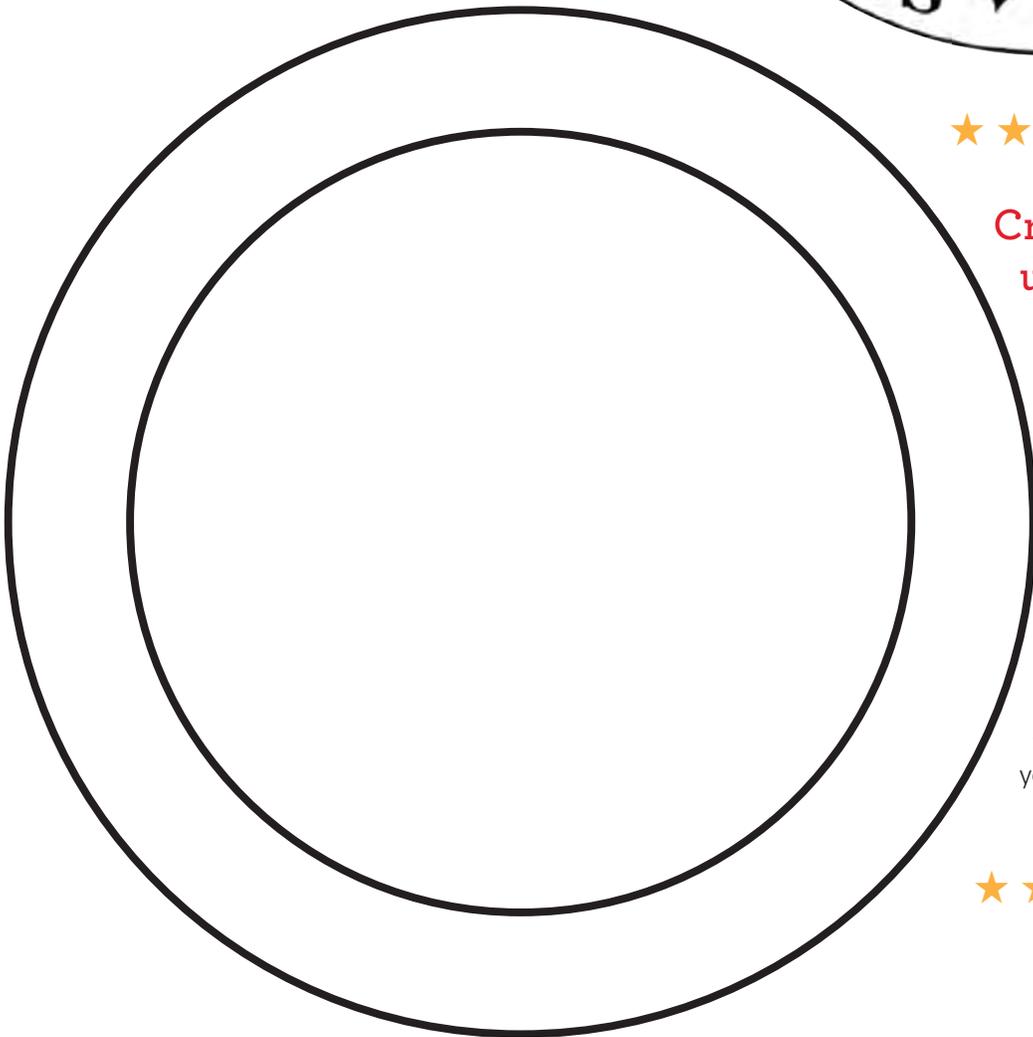
ADAMS	EISENHOWER	HOOVER	MONROE	TRUMAN
ARTHUR	FILLMORE	JACKSON	NIXON	VANBUREN
BUCHANAN	FORD	JEFFERSON	OBAMA	WASHINGTON
BUSH	GARFIELD	JOHNSON	PIERCE	WILSON
CARTER	GRANT	KENNEDY	POLK	
CLEVELAND	HARDING	LINCOLN	ROOSEVELT	
CLINTON	HARRISON	MADISON	TAFT	
COOLIDGE	HAYES	MCKINLEY	TAYLOR	

A R T H U R B E A E C A R T E R K N
J O H N S O N U R O R L I N C O L N
H F E T T N O O S R O B R I N N O N
F A A I I A M E N H O N N I A O O N
E F R X S L Y O A R S A O W G C N O
T C O D L E S L E O E M S R A O O S
C N R I I K N V O I V U I T E O S L
L N F E C N O H R R E R R N R L I I
E R E A I O G I O R L T R A I I D W
V N J A H P O A A W T O A R O D A N
E J E F F E R S O N E H H G N G M D
L W A S H I N G T O N R A E N E T L
A L P O L K M O N R O E R Y U O T E
N E K E N N E D Y R O U I L E E T I
D E M C K I N L E Y B A I W O S T F
B U C H A N A N A N C L I N T O N R
T Y L E R S E A A R T R O B A M A A
E F O R D E O V T L A D A M S O T G



COLOR THE PRESIDENTIAL SEAL

The Presidential Seal appears officially on medals, stationery, publications, flags, monuments, and architectural decoration. In 1945, Truman redesigned the Presidential Seal and Flag. The eagle's head used to face the arrows of war. He believed that the president, although prepared for war, should always look toward peace which is why the eagle's head is now turned toward the olive branches. He added 48 stars to stand for each state in the union at that time. Today the seal includes 50 stars, one for each state.



Create your own seal using the pattern to the left.

Think about who you are and write your title in the outer circle (Seal of the _____ of the _____).

Design a logo for the center. What does your logo represent?

Choose a motto for your seal. What does your motto mean?

Choose colors and then color your seal.



GEORGIA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS



ELA

ELACCK-8KKRL1, ELACCK-8KRL2, ELACCK-8KRL3

Theater

TAES3-12.10

Social Studies

SS1H1-SS3H1, SS4H4, SS4H5, SS2CG2, SS3CG1, SS4CG4, SS4CG1, SS5H1, SS6H6, SS5H8, SS5CG1, SSC-7CG1, SS8H6

Dance

D3-12FD.2, D4-12FD.3, D3-12CR.2, D3-12CO.4

Music

M3GM.6-8, M4GM.6-8, M5GM.6-8, M6GM.6-8, M7GM.6-8, M8GM.6-8, M9GM.6-8, M10GM.6-8, M11GM.6-8, M12GM.6-8



POST-SHOW QUESTIONS



- 1 What are 3 things you learned about any of the presidents from the performance?
- 2 What was your favorite part of the performance?
- 3 Do the actors play characters in this musical review?
- 4 What different styles of music do you recall from the production? Why do you think the playwright and composer chose different styles of music for this production?
- 5 Would you want to be the president? Why or why not?
- 6 What are the things you would want to change if you were president?
- 7 Because it's a touring show, all of the set, costumes, sound, props and projections for *Rock the Presidents* have to fit into a van. If you could design the production elements and had endless money and space, what would you do differently?
- 8 Many presidents are known for the legacy they leave behind. What does it mean to leave a legacy? What would you want your legacy to be?
- 9 Can you think of a president who was remembered for negative reasons?
- 10 If one of your parents was president and you were going to live in the White House, what would you want to bring with you?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES



#1 Write a Letter

Goal: To reflect on the performance experience and to practice writing skills.

When: After the performance.

Explanation: After the show, students will write letters to *Rock the Presidents* performers or to ArtsBridge donors whose support keeps field trip tickets accessibly priced for school groups.

Activity:

1. After attending the performance, discuss the experience with your students. Use the following discussing questions to guide the conversation:
 - a. What was the show about?
 - b. What parts of the show were most exciting?
 - c. Which character did you enjoy the most? Why?
 - d. What did the characters learn?
2. Next, invite students to write a letter to the performers or to ArtsBridge donors about their theater experience.

a. Letter Example #1

Dear *Rock the Presidents* Performers,
My favorite part of the show was....
While watching your show I felt... because...
I have drawn a picture of the scene when....
If I could be in your show, I would play the part of ... because...

b. Letter Example #2

Dear ArtsBridge donors,
Thank you for helping my class go to the Cobb Energy Centre to see *Rock the Presidents!* My favorite part of the show was.... While I was watching the show I felt... because... I have drawn a picture of the scene when... This experience was special because...

3. After writing the letter, students can illustrate a scene from the performance.
4. Last, mail the letters to use and we'll make sure they get to the right people.

ArtsBridge Foundation
Attn: Education Department
2800 Cobb Galleria Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339

Follow-Up Discussion Questions:

1. What did you choose to share in your letter? Why?
2. How does receiving a letter make you feel?
3. How do you think the recipient of your letter will feel when he or she receives your letter? Why?
4. Why do you think the performers choose to make being a performer their career?
5. Why do you think people give money to help students like you attend ArtsBridge performances at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES



#2 Write a Review

Goal: To write a review of the performance.

Explanation: In this activity, students will reflect on the performance by writing their own review.

Activity:

1. Ask students to imagine that they are a critic for the school newspaper. They are going to write a review of *Rock the Presidents* to inform others about what they experienced.
2. In the review, they should describe with details:
 - a. What they saw
 - b. What they heard
 - c. How the performance made them feel
 - d. What the performance reminded them of
 - e. What their favorite part was and why
3. Remind students that they must paint a picture of the experience with their words so that others who did not see the performance can imagine it as vividly as possible.

Follow-Up Questions:

1. What did you include in your review? Why did you want to share that particular idea?
2. What things did writing the review make you think about that you hadn't thought of by just watching the show?



RESOURCES



INTERESTING INTERNET LINKS:

www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents
The White House's history of the presidents

www.presidentsusa.net
A comprehensive history of all things presidential

www.history.com/topics/the-us-presidents
History with video links

www.whitehouse.gov/our-government
About the branches of US government

www.littleknownfactsshow.com/presidents.html
Great factoids

<http://politics1.com/parties.htm>
Political parties in the US

www.aboutfamouspeople.com/article1135.html
History of assassinations and attempts

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/peopleplaces/georgewashingtonicecream>
Fun Facts for kids

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/stories/animalsnature/uspresidentialpets>
Facts about White House pets

www.icivics.org
Web-based education project designed to teach students civics and inspire them to be active participants in our democracy

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/features/96/whitehouse/whhome.html>
Fun interactive site that puts you in the White House!



**Child's Play Theatre Resources*