Set the Stage
Volunteer Docents Prepare Students for Live Theater Experience

Do you know why the Minutemen wore tri-corner hats? Students who attended The Midnight Ride of Paul Revere performance sure do… thanks to our Set the Stage docent Rachel Zierdt. A retired teacher of 38 years, Zierdt conducts pre-show classroom visits for students scheduled to attend our school shows.

“During the colonial times when men fought with muskets, they wore tri-corner hats because they were much less apt to fall off than a hat with a round brim,” explains Zierdt.

As a Set the Stage docent, Zierdt prepares students for the performance they’ll soon be seeing. Her 15-minute classroom visits often feature artifacts and other hands-on tools, such as a hunk of black tea (similar to the kind used in the Boston Tea Party)… or a tri-cornered hat.

“It’s a short visit, but we achieve a lot. Students gain a sense of context. So when they arrive at the theater they have a better understanding about the history, the vocabulary, and the context of the show… which makes for a much deeper experience.”

Zierdt is one of several docents working with the new Set the Stage program. In addition to prepping students for the performance, docents also help children prepare for the live theater experience.

“It’s important to explain the difference between watching a movie or a television program and a live theater performance,” said docent Julie Harrelson, who is also a professional singer and mother of a third grader. “It’s thrilling to see how excited the kids are about going to the theater and gratifying to be a part of helping them to have a deeper appreciation for the arts.”

During the inaugural year of Set the Stage, docents visited with nearly 250 students in 10 classrooms.

Calling All Retired Teachers!
Will you help us grow our successful Set the Stage program? As a volunteer docent, you will play a vital role in bridging education and the arts. Please call Melanie Snook at 707-527-7006, ext. 119.
`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.
– “Jabberwocky” by Lewis Carroll
(Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There, 1872)

Music and Poetry Combined
A Powerful One-Two Punch for Learning

Part puzzle and part adventure, Lewis Carroll’s classic tale was brought to life on stage this spring in the school show Jabberwocky by Tales & Scales. Students and teachers from across the North Bay experienced the nonsense poem as told with musical instruments. Those who also participated in the corresponding Artists in the Schools mini-residency had an even more in-depth experience by participating in a series of workshops, including three classroom visits.

Working with local teacher and performer Andrew DeVeny, students investigated the relationship between music and poetry to create a vocal-percussion poetry ensemble. Students learned the four instrument groups and how different instruments can be made to sound ominous, sad, happy, or flighty. By exploring nonsense words, rhyme, and rhythm, students gained a deeper understanding for Lewis Carroll’s unique story of the Jabberwock, as told in his epic tale, Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There.

Each year, our Artists in the Schools program provides five opportunities to bring teaching artists into your classroom for a mini-residency, including three classroom visits. These classroom lessons always align with a school show and use the arts as a tool for teaching other core subjects. Programs this year included lessons in science and movement, American history and visual art, and Chinese culture and kinesthetics.
Campus Art

Take a Walking Tour of Art on Campus

The next time you come to a performance at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, take a look around our campus. It’s brimming with sculptures and artwork from artists near and far! The art exhibited around campus provides an excellent opportunity to extend your field trip to the Center by taking your students on a self-guided walking tour. Also, be sure to stroll upstairs near our administration offices to see our new art panels showcasing the creative talents of our local school children.

For a map of art on campus and further details about the walking tour, or to learn more about showcasing your student artwork, please call Tracy Sawyer at 707-527-7006, ext 154.

Music For Schools

It’s Time for Spring Cleaning to Help Stock Our Shelves!

Go ahead and dust off that tuba sitting in the back of your closet and “bring it on down” to our Music For Schools office at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts located at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

Music For Schools relies on donated instruments to stock the shelves of its instrument lending library. The only such program in the North Bay, Music For Schools places instruments into the hands of students who can not afford to rent or purchase their own.

New or used instruments and donations to the instrument repair fund are all welcome. Thanks to our community’s support, Music For Schools plays an integral role in providing the rich educational benefits of music for our children.

For information about borrowing or donating an instrument please call Tracy Sawyer at 707-527-7006, ext. 154.
School Shows

Come have fun and learn a lot too! We have 22 outstanding school performances planned for 2008-2009. All shows meet California content standards, providing entertaining and educational experiences for all grade levels.

Coming Soon!
*Information subject to change.

Look for our brochure and order form arriving in August for confirmed shows, dates, and times.

Visit wellsfargocenterarts.org later this summer to view the final schedule and download program materials, including study guides.

Slammin All-Body Band
Thursday, October 2, 2008
in the Carston Cabaret
This ferociously talented ensemble creates soulful sounds infused with infectious harmonies and lightning-fast improvisations, percussively punctuated by beat-boxing and body music, all performed without any instruments.

Four Winds
American Indian Dance Group
Friday, October 10, 2008
in the Person Theater
History and tradition come to life in the dances and customs of the Plains Indians. A true fan favorite!

Wings of Courage
by Mad River Theater Works
Thursday, November 13, 2008
in the Person Theater
Determination and perseverance helped African-American Eugene Bullard overcome discrimination while serving in World War I. Don’t miss this performance based on his true life story.

Four Winds
American Indian Dance Group
Friday, October 10, 2008
in the Person Theater
History and tradition come to life in the dances and customs of the Plains Indians. A true fan favorite!

James and the Giant Peach
by Two Beans Productions
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
in the Person Theater
Join James and his new friends in this magical adventure based on Roald Dahl's beloved book.

The East Village Opera Company
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
in the Person Theater
Students love rock but do they love opera? They’ve never heard opera rocked like this! Students will be amazed by this fresh sound, which invigorates opera and electrifies the classics.

Romeo & Juliet
by The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival
Monday, December 1, 2008
in the Person Theater
Shakespeare’s classic tale of two star-crossed lovers is perfect for introducing students to Shakespeare or for students well-versed in his work.

Franklin’s Family Christmas Concert
Tuesday, December 2, 2008
in the Person Theater
Celebrate the holiday season Franklin the Turtle style, with lots of audience participation, singing, dancing, and the jolliest Christmas spirit ever!
The Ant and the Elephant
by IntraMusic Theatricals
Tuesday, February 3, 2009
in the Person Theater
This new family musical based on the children’s classic by Walt Disney’s Bill Peet tells the story of how one good deed inspired a most unusual friendship.

The Hot Club of San Francisco
Friday, January 16, 2009
in the Carston Cabaret
Join this ensemble of accomplished and versatile musicians celebrating the tradition of fine French Gypsy Swing.

Cuentos del Arbol
by The Pushcart Players
Thursday, February 26, 2009
in the Person Theater
Back by popular demand! This delightful bilingual musical drawn from Spanish and Latin American folklore provides enhancement in both language and the arts. Perfect for ELL students!

The Peeking Acrobats
Thursday, January 15, 2009
in the Person Theater
Hailing from the People’s Republic of China, this dynamic performance mixes the ancient folk art of acrobatics with the pageantry of a Chinese carnival.

The American Place Theatre presents
The Secret Life of Bees
from the novel by Sue Monk Kidd
Friday, February 6, 2009
in the Carston Cabaret
In this verbatim adaptation of The New York Times bestseller set during the Civil Rights Movement, a young girl’s search for the truth about her mother leads her to three beekeeping sisters and the discovery of the true meaning of family.
Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters by Dallas Children’s Theater
Friday, March 6, 2009
in the Person Theater
Told through traditional chanting and African song, this story of goodness, generosity, and love takes you along with Mufaro’s two daughters, of very different disposition, as they travel to see the king in hopes of becoming his wife.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Monday, March 11, 2009
in the Person Theater
For more than thirty years, this group has married the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African musical traditions to the sounds and sentiments of gospel music.

The Rainbow Fish by ArtsPower
Thursday, April 2, 2009
in the Person Theater
How can the Rainbow Fish share the one thing that makes her so unique with others? Marcus Pfister’s bestselling book is adapted in this delightful musical about the value of sharing true friendship with others.

Ailey II
Thursday, March 12, 2009
in the Person Theater
See one of the most popular dance companies in the country, universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of great young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today’s most outstanding emerging choreographers.

Butterfly: The Story of a Life Cycle by Hudson Vagabond Puppets
Friday, March 13, 2009
in the Person Theater
Students discover the symbiotic relationship between the monarch butterfly and the milkweed plant through unique puppetry.

Pippi Longstocking by American Family Theater
Friday, April 3, 2009
in the Person Theater
Based on the most “read-it-again” book in school libraries worldwide, Astrid Lindgren’s beloved story is brought to life in a jubilant musical bursting with whimsy and fun.

The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe by TheatreworksUSA
Friday, April 24, 2009
in the Person Theater
Four children of war-torn England accidentally enter the land of Narnia by climbing through a magic wardrobe in this enchanting musical based on C.S. Lewis’ story of adventure.

Anne Frank: A Voice Heard by American Family Theater
Thursday, March 19, 2009
in the Person Theater
The tragic story of Anne Frank’s struggle during the Holocaust is brought to life through the lens of hope.

Mexica by Martin Espino
Friday, May 1, 2009
in the Person Theater
Come along on a cultural journey to ancient Aztec soil for a showcase of traditional dances.
Professional Development

A West Coast Home for Kennedy Center Workshops
New Opportunities for Classroom Modeling and Teaching ELL

From insightful ways to use tableau in teaching to methods for integrating math and movement, participants in our professional development workshops are discovering new ways to bring the arts into their classrooms to make learning more dynamic, in-depth, and fun.

Presented in conjunction with the esteemed Kennedy Center’s Partners in Education program, the workshops feature the nation’s leading teaching artists. Each three-hour workshop is provided at a nominal fee for any teacher interested in participating.

In addition, this year we’ve added a classroom modeling component to the program, where the teaching artist uses workshop techniques with students in the classroom. While it isn’t possible to provide this opportunity for every classroom, all teachers are welcome to attend the modeling session and observe the work.

NEW next school year, we’ll be offering a four-part course focusing on new ways for teaching English language learners (ELL) through the arts, more opportunities for demonstration teaching, and a summer institute. Plus we will continue to offer three-hour workshops. Please look for our brochure arriving in early August for dates and details.

Three Cheers for Our Donors!!

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Contact Us
707-527-7006, ext. 119 or melanies@wellsfargocenterarts.org

Anita Wiglesworth, Director of Education & Outreach
Tracy Sawyer, Education & Outreach Manager
Melanie Snook, Education & Outreach Coordinator
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With nearly 20 years of experience, the non-profit Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is your Education Through the Arts resource.

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