

TALKING POINTS FOR CLASSROOM DISCUSSION: POSADA NAVIDEÑA

Show & Theater Company:

- Posada Navideña by Calidanza Dance Company

Art Form:

- Music, Dance, Cultural Arts

Context:

- “Folklórico” is a traditional type of dancing from Latin America, characterized by exaggerated movements, pointed toes, and costumes of big, colorful skirts
- ? Who can tell me how to say “Merry Christmas” in Spanish? (Feliz Navidad)
- This show is a ballet folklórico interpretation of a pastorela, which is a traditional Christmas custom throughout Latin America
 - ? Does anyone know what a “pastorela” is?
 - A pastorela is the recreation of Mary and Joseph’s journey to find shelter during the birth of baby Jesus. In Latin America, people go door to door (like carolers do here in the U.S.) and sing to be let in to homes. The first three homes respond by singing that they will not let the travelers in, but the last home does let them in. Then everyone participates in a fiesta!
 - In Mexico, this tradition is over 400 years old!

Main Concepts:

- Tradition, celebrating Latino culture, and learning about holiday customs from another culture
- ? What are some customs or traditions your family has for celebrating the holidays?

Special Things to Look For: (3 min.)

- Choreography (dance steps)
- How the performers use the whole stage
- Costumes – look for bright colors and how the dancers use their costumes as part of the dances

Theater Etiquette:

- Respect the theater, limit bathroom breaks, one person to a seat, do not kick the seats, no food or drink in the theater (bottled water okay), no audio, video recording or photography and remember to turn off cell phones/no texting (students and adults).
- ? How is watching live theater different than watching a movie or TV?
 - Can’t pause, rewind, or fast forward with live theater. Every sound students make and moving around can affect the performers and other members of the audience.

Show info: *Posada Navideña* • Friday, December 12, 2018 • 9:30am • Grades K-12

Countries of Latin America



