

Study Guide for Teachers

Peter Hart / Atlanta Puppet "International Show"

Grades: Pre-K - 5

Audience Limit: 230 (Adjustable)

Length: 30 – 50 min. (Adjustable)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Peter Hart delivers another fascinating show of puppetry skills with "The International Show". The word "deliver" serves as a key concept for the performance as Mr. Hart takes on the role of a world traveler that has brought packing crates of different sizes for the show. It is as if your venue has just received a puppet shipment from far off lands. Together, Mr. Hart and the audience discover the contents of each crate as they are unpacked for the first time on stage.

Unique international puppets, direct audience participation, and adjustable format length make the performance an excellent choice for "Arts Day" and "International Day" focused events.



Audience Etiquette

This program, like all Peter Hart / Atlanta Puppet programs, features a degree of audience interaction. Mr. Hart is adept at leading the audience through their interactive roles. There are some things you can do that will enhance and improve basic audience etiquette:

- ✓ Before the program, discuss with your students what makes a good audience.
- ✓ Compare appropriate behavior for different kinds of audience situations – e.g., rock concert, sporting event, ballet.
- ✓ Students will get more out the program if they come prepared. Use this guide to help students anticipate what to listen and look for.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Peter Hart has long been regarded as one of the finest and skillful professional puppeteers in the South. He has performed as Head Puppeteer in over 70 different professional puppetry productions that have won 4 International Awards from UNIMA.

Peter specializes in developing and presenting puppet performance programs that go beyond adaptations of traditional fables. His original scripts reflect his vast knowledge of puppetry as a valid performance art form; his 20+ year experience as a professional puppeteer; and his desire to introduce audiences to puppet forms not commonly seen on television.



Peter Hart
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www.atlantapuppet.com

Study Guides Available at:
www.atlantapuppet.com

Program Description

Through his years of experience as a professional puppeteer, Peter Hart has studied and performed with various forms of puppetry from around the world. The International Show provides an opportunity to demonstrate several puppets from his international collection and share with audiences an interest in different cultures.

The puppeteer (Mr. Hart) takes on the role of a deliveryman that is delivering the puppets in crates. The performance utilizes a world map to plot the different countries of origin before each puppet is demonstrated,

The crates are opened to reveal the puppets contained therein and Mr. Hart is there to demonstrate through performance how each puppet works.

The Program Segments Include:

- ◆ Snake Charmer – India – A snake charmer marionette charms a beautiful cobra with lively music on his flute. Audience participation as students discover their own hands can be "snake puppets".
- ◆ Polka Couple– Germany – A marionette couple (Friedrich and Frieda) is dressed in traditional Bavarian costume and perform a short polka dance as the audience claps along.
- ◆ Parade Dragon – China – A 20 foot long Chinese parade dragon enlists members of the audience for its manipulation in its performance as well as incorporating the rest of the audience during the dragon's dance
- ◆ Knight & Horse – Italy – Knight and horse marionettes sing a beautiful ballad from Tuscany. The audience learns how to say "goodbye" in Italian and interacts with the puppets during the duet's performance.

Background Information About Art Form

Puppetry is a visual performance/storytelling medium that has a long history in Asian and European cultures. Audiences in the USA are most familiar with Muppet and hand puppet styles commonly seen on television.

Puppetry in cultures outside of the USA takes on many different forms and employs a wide variety of materials. It provides insights into a culture with its use in portraying myths and legends, music and song, and ceremonial customs.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the "International Show " are:

- Give audiences further insight into the world of puppetry
- Expand audience appreciation of the arts
- Demonstrate various materials and construction techniques used in the crafting of the puppets
- Introduce different styles of puppets not often seen in the USA via puppets of different nationalities.
- Involve students in exploring musical rhythm through participation in performance



Vocabulary, Terms, Definitions

Marionette – A jointed puppet manipulated from above by strings or wires attached to its limbs

Shadow Puppet – A flat, jointed puppet that is manipulated in front of a light source causing its shadow to be cast on a screen and seen by an audience.

Tracht – The term given for traditional Bavarian costume

Lederhosen – The knee-length pants, usually made of leather, worn by men in Bavarian costume.

Cobra - Any of several venomous snakes, especially of the genus *Naja*, that are native to Asia and Africa and are capable of expanding the skin of the neck to form a flattened hood.

Pre-Performance Learning Activities

◆ Ask students if they have puppets at home. What kind of puppets do they have?

◆ Assist students in finding the following countries on a classroom world map or globe:

- China
- India
- Italy
- Germany



Post- Performance Learning Activities

Grades K – 2

■ Music was played in the performance during the Chinese Dragon dance. The audience clapped along to the rhythm and beat set by the music. Using a tape player/CD, play other ethnic/cultural selections of music to see if students can follow along with hand clapping.

■ During the show, the audience made “snake puppets” using their hands during the snake charmer dance. What are other kinds of music the students can use to dance with their snake puppets? If the songs contain lyrics, can the students make their snakes “lip-sync” the words?

Grades 3 – 4

■ The Parade Dragon is used in China during celebrations and important occasions. When thinking about the USA, what kinds of puppets could be used to celebrate an American occasion such as the Fourth of July or Thanksgiving?

■ The Polka Couple from Germany do a short polka dance in the show. Different countries all have dances that are closely associated with their country. What are some of those dances? (Example: flamenco- Spain; stepdance – Ireland; odori – Japan)

■ The students learned an Italian word for “goodbye” (ciao) during the Knight and Horse.

To say goodbye in other languages: ◆Adios – Spanish
◆Au revoir – French ◆Auf Wiedersehen – German
◆Adeus – Portugese Other languages?

Relevant Curriculum Standards

Grade 1, 2 – Fine Arts Theatre Arts

13 Topic: Artistic Skills and Knowledge

Standard: Dramatizes through story drama, pantomime, puppetry

33 Topic: Historical and Cultural Context

Standard: Compares and contrasts cultures through drama activities

Grade 1, 2, 3 Fine Arts General Music

18 Topic: Historical and Cultural Context

Standard: Participates in musical activities representing a variety of cultures

Grade 2 Language Arts Written

50 Topic: Literature

Standard: Discriminates between realism and fantasy

Grade 1,2, 3, 4, 5 Language Arts Oral

3 Topic: Listening/Speaking

Standard: Follows two- and three-part oral directions

4 Topic: Listening/Speaking

Standard: Recalls information presented orally

Resources

The web page addresses below will take you to the CIA World Factbook. It has detailed and comprehensive information about all the countries mentioned in the International Show.

China –

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ch.html

India –

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html

Germany –

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gm.html>

Italy –

www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/it.html

Curriculum Connections

The International Show offers several Curriculum Connections because of its presentation of music, story, geographical references, and depiction of cultural artifacts.

Music – Several different types of music are presented. These can be further explored in music study classes.

Language Arts – Students can develop story ideas from the performance based on characters portrayed. Examples: What would be another story for the Chinese Dragon to dance to? What would be further adventures for the Knight and his Horse?

Social Studies – The countries mentioned in the performance are part of Asia and Europe. What are other European and Asian countries not mentioned in the program?

Art – All of the puppets demonstrated in the performance show cultural influences in their artwork. What are other examples of artwork from the countries presented (China, India, Germany, and Italy)?



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