



Missouri 4-H

University of Missouri
4-H Center for Youth Development

Theatre Arts Project Brief

Learning Objectives

- Practice and develop the life skills of self expression
- Communicate with others
- Understand the techniques of leading self and others
- Practice making decisions
- Develop marketable skills
- Develop ability for thinking critically
- Recognize theatre arts activities as outlets for individuality and self-expression

Fair Projects

- Costume created for a character including a written "Day in My Life" monologue
- Puppet made by exhibitor (no kits)
- Panel picture story (at least 3 panels)
- Display of props for a well known fairy tale or specific culture
- 10-20 sentence character-based monologue
- Play promptbook
- Display on stage lighting
- Collage of puppet types from around the world
- Display on make up
- "Three word" script (no more than two typed pages)
- Costume for a character representing a specific culture or time period
- Display on character development
- Set design, costume list and prop list for a selected play including script

Demonstration Ideas

- Demonstrate familiarity with acting through the experience of movement, voice and speech, characterization, play building and playing a scene
- Demonstrate puppetry and stagecraft skills
- Illustrate technology from a different time period, in character as a person of that era
- Demonstrate stage props and their functions
- Demonstrate makeup and costuming practices

Field Trips

- Visit a theatre production.
- Watch a rehearsal for a play, and then see the play performed live. Interview the cast afterwards.
- Take an "Internet field trip," visiting the great performances throughout modern history.

Ideas for Speech Topics

- History of the theatre
- Modern influences of the Commedia del'arte
- Acting techniques
- Performing on stage vs. on screen
- Building leadership skills through theatre arts
- Making a difference with performances

Critical Thinking

- What is the difference between acting and performing in character?
- How should one make decisions about costume design?
- For a pantomime artist to communicate an idea effectively, what things are required?
- What leadership qualities should a good director have?

Community Service

- Perform for a kindergarten class, nursing facility or retirement home. Involve the audience!
- Create a skit around a healthy message or environmental theme.
- Lead a workshop for younger children, teaching them acting techniques and/or stagecraft.

Science & Technology

How have you used science and technology in this project area?

Examples:

- Filming performances with digital video and editing the footage with video editing software.
- Perform as historic characters interacting with current technology, or vice versa.
- Study the effects of different intensities and shades of light on the stage and mood.

Show Me Character

Trustworthiness

- Always be on time or early for meetings, rehearsals and performances
- Follow through on your commitments; everyone is counting on you to do your part
- Be dependable and help out to make sure your performance is the best possible

Respect

- Value everyone's differences and use them to make the team stronger
- Portray your characters with integrity to their motivations, values and dreams. Tackle serious issues with respect for all sides
- Respect the art by always putting your best effort into every performance
- Understand that everyone has different talents and interests. Respect the choices people make about the jobs they would like to do

Responsibility

- Be on time or early to practices and performances
- Take ownership of your tasks and do your best; don't try to give the workload to someone else
- Help others when you can, so the entire production is as great as possible
- Take time to learn your lines, and to know about the tools and technology you are using.

Fairness

- Seek first to understand before judging the intentions of others
- Take turns being the lead role; that way everyone shares the work
- Listen to everyone's ideas before making a group decision
- Be open-minded when choosing scripts and theatre jobs; it may not sound like what you want to do at first, but may work out in the end.

Resources

251 Theatre Arts 1

Y620 4-H Project Record

Y2510 Play the Role

LG2500 Theatre Arts, Group Activity Helper's Guide

252 Theatre Arts 2

Y620 4-H Project Record

Y2520 Become a Puppeteer

LG2500 Theatre Arts, Group Activity Helper's Guide

To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or the 4-H Source Book at <http://www.4-hmall.org/educationalresources.aspx>.

Caring

- Share what you have learned with others
- Go out of your way to perform for a local group of young people or elderly
- Resolve disagreements off the set or stage
- Appreciate your fellow project members and everyone that makes your high quality performances possible

Citizenship

- Know your group's goals and help it reach those goals
- Do what is best for the common good of your group and your community
- Share important information with your community through theatre
- Offer your skills to organizations in your community
- Use your craft to help promote messages and ideas that benefit the community
- Always be a good role model

Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Communication Arts** - participating in formal and informal presentations and discussions of issues and ideas; identifying and evaluating relationships between language and culture.
- **Fine Arts** - process and techniques for the production, exhibition or performance of one of more of the visual or performed arts

253 Theatre Arts 3

Y620 4-H Project Record

Y2530 Set the Stage

LG2500 Theatre Arts, Group Activity Helper's Guide

241 Communications Toolkit: Fun Skill-Building Activities to Do with Kids

To sample the communication toolkit, go to

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/toolkit.html>