

INSTRUCTION

Student Activities and Honors

School Participation in Theater Activities—Kennedy Center Productions

I. PURPOSE

To provide information to middle school staff members concerning the Kennedy Center theater experience for students in the seventh grade who are enrolled in a theater class for the school year 2009-10.

This notice is in effect through January 30, 2010.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Activity

Barrio Grrrr! is this season's offering. Do we have to grow up? Spunky 9-year-old Ana is faced with this very big decision. On the one hand, as her alter-ego Barrio Grrrrl with her invisible sidekick Amazing Voice, she's pretty busy preserving justice in the barrio and protecting the women of her neighborhood. On the other hand, in the world where Ana lives with her *abuelo* (grandfather) and misses her mom who is far, far away in Iraq, reality is sneaking up on her. It's time for Ana to decide what's more important: being a superhero in her head or a normal girl who works little miracles in real life. Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony Award® nominee Quiara Alegria Hudes (*In the Heights*) and Grammy®-winning music director for PBS's new *Electric Company* Bill Sherman give audiences a funny and warmly truthful play that will make hearts sing.

B. Cost

The cost is \$5 per pupil, but no unusual field trip permission is required. Students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch will not be charged but will be counted in the quota allotted for each school. Fees are to be collected in the local school. The principal must write one check to the order of the Fairfax County School Board. This check should be sent to the Department of Financial Services (Accounting Section). All checks for fall performances must be postmarked by December 18, 2009.

C. Transportation

School bus transportation will be arranged by the local school. Authorized school staff members should use the online field trip system for this purpose. No fund code is necessary—transportation is provided from a central fine arts account. To complete the online bus voucher fund code, select "no charge trip." Select trip group, instructional, and Kennedy Center seventh grade theater trip. Then save as S—approved. The transportation supervisor will subsequently assign a fund codes, buses, and drivers

based on the dates and destinations and will communicate directly with principals regarding departure time. All passengers must be seated on a seat; no standees will be allowed.

D. Chaperons

Teachers accompanying students are to remain with their students and sit with them during the performance. Teachers are responsible for their students' conduct and should instruct students in theater manners (Attachment B) before leaving for the performance. The ushers at the Kennedy Center will provide seating instructions. Chaperons are required at the rate of one for every ten students and attend the concert free of charge. Schools are responsible for the cost of teachers and chaperons who accompany the students.

E. School Assignment

Each school has been assigned a specific number of seats for students and chaperons as shown on Attachment A. The total number of seats allocated to Fairfax County is based on the seating capacity of the Kennedy Center Family Theater. All seats are assigned. It is imperative, therefore, that schools notify Judy Bowns, theater arts and dance specialist, by telephone, 703-208-7865, or by electronic mail at judy.bowns@fcps.edu, if they do not plan to send their full quotas or if a school's numbers warrant exceeding a quota. This notification should occur no later than 21 days prior to the assigned performance date(s).

F. Program

Barrio Grrrr! asks the question: do we have to grow up? Spunky 9-year-old Ana is faced with this very big decision. On the one hand, as her alter-ego Barrio Grrrrl with her invisible sidekick Amazing Voice, she's pretty busy preserving justice in the barrio and protecting the women of her neighborhood. On the other hand, in the world where Ana lives with her *abuelo* (grandfather) and misses her mom who is far, far away in Iraq, reality is sneaking up on her. It's time for Ana to decide what's more important: being a superhero in her head or a normal girl who works little miracles in real life. Pulitzer Prize finalist and Tony Award® nominee Quiara Alegria Hudes (*In the Heights*) and Grammy®-winning music director for PBS's new *Electric Company* Bill Sherman give audiences a funny and warmly truthful play that will make hearts sing.

These performances support standards 6, 7, and 8 from the middle school theater arts Program of Studies and connect with cultural studies, diversity, and language studies. Each performance lasts approximately one hour.

Through the arts, students will have many opportunities to review concepts learned in other disciplines. They will find many connections to their core curricula standards and benchmarks including:

- **Social Studies**—Students will conduct inquiries and research to develop historical thinking skills and communicate historical understanding by gathering information from visual sources and identifying the connections between history and other disciplines.
- **Mathematics**—Students will make conceptual connections within and outside mathematics and use a variety of representations to illustrate mathematical concepts, skills, and processes as well as write mathematical analyses of information from a variety of sources. Set and stage design provide numerous unique opportunities to analyze shapes and dimensions.
- **Science**—Students will investigate and understand characteristics of sound and technological applications of sound waves as well as investigate and understand the nature and technological applications of light. Sound and light used in the performance provide a unique look at technological applications.
- **English**—Students will identify the relationship between a speaker's verbal messages such as word choice, pitch, feeling, tone, and voice and nonverbal messages such as eye contact, posture, and gestures. Students can compare and contrast an actor's verbal and nonverbal messages.

Attachments

Kennedy Center Theater Performances
Barrio Grrr!

Middle School Attendance Quotas*

For seventh grade students enrolled in a theater class first semester,
first and second quarters, or the first 12 weeks.

October 22, 2009—Thursday

11:30 a.m.

Rocky Run Middle School	93
Carson Middle School	112
Whitman Middle School	50
TOTAL	255

October 23, 2009—Friday

11:30 a.m.

Kilmer Middle School	107
TOTAL	107

October 28, 2009—Wednesday

10:15 a.m.

Glasgow Middle School	38
Franklin Middle School	135
Poe Middle School	60
Longfellow Middle School	60
TOTAL	293

October 29, 2009—Thursday

10:15 a.m.

Hughes Middle School	90
TOTAL	

November 4, 2009—Wednesday

10:15 a.m.

Twain Middle School	71
Herndon Middle School	65
Lake Braddock Secondary School—Middle School	90
Key Middle School	69
TOTAL	295

- All quotas include chaperons at the rate of one adult per ten students.

November 11, 2009—Wednesday

10:15 a.m.

Burke School	73
South County Secondary School—Middle School	72
<u>Lanier Middle School</u>	<u>90</u>
TOTAL	235

November 12, 2009—Thursday

10:15 a.m.

Thoreau Middle School	123
Sandburg Middle School	110
<u>Holmes Middle School</u>	<u>70</u>
TOTAL	303

Most performances can accommodate up to 320 persons. Each date specifies the capacity number. Please remember your count must include one chaperon per ten students.

- All quotas include chaperons at the rate of one adult per ten students.

THEATER MANNERS

Students will:

- Enter and leave the theater lab in a quiet and orderly fashion.
- Stay with their assigned teacher and/or chaperon.
- Settle in seats immediately and stay in assigned seats until officially dismissed.
- Refrain from talking when the lights dim and the curtain opens.
- Sit quietly so all can listen to the actors, the sound effects, and the music.
- Exhibit appropriate behavior or be subject to removal from the theater lab.
- Thank the performers with their applause. If the performers come out a second time for a curtain call, thank them again with applause.
- Refrain from the use of cameras or recording equipment in the theater lab.
- Remain seated until dismissed. Students will leave the theater lab in the same quiet and orderly manner in which they entered as they return to their buses in chaperoned groups.