



CLASS SHOW GUIDE



Pre-Show Activities

Creating A Character

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-20 MINUTES

Objective: Students will invent a character and practice acting as that character in an interview.

Discussion: The characters invited to participate in the NEBRASKALAND! planning meeting will be modern day historians, investors and politicians. What do historians, investors and politicians do? Why would they be helping to plan the park? Which one would each student like to pretend to be for an hour?

Activity: Invite each student to write a short biography about his/her character.

Drama Extension: Select one student to sit in an "interview chair" in front of the class and pretend to be their character of choice. The teacher and the rest of the class can then ask questions, which the student in the "interview chair" should answer in character. Students should feel free to take up their character's biography to refer to during the questioning. Remind the interviewers that the goal is NOT to trick the interviewee, but to learn more about the character (i.e. What is your name? What do you do? What do you want in the park?)

Art Extension: Make a name tag to wear the day of the performance with name and role (historian, investor, politician, etc.)

Theater Etiquette

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will actively explore proper theater behavior.

Discussion: "Etiquette is a word we use to describe the way people behave when they are in social situations with other people. What is the proper etiquette when you see a play? How should you behave during the show? Is it the same way you should act when watching a movie at home or playing outside? Is it okay to laugh during a play if you think it is funny? Is it okay to talk to your neighbor during the performance?"

Brainstorming: As a class, create a list of ways that audience members might behave, good and bad, while in the theater. Write these behaviors on the board in two different columns: one for "Good Theater Etiquette" and one for "Bad Theater Etiquette."

Modeling: Pick two students to come and sit in chairs in front of the class. Ask them to act out one of the "Bad Theater Etiquette" behaviors (with the teacher if desired) for ten seconds. Then have the class discuss why the behaviors were inappropriate and how they could be fixed. Now have the two students act out one of the behaviors under "Good Theater Etiquette" and discuss why this behavior is better.

Activity: Give the entire class one of the scenarios from their list of bad behaviors, like talking to their neighbor or not paying attention. Have the class act out this behavior for ten seconds then ask the students how they think this behavior makes the actors or the other audience members feel. Have them fix the behavior and act out this new scenario for twenty seconds. Repeat with a few other bad behaviors from the list.

ENJOY THE SHOW!

Dear Educators,

Welcome to The Rose, where we strive to enrich the lives of children through live theater, dance and arts education. We're pleased you have chosen to make The Rose a part of your students' learning experience, and we will do our best to make it both meaningful and educational. This study guide has been created to help identify the themes and lessons from "NEBRASKALAND!" and move them into your classroom where they can be further developed through discussions, activities and assignments. Please feel free to take the ideas we've suggested here and modify them to match your classroom's grade level and curriculum.

Sincerely,
Brian Guehring, Rose Education Director

Want to book a workshop? Workshops at Your School

The Rose offers several workshops that can take place AT YOUR SCHOOL. A professional Rose teaching artist can visit your classroom for one to five days in a one week time period to explore, through drama, a curriculum topic of your choice. **To register your class for a workshop that will take place at your school, please contact Melissa Richter at (402) 502-4625 or melissar@rosetheater.org.**

Workshops at The Rose

A workshop AT THE ROSE is the perfect way to explore themes from a school field trip show or learn about the profession of theater. A professional teaching artist with a college degree in dramatic arts education will lead your class. **To register your class for a Workshop at The Rose, please contact Melissa Richter at (402) 502-4625 or melissar@rosetheater.org.**

Visit www.rosetheater.org for more information!



Free Funding Is Available for Field Trips! We understand that budgets are tight. That's why we're offering two great solutions to help pay for your school's field trip expenses. Both Nebraska Arts Council and Target Stores are offering financial assistance to help underwrite the cost of providing your students with experiences such as those provided by The Rose Theater. For more information, please visit www.nebraskaartscouncil.org (click "Grants" to see all categories) or www.target.com/fieldtrips.

Write To Us!

Letters may be written to:
Michael Miller, Literary Manager
2001 Farnam Street
Omaha, NE 68102

Emails may be sent to:
Michael Miller at
michaelm@rosetheater.org

Facebook: Rose Theater – Omaha
Twitter: @RoseTheaterCo



Performing Arts
FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



Post-Show Activities

Native American Leaders

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will compare and contrast different Native American leaders and formulate strong arguments that defend their positions.

Discussion: Two famous American Indians from Nebraska were nominated for an honor in the interactive museum exhibit. Who are they? (Answer: Standing Bear and Crazy Horse). Who else might make a good nominee? (Answer: Susette LaFlesche Tibbles, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull, etc.)

Research: Invite each student to research a famous Native American from Nebraska.

Activity: Invite each student to then make an argument as to why they should be honored in the Animatronic Hall of Heroes.

Extension: Take a new vote, which includes YOUR new nominees, and select two Native Americans from Nebraska to honor.

Sports Hero Statues

IN AND OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-20 MINUTES

Objective: Students will use their bodies to depict a famous Nebraska sports hero.

Discussion: Which statues did the character Simon Lefleur show as part of the play? (Answer: Bob Gibson, Grover Cleveland Alexander, Gale Sayers, Tom Osborne, and Louis POUND). Are there other sports stars from Nebraska who could be nominated? (Answer: Johnny Rodgers, Richie Ashburn, Bob Booger, Val Skinner, Allison Weston, etc.)

Research: Invite each student to research a famous Nebraskan sports hero of their choice.

Activity: Working in pairs, direct one student to “sculpt” the other student into a statue of a famous Nebraskan sports star. Emphasize that the students don’t have to physically mold their partners. The sculptor can instruct his or her partner how to stand and can even model it themselves so the other person understands what they want.

Side Coaching: What expression does your statue have? How does the famous Nebraskan feel at this moment in his/her life?

Extension: Create statues of other famous Nebraskans who are not athletes.



Robotic Statues

OUT-OF-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will create a short autobiography for a famous Nebraskan and use movement to create an animatronic statue for the famous Nebraskan.

Discussion: A final group of seven leaders was nominated for the Nebraska Hall of Heroes. Who were the seven leaders? (Answer: Rose Blumkin, Malcolm X, General Pershing, Grace Abbott, J. Sterling Morton, and Father Flanagan). Are there other historical Nebraskans who would make good nominees? (Answer: Edward Babe Gomez, William Jennings Bryan, President Gerald Ford, Ben Kuroki, etc)

Research: In pairs, invite students to research a famous Nebraskan.

Writing: Ask the students to work together in pairs to write a two paragraph autobiography about their famous Nebraskan's life.

Warm-up: Direct each student to stand and to practice pantomime [acting without words and props] as if they are a robot. Have them pantomime writing, reading and eating.

Side Coaching: "Make sure you move stiffly and slowly. Try to move just one body part at a time. Keep it simple!"

Activity: Have one student read the first paragraph of the autobiography in character as their partner does robotic movement to pantomime one activity from the paragraph. Switch roles for the second paragraph.

Extension: Take a new vote, which includes YOUR new nominees, and select seven new Nebraska leaders!

Johnny Carson Talk Show

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 10-15 MINUTES

Objective: Students will use their imaginations, acting voices, and body posture to become a famous Nebraskan.

Discussion: Who is Johnny Carson? (Answer: The former host of the "Tonight Show"). Who were the authors we met in today's play? (Answer: Willa Cather, John G. Neihardt, and Bess Streeter Aldrich). Name some other famous entertainers and artists from Nebraska.

(Answer: Chip Davis, Mari Sandoz, Henry Fonda, Conor Oberst, Buffalo Bill Cody, John Beasley, Aaron Douglas, Marg Helgenberger, Marlon Brando, etc.)

Research: Invite each student to research a famous entertainer or artist from Nebraska.

Activity: Invite five volunteers to sit in front of class as the famous Nebraskan they have chosen to research. The teacher, in character as Johnny Carson, can interview the guests on this talk show about famous Nebraskans. Encourage the audience to applaud and to participate in asking questions.

Teacher's Hints: Questions about how the famous Nebraskans felt during a specific moment in history help the students stay in role and encourage them to see the famous Nebraskans as regular human beings.

Designing A Ride

IN-CHAIR ACTIVITY • 20-30 MINUTES

Objective: Students will design a set that could be used in the *NEBRASKALAND!* play.

Discussion: What are some of the rides the playwright mentioned in *NEBRASKALAND!*?

Research: "For this activity, we are going to focus on the Lewis and Clark Water Flume Ride." In small groups, ask students to research the Lewis and Clark expedition. Ask them to also research water flume rides.

Brainstorming: In small groups or as an entire class, brainstorm ideas for a new Lewis and Clark Water Flume Ride.

Activity: Invite each student to design a poster that promotes the Lewis and Clark Water Flume Ride. They can draw their ideas or cut-and-paste images from the Internet to create a collage.

Extension: Design another ride for *NEBRASKALAND!* based on Nebraska's history.



Behind the Scenes Spotlight: The Set Designer!

A 1998 interview with Rich Haptonstall, the original *NEBRASKALAND!* Scenic Designer

Q: Why did you become a set designer?

A: I have always loved theater, painting, and drawing. My job as a set designer lets me combine all three of these interests and talents. To seriously study design, I went to graduate school at Humboldt State University in California, where I earned my Masters of Fine Arts in directing and scenic design.

Q: How long have you worked with The Rose Theater?

A: I have been working with The Rose for two years as the resident scenic designer and properties design. I have designed sets for many shows including *The Challenge*, *The Wind in the Willows*, *The Velveteen Rabbit* and *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*.

Q: How did you design the set for *NEBRASKALAND!*?

A: The challenge for this show was to design a set that could be toured to elementary schools. It had to be constructed so it could be set up and dismantled quickly by three actors. Plus, it had to be large enough to be used in a gym, but small enough to fit in our truck. I also wanted the set to serve as a teaching aid that could be used by the actors. That is why I designed the large blue Nebraska-shaped timeline and included photos of famous Nebraskans. Hopefully the timeline helps students put the famous Nebraskans in historical context and provides a visual for each famous Nebraskan's name.

Q: How long did it take to design the *NEBRASKALAND!* set?

A: It took approximately three weeks.

Q: What is the best thing about being a set designer?

A: It's very rewarding when the audience leaves a play talking about the set design.

Thank you for sharing your talents with us, Rich!



Explore More!

If you enjoyed **NEBRASKALAND!**, be sure to check out these other great resources!

Books to Read:

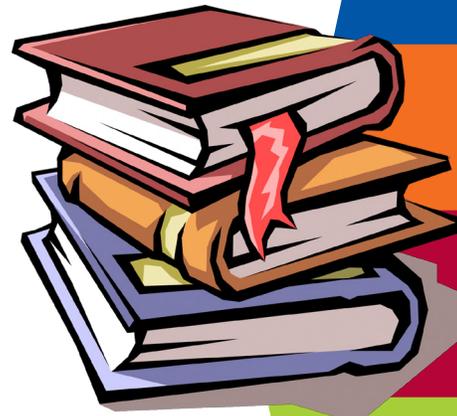
- 1.) *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- 2.) *Troll Garden: Short Stories* by Willa Cather
- 3.) *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt
- 4.) *Lyric and Dramatic Poems* of John G. Neihardt
- 5.) *Journey into Christmas and Other Stories* by Bess Streeter Aldrich
- 6.) *A Lantern in her Hand* by Bess Streeter Aldrich
- 7.) *Heart of a Husker: Tom Osborne's Nebraska Legacy* by Mike Babcock
- 8.) *What it Means to be a Husker* by Tom Osborne

Websites:

- 1.) **Nebraska Studies:** www.nebraskastudies.org
This is a great site! It features timelines and notes about famous Nebraskans.
- 2.) **Nebraska State Historical Society Home Page:** www.nebraskahistory.org
- 3.) **Nebraska History Resources:** www.nde.state.ne.us
This site includes a good Notable Nebraskans Index.
- 4.) **Nebraska Press Association: 700 Famous Nebraskans:** www.nebpress.com/700/entrants.php
The famous Nebraskans are grouped both alphabetically and by category.

DVDs:

American Masters - **Willa Cather: The Road is All** (PBS Home Video)



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