

# STORYMAKERS

PRESENTS



**Written and Directed  
by Don Butler**

### **The Cast**

Nathalie Andrade  
Justus Elliott  
Tristen Hooks  
Paolo Pineda  
Darryl Willis

### **Scene Breakdown**

- 1) Prologue
- 2) Louisiana Purchase
- 3) Lewis and Clark Expedition (Corps of Discovery)
- 4) Kit Carson
- 5) California Gold Rush
- 6) Johnny Appleseed

### **Suggested Curricula**

Language Arts, Social Studies, Theatre

### **BEST, NGSSS and Florida Standards**

ELA.K12.EE.2.1, SS.3.C.1.3, SS.5.A.5.1-10,  
SS.5.C.2.1, SS.8.A.3.3-8, TH.3.S.1.1, TH.4.S.1.1,  
TH.5.O.3.2, TH.5.S.1.3, TH.68.H.1.2, TH.68.H.3.6,  
TH.68.S.1.1, TH.2.C.3.1, TH.2.C.3.1

### **The Story on Story Theater**

So what's the story on Story Theater? What is it and where did it come from? Story Theater was the idea of a man named Paul Sills whose mother was a famous acting teacher named Viola Spolin. She's called the mother of improvisation. Improvisation is when actors work without a script and usually take suggestions from the audience and then make up a play or scene right on the spot without using sets, costumes or props.

Paul Sills took this idea and developed it into what we call Story Theater. Although what you see on stage has been rehearsed and the actors have used a script, a lot of what they do comes through playing theater games and improvising on myths, folk tales or just about any good story. The magic of Story Theater happens when the actors use what we call "space objects". They simply "find" an object in the air and make you see it. When the actors believe that what they are doing is real, and that the things they are using are real, then suddenly, they are. When the actors can "see" the invisible and "touch" the invisible, like magic, it becomes visible and you can see it too. But they have to believe so that you can believe.

## Notable Characters/Figures

Johnny Appleseed	Thomas Jefferson
Napoleon Bonaparte	Francois Labiche
Sam Brannan	Meriwether Lewis
Cameahwait	James Marshall
Christopher Kit Carson	James K. Polk
Toussaint Charbonneau	Sacajawea
William Clark	Levi Strauss
John Fremont	James Sutter
Sally Hemings	George Washington
Ann White	York

## Locations

American River  
Canada  
Chinook, Washington  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Mississippi  
Missouri River  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
Oregon Trail  
Pennsylvania  
Rocky Mountains  
San Francisco, California  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
West Virginia  
Western frontier  
Whetstone, Nebraska



## Vocabulary Terms

Confederates  
Corps of Discovery  
Forty-niner  
Frontiersman  
Gold Rush  
Great Northwest Passage  
Hidatsa  
Jicarilla Apaches  
Louisiana Purchase  
Manifest Destiny  
Miner  
Namihe  
Navajo  
Noabe  
Parchment  
Quill  
Quinine  
Seedlings  
Shoal  
Shoshone  
Sutter's Mill  
Unalienable  
Ute  
Wampum

## Definitions

Folklore is any of the beliefs, customs and traditions that people pass on from one generation to another. Ballads, fairy tales, folktales, legends and myths are folklore.

Folktales are often stories of animals that act like humans and live in a world of wonder and magic. Most of them have a message or moral or explain natural phenomena, such as where the sun goes at night.

Legends are fictional stories associated with a historical person or place.

Myths are traditional stories concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.

Tall Tales are stories that are told as if they were true but contain exaggerated or unbelievable parts. Some tall tales are exaggerations of real events, while others are completely make-believe. Tall tales are usually very funny because the exaggerations in the story tend to be the main focus of the whole story.

## Pre-performance Activities

- 1) Print or draw a map of the US and trace the Lewis and Clark expedition. Do the same for the Oregon Trail. What were the differences and why didn't the settlers just use Lewis and Clark's route?
- 2) Make a list or create cutouts of items the settlers took with them in their wagons. What would you take with you if you made the journey?
- 3) Read about York, William Clark's "manservant." What did he do? What places were named for him?
- 4) What person or event would you include in a play about Westward Expansion?

## Post-performance Student Response Activity

- 1) List some of the lines or images in the play that stick in your mind.
- 2) What questions do you have for the characters, for the playwright or for the director?
- 3) What did you like about the production? What would you have changed?
- 4) What message does the playwright want you to take away from the play?

## Resources

- Anderson, Dale. *The Making of America: Westward Expansion*, Austin, Texas: Raintree Steck-Vaugh Publishers, 2001.
- Davis, Kenneth. *Don't Know Much About The Pioneers*, New York, New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2003.
- Domnauer, Teresa. *Westward Expansion*, New York: Children's Press, 2010.
- Kravitz, Danny. *Surviving the Journey: The Story of the Oregon Trail*, North Mankoto, Minnesota: Capstone Press, 2015.
- O'Brien, Cynthia. *Go West with Miners, Prospectors, and Loggers*, New York, New York: Crabtree Publishing Company, 2016.

## Theater Etiquette

*Here are some things all students should know before they arrive at the theater.*

### • Respect

Being a great audience member requires respect—respect for the theater space, the performers, your teacher, your classmates, other patrons and yourself.

### • No Food, Drink or Gum

Show your respect for the theater space by keeping it clean. Do not bring any food, drinks or gum into the theater. Not only does this create a mess when you are finished eating, but the crinkling of wrappers is distracting to the rest of the audience and the performers.

### • Listening

One of the basic elements of being a great audience member is listening. The audience is an important part of the show. The people on stage can see and hear you, so your reactions and behavior affect the performance. When you are watching a live performance, it's important not to talk. However, laughing and applauding at appropriate times is encouraged! That's how you help create a supportive and focused atmosphere, making the best experience possible for everyone involved.

### • Stay seated

Once you are seated you should avoid standing or getting out of your seat because this distracts others and can block their view.

### • Electronic devices

Please turn off all cell phones! It's rude to talk on your cell phone or send text messages during a performance. The light from your phone is distracting to other audience members and to the actors on stage. Also, there is no photography or recording allowed during the performance.

### • The End

The curtain call is when the performers take their final bow and the audience thanks them for a job well done. At the end of the performance, it's important that you stay in your seat until your teacher guides you to the exit.

### • Above all ... enjoy yourself!