

Triad Stage
232 S. Elm Street
Greensboro, NC 27401

Teaching Artists: Simone Becker, Kathren Martin

PRE-SHOW WORKSHOP

North Davie Middle School (Media Center)

10:15-11:00 am (40 students)

BREAK

12:15-1:00 pm (40 students)

1:10-1:55 pm (40 students)

2:00-2:45 pm (30 students)

Objectives:

- Students will make personal connections to the themes of the production.
- Students will be able to identify major characters, groups and settings in *A Christmas Carol*.

Standards:

- RL.2.2 Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures, and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- RL.5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- RL.3.3 Describe characters in a story and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- RL.8.3 Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.

Materials:

12 pieces of butcher paper with prompts written

Triad Stage PowerPoint

Markers

Tape

Outline:

5 Minutes: Intros/Dickens

5 Minutes: Triad production specific info

15 Minutes: Cover the Space + Show Me

15 Minutes: Poster Dialogue

5 Minutes: Closing

10 min: Intros, Check In, Dickens Brainstorm and History

- Names and Positions at Triad Stage
- Triad Stage as a theatre company that produces a number of plays each year, plus doing programs like this one.
- Has anyone ever been to Triad Stage before?

- What do we already know about *A Christmas Carol*? What adaptations have you seen? (Students will talk in small groups and then share out.)

Some other fun things to note:

- Dickens originated the modern Christmas; this book
- A Christmas Carol is also the reason that we have holiday episodes of most tv shows.
- Dickens focuses mainly on themes like empathy and giving to those in need.
 - What is empathy? Empathy is where we see through someone else's eyes and connect with what they are feeling or thinking. Empathy is an important tool in building relationships (and also a better world).

10 minutes: Triad Production Specific Information

Overview of Slides:

- 90 minutes, no intermission
- Adaptation (young performers, music, a Christmas ghost story)
- Characters and Actors
- Projections & Lighting

15 min: Theme Exploration and Cover the Space/Show Me

There are some really profound and deep themes at work in *A Christmas Carol*. We are going to give you the opportunity to reflect on these themes and how they have impacted you in your life.

- Compassion/Kindness
- Forgiveness
- Loneliness
- Family
- Community

A tableaux is a frozen image that tells a story and communicates emotion.

We are going to build images for some of these themes.

First, we'll start by covering the space. When we cover the space, our goal is to cover all of the space in our room using our bodies (while of course staying safe). As you walk around the room, take a moment to notice how your body is feeling. Stretch if you need to.

Now we are going to call out a theme from *A Christmas Carol*. Think about how you can embody that theme. Your task is to build an image for that theme.

We'll start with one person and build up to a four person image.

Here are the image prompts:

1 person:

Loneliness

Sadness

2 people:

Kindness

Forgiveness

3 people:

Family

Friendship

4 people:

Community

Spreading joy

As you are building these tableaux, think about what these themes might look like in our everyday life.

If you'd like, you can bring your tableaux to life and give your characters dialogue.

Some guiding questions:

- What is the event?
- How can I tell the story using my body?
- How can I use my body to relate to another character in the tableau?
- If I put my tableau into one sentence, it would say: This is the time that....

15 minutes: Ghosts: Explorations of Past, Present, Future

One of the main features (that you all have mentioned already) is the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future. These spirits, as well as the ending of the play, ask us, as the audience or readers, to think about how we change over time.

How does who we are in the past affect who we become? Can people change for the better?

Activity: Mural-Making/Poster Dialogue

Set three pieces of paper around the room. Each paper will have a prompt. Students will rotate around the room when the music changes to ensure that they get to each poster. Students can either draw or write their responses. Ask students to work silently to use words and images to

respond to the prompt. Play music while students work. After 10-15 minutes, gather around the Poster Dialogue and do a gallery walk.

There are three different posters around the room.

Here are the prompts for the poster:

In the past, I was....

(This can be a word or a picture or statement to describe who you were in the past)

In the present, I am...

(This is something that is currently true for you)

In the future, I hope to be...

(This is something you hope is true for the future).

On each of these posters, you will answer the questions, either in words or pictures. Remind students that we are working to get the answers on the piece of paper, but also to make it aesthetically

Gallery Walk, and ask students questions about each poster:

- What themes do you notice coming out of our pasts? Presents? Futures?
- How do our pasts and futures differ? What does this mean about things we hope to change as a group?

5 Minutes: Closing

One thing I'm excited about for this production is...

