



UC DAVIS PRESENTS

## Community Outreach Program

• 2000 - 2001 School Matinee Series •

### Tales & Music / Musicas y Fabulas

Friday, September 29, 2000 11:00 a.m.  
Freeborn Hall, UC Davis

This Teacher's Guide is designed to augment your experience at the UC Davis Presents School Matinee Series performance of *TALES & MUSIC / MUSICAS Y FABULAS*. Before attending the performance, you may find it useful to prepare your students for what they will see and hear by providing background information for the event and a review of theater conventions and audience protocol.

The performance can provide a number of departure points for various areas of study, including the arts, humanities, American and world history and the appreciation of different cultural perspectives and traditions. This guide contains information under the following headings:

- Tales & Music / Musicas Y Fabulas
- The Exchange Project: Junebug Productions, Teatro Pregones, and Roadside Theater
  - About Folktales and Storytelling
    - Preparing Your Class
    - Attending the Theater
    - Think About It!
  - Campus Resource Guide

UC Davis Presents gratefully acknowledges the corporate sponsors supporting the Community Outreach Program during the 2000-2001 Season of Performing Arts:



**The Sacramento Bee**  
*It's good to know.*



Dear Teachers,

Your class will soon attend the performance *Tales & Music / Musicas Y Fabulas* in the Main Theatre on the campus of the University of California, Davis. This program, which

theater companies: **Junebug Productions**, an African-American arts organization in New Orleans, **Teatro Pregones**, a Puerto Rican ensemble based in the Bronx, and **Roadside Theater**, an Appalachian theater company from Kentucky. The cast will offer a tapestry of stories told from very specific realities and worlds. From the Appalachian mountains to the southern African-American communities to the Puerto Rican neighborhoods in New York City, the folk stories and music will highlight distinct cultural and historical traditions. The stories will be enriched by engaging music: mountain music, jazz, boleros and salsa. This performance guide will offer background information on the companies and their artistic collaborations, as well as some guidelines to observe while in the theater.

*Welcome to UC Davis Presents School Matinee Program.*

### ***TALES AND MUSIC / MUSICAS Y FABULAS***

*Tales and Music / Musicas y Fabulas* is a lively presentation for children and families which brings together theater artists from three different theaters representing three cultures. Throughout the performance, the artists work together to present traditional stories and music from African-American, Puerto Rican, and Appalachian cultures. Artists from **Pregones Theater** bring stories and songs from the island of Puerto Rico and the neighborhoods of New York City. Artists from **Junebug Productions** present traditional stories and songs from African-American culture and the artists from **Roadside Theater** share tales and ballads from the mountains and hills of Appalachia. As the artists share stories and music, the audience discovers the similarities and differences of these three vibrant cultures.

## THE CAST

From Junebug Productions.....Adella Gautier and John O’Neal

From Pregones Theater.....Jorge Merced and Soldanela Rivera

From Roadside Theater.....Kim Neal Cole and Ron Short

## THE EXCHANGE PROJECT

**The Exchange Project** is a collaborative effort of three nationally acclaimed theater companies: JUNEBUG PRODUCTIONS, an African-American theater company of New Orleans, Louisiana, PREGONES THEATER, a Puerto Rican theater ensemble of the Bronx, New York, and ROADSIDE THEATER, an Appalachian theater ensemble from Whitesburg, Kentucky.

**JUNEBUG PRODUCTIONS** is a professional African-American arts organization located in New Orleans, Louisiana. Its mission is to create, produce, and present high quality theater, dance, and music that inspire and support people who work for justice in the African-American community and in the world-at-large. Junebug Productions currently has 10 plays in its repertoire, three of them inter-cultural collaborations. For the past 19 years, the company has toured the U.S. and performed internationally. John O’Neal, Junebug’s artistic director, co-founded the Free Southern Theater in 1963 as a cultural arm of the southern Civil Rights Movement. A vital legacy of the Movement is the recognition that the greatest subsidies required for the development of culture usually come from the artists themselves. Therefore, Junebug Productions has evolved a working style based on collaboration among creative artists, managers, and community organizations who share a commitment to similar goals and a desire to maximize scarce resources.

**PREGONES THEATER**, founded in 1979 and based in the Bronx, New York, is a professional theater ensemble creating innovative and challenging theater rooted in Puerto Rican traditions and popular artistic expressions. Pregones also presents performing artists from diverse cultures with the aim of offering Latino and other communities an artistic

over 40 new works, has performed in 75 cities, has presented 80 established and emerging companies to audiences in the South Bronx, has trained over 1,000 children through free theater workshops, and has performed to tens of thousands of residents throughout the Northeast region.

**ROADSIDE THEATER** is a part of Appalshop, the multi-disciplinary cultural center which produces and presents work that celebrates the culture and voices the concerns of the people living in the 13 state Appalachian Mountain region. For the past 20 years it has toured its original productions nationally and internationally. Its contribution to the American theater includes the development of a unique dramatic form drawn from the musical and storytelling traditions of central Appalachia; the creation of a rich body of Appalachian dramatic literature where none existed before; and the co-creation, with theater companies of color, of plays that explore issues of culture, race, class, and place.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

### JUNEBUG PRODUCTIONS

**Adella Gautier** is Associate Artistic Director for Junebug Productions. She has over 25 years experience in the arts as an actor, director, playwright, storyteller and educator. She lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**John O'Neal** is the founder and Artistic Director of Junebug Productions. He also founded and directed the Free Southern Theater. He has written and performs in 4 volumes of the Junebug Jabbo Jones plays and has written many other plays. O'Neal has taught in numerous colleges and universities and has won several playwriting awards and fellowships. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.

### PREGONES THEATER

**Jorge Merced** is an Associate Director of Pregones Theater and has been a member of the company since 1987. He has received several awards including the ACE Award as Best Supporting Actor and three consecutive nominations as Best Leading Actor. Merced is the director of Pregones' Arts and Education program. He lives in the Bronx, New York.

**Soldanela Rivera** obtained a BFA in Dance from Sarah Lawrence College. Dance credits include touring with Elizabeth Streb/Ringside and choreography for Ricky Martin. Rivera has participated in several Pregones productions, including the 1998 tour. She also actively works with other Latino companies in New York City. She lives in Jersey City, New Jersey.

### ROADSIDE THEATER

**Kim Neal** has been with the Roadside ensemble for 13 years and performs in all of Roadside's repertory. She also conducts extensive playwriting and performance residencies in communities. Her singing can be heard on Roadside's latest recording, *Singing*. She lives in Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

**Ron Short** is a playwright, actor, and musician with Roadside Theater. He performs in all of Roadside's repertoire and is the author of *Roadside's Pine Mountain Trilogy* and the theater's newest play, *Singing on the Mountain*. His solo LP, *Cities of Gold*, and the recent CD, *Singing*, feature many of his songs. He was raised south of the mountain in Dickenson County, Virginia and lives in Big Stone Gap, Virginia.

## Additional Resources for Preparing Your Class

The theater companies offer the following bibliography to help teachers prepare their students for attending the matinee performance *Tales and Music / Musicas y Fabulas*. Each booklist was compiled separately by Junebug Productions, Pregones Theater, and Roadside Theater. The companies prepared the following lists with elementary and middle school students in mind, but ask that you monitor your book choices for age and content suitability for your students. The stories that the students will see at the matinee will not necessarily be taken from these collections; however, the study of some of these cultural stories will help prepare the students for the performance.

### **JUNEBUG PRODUCTIONS**

The Negro Caravan, ed. Bontemps and Hughes  
The classic collection of African-American literature and folklore.

Lay My Burden Down by B.A. Botkin  
An oral history drawn largely from WPA interviews with ex-slaves.

Three Who Dared: A Biography for Young Readers by Tom Cohen  
Includes a short biography of John O'Neal and two other Freedom Movement workers.

Simple Speaks His Mind by Langston Hughes  
A collection of Hughes' stories in the voice of Jess B. Simple, a character with whom Junebug has much in common.

Stride Toward Freedom by Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Dr. King's summary of the Montgomery bus boycott.

The King God Didn't Save by John A. Williams  
A critical review of the life and work of Martin Luther King by the outstanding novelist. Well written and well researched.

Documentary History of the Negro People in America: Volumes I, II, and III by Herbert Aptheker  
A mostly complete collection of historical documents pertaining to the Black struggle.

### **PREGONES THEATER**

The Pura Belpre Award was established to honor Latino writers and illustrators whose work best embodies the Latino cultural experience in a work of children's literature. The award is named after the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. Belpre is known for her work in preserving and disseminating Puerto Rican folklore. The Pura Belpre Award was first presented in 1996 and is presented biennially by the Association for Library Services to Children and the National Association to Promote Library Service to the Spanish Speaking.

*1996 Awards:*

An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio by Judith Ortiz Cofer

Baseball in April and Other Stories by Gary Soto; ed. Diane D'Andrade

The Bossy Gallito/ El Gallo de Bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale by Lucia Gonzalez

Chato's Kitchen illustrated by Susan Guevara

Pablo Remembers: The Fiesta Day of the Dead illustrated by George Ancona

Parrot in the Oven by Victor Martinez

Spirit of the High Mesa by Floyd Martinez

Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems by Francisco X. Alarcon

Snapshots from the Wedding by Gary Soto

Golden Flower by Nina Jaffe

### **ROADSIDE THEATER**

Jack Tales and Grandfather Tales by Richard Chase

The Dollmaker by Harriet Arnow

Man with a Bull-Tongue Plow and Log Shacks and Lonesome Waters by Jesse Stuart

The Foxfire Books, ed. Elliot Wiggington

Laughter in Appalachia by Loyal Jones

Appalachia: The Voices of Sleeping Birds by Cynthia Ryland and Barry Moser

On Top of Old Smoky by Ronald Kidd and Linda Anderson

Ghosts of the Southern Mountains and Appalachia by Nancy Roberts

Rag Sale by Artie Ann Bates

## **ATTENDING THE THEATER**

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience: whispering, rustling of papers, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best possible work. The audience shows respect for the performers by watching attentively. Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. While the audience at a dance performance will sit quietly, other types of performance invite audience participation.

### **THINK ABOUT IT!**

Talking with your teacher, friends and family about a performance after attending the theater is part of the experience. When you share what you saw and felt you learn more about the performance. You can now compare ideas and ask questions and find out how to learn even more. Here are some questions to think about:

- 1) Describe the folktale or story presented in the performance that you remember most vividly.
- 2) Have your parents or grandparents told you stories that they themselves heard when they were young? Offer an example story to a small group of your classmates.
- 3) What did you like best about the performance and why? Was the program different from what you expected? How?

## CAMPUS RESOURCE GUIDE

The University of California, Davis campus is a very beautiful and interesting place to visit, and there are many learning experiences available to young student visitors. We have listed some of these below. While on campus, consider taking advantage of these resources.

### **Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) 752-8277**

Private cars may park in several lots on campus for \$4.00. Please call Sandy Morgan (752-7657) to arrange for bus parking.

### **Places to Eat (Please call ahead if you have a large group)**

- \* Coffee House, Memorial Union (752-6622)
- \* Silo Student Union (752-1900)

Carl's Jr.	Sub City
Pizza Hut	Brennan's Coffee
Taco Bell	Le Crepe

### **Art Galleries (Please call ahead for current exhibits and possible tours)**

*Design Gallery* (Walker Hall) is an innovative space known for its exciting exhibitions of design-related objects such as architecture, textiles, and folk art. 752-6150

*Richard L. Nelson Gallery* (Art Building) is located south of Shields Library. It is well known for its regularly changing exhibitions of historical and contemporary works of art. 752-8500

*Fine Arts Collection* (Art Building) represents various historical periods and cultures as well as houses the Davis campus' major collection of art.

*Craft Center* (South Silo) provides opportunities for workshops and classes in woodworking, weaving, jewelry-making, art and graphics, computer imaging, ceramics, photography, silk-screen printing, welding, leather-working, stained-glass, and other crafts. There is always a display of students' work. 752-1475

*C.N. Gorman Museum* (Hart Hall) features changing exhibitions of works by Native American and other diverse artists. 752-6567

*Memorial Union Art Gallery* (Memorial Union), 2nd Floor exhibit. 752-2885

## **Campus Tours Available**

*The Tram* provides a one-hour tour of the campus for 20-40 people. Reservations should be made one week in advance. The pick-up is at the Buehler Alumni and Visitor Center on Old Davis Road. 752-8222

*Animal Barn Tour Program* tours are offered during the Spring for classes K-5. The tours consist of visits to three campus locations where cows, pigs, and horses can be observed. Student guides conduct the tours, providing information on the animals. 754-8111

*Peter J. Shields Library* (located south of the Quad) houses collections in the humanities, arts, social sciences, biological sciences, agricultural sciences, mathematics and computer science. It is one of the premier research libraries in North America. 752-6561

*Bohart Museum of Entomology* has an educational program about insects. The 60 minute tours can be arranged by appointment only. The museum is located in the Academic Surge Building. Tours use permanent and hands-on exhibits as well as live insects for demonstrations. The primary objective of the educational programs is to teach children about insects, particularly (1) their enormous diversity in form, color, behavior, (2) their impact on daily human life, (3) their importance in ecosystems, and (4) their general harmlessness. Contact Steve Heydon, 752-0493

*California Raptor Center* has an on-site program to increase the public's awareness of raptors (birds of prey) and their environment. The facility has a museum containing displays, exhibits and hands-on materials. The Center is located in South Davis. 752-9994

*Davis Arboretum* is an 80-acre public garden on the UC Davis campus. The Outdoor Education Program is geared particularly for K-6 class visits and uses the "guided discovery" approach to increase children's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the natural world. 752-4880

*Equestrian Center* (located on Garrod Road near the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital) provides instruction in both English and Western riding along with training in horse care and stable management. 752-2372

*Environmental Horticulture Teaching Gardens*, located on Old Davis Road next to the Alumni Center, are open to the public and include common and unusual species of trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennial and bedding plants. The arrangement of plants is based on botanical and horticultural principles rather than on design principles. Tours last a half hour and are suitable for 5<sup>th</sup> grade through high school students. 752-0349

This Teacher's Guide was written by ANETT JESSOP, Graduate Program Coordinator, Department of English, UC Davis