



Curriculum Guide 2024

MOMMA NURTURE & THE BRIGHT SIDES - Brüka Theatre For Children

www.brüka.org

1) ABOUT THE BRÜKA THEATRE AND THE ARTISTS

Brüka Theatre has been showcasing Theatre for Children for over three decades in communities and schools across Nevada and northern California. The team behind the show, including creators, crew, and actors, boasts many years of experience in performance, creation, and teaching, making them a perfect fit for our Theatre For Children. Mary Bennett, who has been associated with Theatre For Children for over 30 years, is the creator of the current show. Together, the team has over 50 years of experience in live theatre. Our players in our show are considered “artists in residence” as they are integrating theatre strategies with curriculum based themes. Additionally, we often use understudies from the Brüka ensemble and volunteers from your school. You can find Brüka Theatre located in downtown Reno at 99 N. Virginia St. For more information, you can visit our website at www.brüka.org or call us at 89501 (775) 323-3221.

2) Program Synopsis

Brüka's Theatre For Children presents an innovative theatrical experience that can be staged in any environment using simple sets, costumes, and props. This year, we have created a live show based on the earth's seasons. Our goal is to educate children on how to care for the environment in a fun and engaging way, combining elements of theatre, language arts, and science. During the performances, we use improvisational games, and we invite a few volunteers to join us on stage to participate in the show. We kindly ask that you discuss audience etiquette, the structure of a play, and what to expect with your students before attending our performance.

3) Program Objectives

Our productions are aimed at introducing students to a live, professional theatre experience and the techniques used to tour a theatrical performance to a variety of venues. We use theatre creation, acting, and improvisational techniques that enhance storytelling and the joy of performance in hopes that teachers and students will find accessibility to the art and use tools of performance in their classrooms and lives. We believe that by bringing theatre into the schools we are encouraging both students and adults to embrace their artistic sides and the possibilities it creates in life and education. Students will also experience lessons that are true to their own lives, finding courage, humor and emotional intelligence tools that develop character.

4) About The Story

Written with ages K - 6 in mind, but fun for the entire family, Brüka Theatre For Children's original production of Momma Nurture & The Bright Sides is written and performed toward a youth perspective while exploring the four environmental R's (Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Respect). The character of Momma Nurture and her Bright Sides (which include audience volunteers) create a live fast-paced sequence of special guests and improv strategies that aim to integrate art and nature, giving the audience simple tools of conservation to implement into their lives. Appropriate for the whole family.

5) Points Of Light In Our Presentation

Why did we use Greek Characters? Similar to super hero's of our time, the Greek gods and goddesses represent the natural elements and remain the basis to much of our collective learning. Ask the kids - What Greek Gods & Goddesses are you familiar with? Which ones relate to the earth?

Trees Are Amazing! The air around us has something called carbon dioxide - CO₂, that is not good for us. Trees can help us by taking in the CO₂ and turning it into oxygen that we can breathe. Trees are so good at this that just one big tree can take away as much CO₂ as you make when you drive your car 26,000 miles in one year. The circumference of the earth is 24,072 miles.

Ozone Layer - The ozone layer or ozone shield is a region of Earth's stratosphere that absorbs most of the Sun's ultraviolet radiation. If all the people on earth *phase out and stop using* harmful substances like foam products, aerosols and solvents, the ozone layer can heal itself and could fully recover by the year 2065.

Tree Plantings provide an opportunity for community involvement and empowerment that improves the quality of life in our neighborhoods. All cultures, ages, and genders have an important role to play at a tree planting or tree care event. So plant a tree with your community, family or do it as a solo gig and name it after yourself.

7) Hands-On Activities

We will be playing improvisational games including **THE MACHINE, DIAMOND DANCE & FASHION SHOW**. These games or theatre "strategies" can be used in your classroom and integrated with your teaching on all different subjects. We are focusing on the environment and are using a different style of staging in your space. We will be asking for participation from the students as volunteers and also in repeating words and singing along. The basis of all improvisation is the ability to say "yes and".

We also play "**Community Sing Out**" to emphasize the four "R's" we are concentrating on:
Chorus! Let's all RECYCLE, REDUCE, REUSE, & RESPECT
Let's all RECYCLE, REDUCE, REUSE & RESPECT
Let's all RECYCLE, REDUCE, REUSE & RESPECT

9) Follow-Up Questions

How can you participate in Recycling? Do you recycle at home? Do we recycle at school?
What are ways we can reuse items in our home? In our classroom?

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM INTEGRATION ACTIVITIES

David Farmer is also a great resource for improvisation and drama games for teachers and the classrooms. <http://dramaresource.com/>

If you would like to **communicate** with the actors or the theatre you may email any questions or comments to: brukaproduction@gmail.com

NOTE TO TEACHERS & SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS - This play uses THREE volunteers from the audience. Preferably they are comfortable on stage, respectful and take direction. They will be on stage with the actors during the entire performance. If you are able to communicate who those students could be before the performance that would be very helpful.

Updated: 03/04/24 MB marybruka@gmail.com