Presents

Aesop's Fables

Monday, October 16, 2006
10am and Noon in Bowker Auditorium

Study Guides are also available on our website at www.fineartscenter.com - select Performances Plus! from Educational Programs, then select Resource room.

The Arts and Education Program of the Fine Arts Center is sponsored by TD Banknorth.
AESOP, the Father of the Fable
(approx. 620-560 BC)

Aesop was born a slave in either Egypt or Turkey (historians are not sure) and found favor at the court of King Croesus (King of Lydia, an ancient kingdom in West Asia Minor). Aesop told stories about animals because people, and kings in particular, didn't like to see themselves being foolish. However, we can all laugh and learn watching animals make the same mistakes as ourselves. In fact, King Croesus freed him because he liked his stories so much. As a free man, Aesop eventually settled in Greece.

The first written record of the fables dates from 300 A.D. Aesop himself never wrote his stories down. The first English publication came in 1484 and in 1593 the fables were published in Japanese! People the world over have known and loved Aesop and his fables for a long time.

BEFORE THE SHOW

Exercise #1

The harpsichord was the forerunner of the piano. When its key is struck, a little quill plucks the string. No matter how hard you hit the keyboard, the sound is always the same. With the invention of the piano in the 18th century, when the key is struck, a felt hammer strikes the string and thus you can play loudly or softly. It was originally called a pianoforte, which means "soft-loud" in Italian.

In the section, THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE, a piano will be heard playing a short Scarlatti sonata followed by the sound of a harpsichord playing the same piece. Suggest to the children beforehand that they listen for the difference in sound between the two.
Exercise #2

Get a recording of Beethoven's 3rd Symphony. Play the third movement (Scherzo) when the children come to class in the morning. Repeat this for at least three days prior to the show. Do not make any fuss as to it being "great" Beethoven. Just let it be there. If questioned by the children, simply suggest, “It's a nice way to start the day.” Doing this exercise will enable the children to recognize the music when they hear it in the show.

AFTER THE SHOW

Review the fables in the show and discuss the various ramifications of the morals.

1. **THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE** (performed with a paper bag and cardboard cut-outs)
   
   *Music*: Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757) Sonata in C  
   *Moral*: Slow and steady is sure to win.

2. **THE STAG AT THE POOL** (Paper bags and cardboard box)
   
   *Music*: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827) Symphony No. 3 The Eroica. Third Movement: Scherzo  
   *Moral*: Things are the way they are for a reason.

3. **THE FOX AND THE GRAPES** (Hand shadows)
   
   *Moral*: Only a fool laughs at something he can't have.

4. **THE FOX AT THE WELL** (Hand shadows)
   
   *Moral*: Look before you leap.

5. **THE WIND AND THE SUN**
   
   
   *Moral*: It's much stronger to be gentle and kind than to be a loud and forceful bully.

6. **THE LION AND THE MOUSE** (Newspaper puppets)
   
   *Moral*: Don't make fun of little things.

7. **THE CAT AND HER TAIL** (Re-named “Warble Twinky" by Jim West)
   
   *Music*: Gioacchino Rossini (1792-1868) Overture to Cinderella (the last third of the piece)
   
   *Moral*: Go forward. Don't look for happiness behind you.
Paper Bag Puppets

1. Cut a piece of construction paper the same size as a paper bag. Fold in half and paste into the fold of the paper bag.

2. Paste a piece of paper on top of the bag and cardboard. Cut into a shape and add ears, antlers, horns - whatever. Use tissue paper or construction paper strips for hair, feathers or general collage decorations.

Hand Shadows

Use slide or overhead projector to create a shadow light and have children take turns practicing shadow puppets to act out one of the stories. Encourage the students to create their creatures using the two illustrated below as examples.

Newspaper Mouth Puppet

STEP 1
Fold a cardboard circle in half. (About the size of a dinner plate - if possible.

STEP 2
Bunch up a couple of pieces of newspaper. Wrap a smooth piece of newspaper around them, forming a neat bundle.

STEP 3
Using Scotch tape, attach neat bundle to one half of the cardboard circle. Do not tape along fold so you can insert fingers under bundle.

STEP 4
Repeat steps 2 and 3 on other half of circle. Again, do not tape along fold.

STEP 5
Decorate as desired. Tape on small bundles of paper for eyes or paint them with tempera. Use tissue paper or newspaper strips for hair. Have fun!
Evacuation Procedures
Bowker Auditorium

Note: Interior house conditions may necessitate alternate exit routes.

Sections A - K and the Pit exit toward stage.

Sections L - U exit toward lobby.

West side exit stairwell Left.

East side exit stairwell right.

Bowker Auditorium
NOTICE TO ALL TEACHERS AND CHAPERONES

- **PERFORMANCES BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 10AM OR NOON.**
  Many of our performances sell out. This means we can have up to 1,600 students to seat. Please help us by arriving **30 minutes** prior to the start of the performance. This will allow our ushers to get everyone seated and for you and your students to visit the rest rooms and get settled. It is important that we begin our performances on time so that all schools can meet their lunch and/or dismissal times.

- **PLEASE CHECK LOCATION OF PERFORMANCE WHEN MAKING YOUR BUS RESERVATION.**

- The staff of the Fine Arts Center needs your help! An increasing number of students are coming into the performance space with gum, food, beverages and portable music players. **None of these items is allowed in the halls for performances.** Many of these items are stowed in backpacks and are not easily noticed. Our goal is to offer high quality performances for young people. In order to enhance the experience, we ask for your cooperation in preventing these items from entering the hall.

- For the comfort of all concerned, we ask that backpacks, lunches and other gear be left on the bus. Our long-standing policy of no cameras or tape recorders still is in effect.

- At the conclusion of the performance please remain in your seats until your school group is dismissed.

  *We hope that you and your students enjoy your theatre experience!*
PARKING POLICY
FOR GROUPS NOT TRAVELING BY SCHOOL BUS

We are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements with the UMass Parking Services to allow our patrons to park in the Campus Parking Garage for the reduced rate of just $1 during your stay.

This rate is available to home school families and schools that will arrive by private transportation rather than by bus. Please let us know at the time you make your reservations that you will be traveling by car. Parking passes will be mailed with your invoice approximately one month prior to each performance. You will be sent a sheet that includes 10 parking passes that you may cut and give out to drivers in your group. Should you require additional passes, please photocopy the sheet. The passes are valid for the garage only on the date of your reserved performance. You may park in the garage for performances in either the Concert Hall, Rand Theater or Bowker Auditorium. Parking at meters on campus does not apply.

We hope that this policy will better meet your needs. Please do not hesitate to call our office if you have questions.

Programming Office: (413) 545 – 0190.
PARKING AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE FINE ARTS CENTER

BOWKER AUDITORIUM
In Stockbridge Hall

Bowker Auditorium

School Bus Parking: Students should be dropped-off behind Stockbridge Hall which is accessed via the road to the Campus Center Parking Garage off of Commonwealth Avenue. University Security will direct buses to an appropriate parking lot during the performance (typically by the football stadium). PLEASE BE SURE YOUR BUS DRIVER KNOWS THAT ALL PERFORMANCES LAST APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR AND THEY SHOULD RETURN A FEW MINUTES BEFORE THE ANTICIPATED END TIME. If drivers are not with the buses, they may miss the radio call from security asking them to return for pick-up, resulting in unnecessary delays returning to your school.

Individual cars: We recommend parking in the Campus Center Parking Garage which is directly next to Stockbridge Hall/Bowker Auditorium. All other available parking during weekdays is at meters. There are few meters available that are close to Bowker Auditorium. Available lots and pricing (current as of 9/1/04) are listed below:

Parking in the Garage is available to our patrons at a discounted rate of $1. To receive this rate you MUST give the Garage attendant a parking pass. To receive your pass, please call our office to let us know that you will be arriving by car. Parking passes are sent with the invoices. (413)545-0190

Parking meters are enforced Monday – Friday, 7AM – 5PM. Meter rates are $1.00 per hour.

Parking Garage – next to Bowker - accessed across from the Mullins Center off Commonwealth Avenue
Lot 25 – next to Mullins Center with 3 & 5 hour meters

From the North: (Vermont, Greenfield) I-91 south to Route 116. Follow signs on 116 “To the University of Massachusetts.” Exit ramp leads to Massachusetts Avenue. Turn left (east) on to Massachusetts Avenue toward the campus. At first light turn left on to Commonwealth Avenue. At next light turn right and follow signs for the Parking Garage.

From the South: (Springfield, Holyoke) I-91 north to Route 9. East on Route 9 over the Coolidge Bridge and through Hadley. Left at Route 116 (across from Staples) heading north toward campus. Right at first exit at "University of Massachusetts" bear right onto Massachusetts Avenue toward campus. At first light turn left on to Commonwealth Avenue. At next light turn right and follow signs for the Parking Garage.

From the West: (Northampton, Pittsfield) Route 9 east through Northampton and over Coolidge Bridge. Follow remaining directions from “From the South” above.

From the East: (Belchertown, Ludlow) North on Routes 21, 181 or 202 to Route 9 into Amherst. Right on to North Pleasant Street (main downtown intersection), north through center of town. Turn left at Triangle Street (Bertucci’s Restaurant on your right), rejoining North Pleasant Street. Stay on North Pleasant until it enters campus. Go straight through light – street has now become Massachusetts Avenue. At bottom of hill turn right on to Commonwealth Avenue. At next light turn right and follow signs for the Parking Garage.
For Concert Hall, Rand Theater and Bowker Auditorium – Patrons traveling by car are encouraged to park in the parking garage. Discounted parking is available in the garage for $1. A parking permit is required for discounted parking in the garage. Call the Programming Office if you require permits at (413) 545 – 0190. All other parking on campus is at available meters at the rate of $1 per hour. Parking is enforced Monday – Friday, 7AM – 5 PM.

Buses will drop-off students as indicated on map. Buses will be given parking instructions by Campus Security.