

Program Name: STELLALUNA

Artist: StoneLion Puppet Theatre

Special Requirements:

20' x 20' minimum space requirement; access to electrical outlet; space available one hour before and after performance for set up and load out.

Special Points of Interest:

“Stellaluna” was chosen as part of the Smithsonian Institute's Discovery Theatre 2007 season

Performance Description

This new show by StoneLion Puppet Theatre is not just for the birds. Stellaluna is an amazing high flying adventure. Crash...the little bat Stellaluna is separated from her mother during a night of foraging and lands in a nest full of birds. Mama bird happily adopts her, but Stellaluna just can't change her 'batty' ways. Students will love this great tale of acceptance based on the book by Janelle Canon.

A wonderful story that celebrates diversity, “Stellaluna” is a 45 minute interactive puppet show using direct manipulation mouth puppets with a three dimensional set. Original music by local composer Jack Sharman underscores the action and helps teach plot points with such catchy tunes as “Mama the Moon and Me”, “It's Okay to Stand

Out” and “Bugs, Bugs, Bugs.” Puppets and sets were created to exhibit the art work that author Janelle Canon used in her illustrations and remains true to the text and style. A giant next, 8' tall trees and bats and birds that will actually land on your head engage audiences of all ages.



Educational Objectives & Standards

Students will:

- Learn the biological habits of fruit bats and birds, including what they eat and how they fly.
- Learn the importance of accepting each other's differences.

Standards addressed:

- Behavioral Studies: Knows how a culture's rules reflect its values and beliefs.
- Theatre: Knows character traits that help individuals to succeed.



StoneLion Puppet Theatre is a professional company dedicated to challenging the thought patterns of the young and young at heart through the art of puppetry. They use multiple puppetry styles to bring the magic of theatre to life. **Heather Nisbett-Loewenstein** is the Founder and Artistic Director. She has performed, designed, and/or directed more than 70 different productions for Stone Lion, and works as a puppet

builder and costume designer for professional theaters. Heather has also been a Kansas City Art Institute Continuing Education Teacher and taught Puppetry and Costume at Kansas City Kansas Community College. She holds a Bachelor of Theater Arts degree from Boise State University and earned a Certificate of Theatre at the University of Dublin, Trinity College.

List of Resources:

Books:

[Stellaluna](#)

Publisher: Harcourt

Children's Books

Pub. Date: April 1993

ISBN-13: 9780152802172

Online Resources:

<http://mdc.mo.gov/teacher/>

The Missouri Department of Conservation's Education website. A wonderful resource for "batty" facts, classes and educational handouts on local flora and fauna.

<http://www.sagecraft.com/puppetry/>

The Puppetry Homepage

A great website for all things puppetry! What's happening across the country, ask a question, download plans, see what's new.

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

816.531.4022
KCYA.org

Vocabulary

(While the dialogue in the performance of "Stellaluna" is age appropriate, you might want to discuss some of the following ideas or concepts with your students after the program)

Nocturnal: A nocturnal animal is an animal that is active after dark. These animals tend to have heightened senses of smell and touch.

Carnivore: Any meat-eating animal.

Omnivore: Animals that eat both plants and meat

Vegetarian: An animal that eats plants only.

Echolocation: The practice of emitting sound waves and listening to the echo in order to locate objects or navigate. This is how bats can fly at night.



Post-Performance Activities

1. Have students pretend they are Stellaluna's mother. Make a "Missing" poster for Stellaluna that includes an illustration, a visual description, and a plea from her mother to help find her.
2. Create a word web for "friendship." Have students consider what it means to be a friend, who can be a friend, and why friendship is important.
3. Discuss the meaning of the words "different" and "Unique." Provide students with a blackline copy of a bat hanging upside down. Replace the bat's head with a picture of the student's face. Have students write what makes them unique/different of the bat's belly, then hang the bats upside down from the ceiling.
4. Visit www.batcon.org to find more facts and view bat images.