

Program Name: The Giving Tree

Artist: Harlan Brownlee

Special Requirements:

Large, open space, must be 20' x 30'

Other programs by this artist:

-Rain Forest
-Weather on the Move
-Simple Machines: Bodies in Motion
Anansi the Spider
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Workshop Description

Using Shel Silverstein's book *The Giving Tree*, Teaching Artist Harlan Brownlee helps students interpret the words and images of the story into movement phrases. Together, the workshop participants explore the similarities between how authors and choreographers create their work. The students also learn that while authors use words and choreographers use movement, both create images that communicate a message.

This workshop is designed to introduce students and teachers to the ideas of instructing the kinesthetic learner. Harlan's goal is to teach children through movement, enhancing overall learning capability

by engaging auditory, visual, and kinesthetic modes of learning.



Curriculum Connections & Educational Objectives

Students will:

- Explore the similarities between how authors and choreographers use movement, both to create images that communicate a message
- Interpret words and images into movement phrases
- Talk about characters and their actions in stories
- Use movement and dance as a means to communicate a feeling, idea, or story

Artist Bio

Harlan Brownlee understands the transformational power that the arts have to improve the quality of life for individuals and the community. Brownlee has worked for 35 years in the arts education field as a performing artist, teaching artist, and arts administrator.

Mr. Brownlee is on the Kennedy Center's National touring roster for the Changing Education Through the Arts program and has conducted professional development, workshops, and residencies extensively in the Midwest and throughout the United States. Most recently, Harlan was chosen as a presenter for Project Lead the Way's National Conferences and awarded a 2019 Young Audiences National Residency Teaching Artist Credential.

Vocabulary

Choreographer: a person who creates dances

Energy: one of the three basic elements of dance, referring to the amount of effort used in an action

Modern Dance: a 20th-century dance form having limitless range of styles in which individual forms of expression are the foundation

Rhythm: an organization of music or movement with respect to time; a sub-element of time.

Post-Workshop Activities

1. *The Mirror Game:* In this activity, students gain body awareness. Ask students to work in pairs with each partner facing the other. The partners select one to be the lead dancer. This partner initiates movements, such as stepping from side to side, bending low, or stretching high, while the second partner mirrors the action. Begin with just arm or hand movements. Advance to whole body movement. Keep it slow. Challenge students to stay exactly together.

2. *Design a Dance:* Encourage students to choreograph one of their favorite books. They should decide on a theme

He has designed and implemented hundreds of lesson plans instructing a weekly class at Community School #1 that integrates dance and movement with an emphasis on the subject areas of science and literacy. Harlan has instructed pre-service teachers as an adjunct professor for Rockhurst University's School of Education and the University of Missouri – Kansas City's School of Education.

Mr. Brownlee received his B.F.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his M.A. from University of Missouri – Kansas City. His performance background includes work for thirteen years as one of the Artistic Co-Directors with City in Motion Dance Theater in Kansas City, Missouri.

Space: one of the three basic elements of dance, it is the canvas in which dancers create movement; words used in reference to space are direction, level, design, occupied/unoccupied, and positive/negative.

Time: one of the three basic elements of dance, it refers to the speed of a given action, how fast or slow; words used in reference to time include rhythm, tempo, beat, acceleration, deceleration, pulse, and syncopation.

and express the mood of the book through their movements. They may select music or add costumes, if they wish.



List of Resources:

Books:

The Giving Tree
by Shel Silverstein
HarperCollins Publishers (June 1, 1964)
ISBN: 0060256656

Teaching the Magic of Dance
by Jacques D'Amboise,
Carolyn George D'Amboise
(Other Contributor), Hope
Cooke (Other Contributor)
Simon & Schuster Books
(January, 1983)
ISBN: 0671460773

Videos:

Who's Dancin' Now?
Winstar Home Entertainment
ASIN: B00005KA77

Online Resources:

ArtsEdge Kennedy Center
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/>

Contact KCYA for more information about this and other programs

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