

Program Name: Rain Forest

Artist: Harlan Brownlee

Special Requirements:

Gym or large cleared area, 20' x 20' necessary; floor space cleaned prior to the artist's arrival

Other programs by this artist:

-The Giving Tree
-Weather on the Move
-Simple Machines: Bodies in Motion
Anansi The Spider

Workshop Description

In this workshop, Teaching Artist Harlan Brownlee illustrates the concepts pertinent to the rain forest through movement. Students will take away with them a greater awareness of some the plants and animals found in the rain forest and the interdependence of these creatures in the environment.

Harlan begins the program with an introduction and demonstration of *Space Bubbles* and *levels*. Together, the participants create low, medium, and high *shapes*.

Next, the class explores the illustrations and characters in the book *Here is a Tropical Rain Forest* by Madeleine Dunphy.

Once the class has a good understanding of the various flora and fauna that co-exist in the rain forest, the students create their own shapes based on these characters: the rain, bromeliads, a frog, eagle, etc. Harlan leads the students to explore the *movement essence* of each character.

Combining the knowledge of the different creatures of the rain forest with elements of space and

Curriculum Connections & Educational Objectives

Students will:

- Create a dance that illustrates the interdependence of life in the rain forest.
- Be introduced to the basic elements of dance improvisation.
- Explore and create movement sequences that relate to the rain forest ecosystem.
- Know plants and animals are alive and have characteristics that make them different from non-living matter
- Use movement and dance as a means to communicate a feeling, idea, or story

Artist Bio: Harlan Brownlee



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.

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 – 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.

List of Resources:

Books:

Here Is the Tropical Rain Forest

by Madeleine Dunphy
Rebound by Sagebrush
(October 1, 1999)
ISBN: 0613051424

Does It Always Rain in the Rain Forest?: Questions and Answers About Tropical Rain Forests (Scholastic Question and Answer Series)

by Melvin Berger,
Gilda Berger, Michael
Rothman
Scholastic Reference
(April 1, 2002)
ISBN: 0439193834

Children Save the Rain Forest
by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent,
Dan L. Perlman Dutton Books
(June 1, 1996) ISBN:
0525651632

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

Fauna: the animal life in a particular region

Flora: plants considered as a group, especially the plants of a particular country, region, or time

Rain forest: a dense, evergreen forest occupying a tropical region with an annual rainfall of at least 2.5 meters

Rhythm: an organization of music or movement with respect to time

Space: one of the three basic elements of dance, it is the canvas in which dancers create movement; sub-elements 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; sub-elements used in reference to time include rhythm, tempo, beat, acceleration, deceleration, pulse, and syncopation.

Post-Workshop Activities

1. Practice the movements learned in the workshop. Try to create new shapes inspired by other animals that make their habitat the rain forest.
2. Move the shapes through space using different locomotors. Try moving slowly or quickly.
3. Practice moving your animal at the same level as the one they move in in the rain forest. For example, *canopy dwellers* move at a high level, *understory dwellers* move at a medium level, and *forest dwellers* move at a low level.
4. Practice progressive relaxation, which is the sequential tightening and releasing of muscles.



or more
ut this and