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THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON

Ensemble Storytelling + Folk Music
+ Puppetry + An Epic Adventure =

THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON

The endlessly imaginative PigPen Theatre Co. elevates traditional storytelling to high art in the fantastical, song-filled play THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON. After nearly a lifetime of tending to the old moon (which leaks its liquid light daily), an old man abandons his post when his wife unexpectedly leaves home. With spirited folk music, inventive theatrical effects and a rollicking array of ever-changing characters, the wunderkinds of PigPen perform a folk-rock fable about light, love and an epic journey to the End of the World.

CLOSER LOOK AT THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON

Here are a few facts about THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON to familiarize you with the show and build excitement around your upcoming visit:

• The tale of THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON is told by seven performers. This production uses imaginative storytelling, puppetry, and shadow play to transform the stage into many locations including a ship, a lost city and even the belly of a whale.

• PigPen Theatre Co. can be traced back to the seven friends’ freshman year at the Carnegie Mellon School of Drama. This band of buddies turned actor-musicians were the first to win the New York International Fringe Festival’s top honor, the Overall Excellence Award, two years in a row (The Nightmare Story, 2010 and The Mountain Song, 2011).

• In addition to being talented actors, the men of PigPen perform together as musicians. Their debut indie-folk album Bremen was named #10 album of the year in The Huffington Post’s 2012 Grammy preview. Since then, they have toured the US spreading a love of folk music.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON FROM?

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

• Want to see the moon from New York City? It is approximately 238,900 miles (384,400 km) away from the Earth.

• Working as a musician in New York is a tough business. The musicians who perform in the NYC Subway system as part of the Music Under New York program have to go through a competitive audition process — some of these subway musicians have also played at Carnegie Hall!
WHAT DO YOUR STUDENTS KNOW NOW?

Prior to exploring THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON with your students, find out how much they already know about puppetry and folk music. In addition, allow them to explore the theme of responsibility.

Have you ever been to a show in a theater before? How many performers were in the show?

Have you ever seen someone manipulate a puppet? What are some different kinds of puppets you’ve seen?

How does music help tell a story? Have you ever seen a musical? Have you ever seen a play with music? Is there a difference?

What makes a story epic? Can you think of some epic stories you’ve heard or seen in the past? What do they have in common?

What are some responsibilities that you have in your life, either at school or at home? Does anyone rely on you?

PUPPETRY

A puppet is an inanimate figure representing a living character that is brought to life by a puppeteer through the manipulation of hands, rods, wires, and/or other means. Anything can become a puppet with enough imagination, even an old mop top! Puppets can be as large as our friends on Sesame Street or so small that it only takes one finger to animate them. In THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON, a variety of puppetry techniques are used to tell the epic narrative PigPen has created, such as shadow and object puppetry.

FOLK MUSIC

Folk music is a loose label referring to a genre of music rooted in the tradition of oral storytelling that varies in style because it reflects the culture in which it originates. American folk music traditionally comes from the Appalachian region and stringed instruments like acoustic guitars, banjos, and fiddles give the music its distinctive twangy sound. PigPen’s multi-talented actors play all of these instruments and more, including a hammer dulcimer and a many-stringed instrument that resembles the inside of a grand piano, to evoke the Celtic and American traditions that inspired THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD MOON.