COMMON CORE & ARTS CURRICULUM Standards In Focus

READING STANDARD FOR LITERATURE 7: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.

SPEAKING & LISTENING STANDARD 1: Comprehension and Collaboration
Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade appropriate topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

ARTS EDUCATION—THEATRE Standard 3: Analyze, describe and evaluate works of art.
ART.T.III.1 Understand characters’ thought process during dramatic scenes.
ART.T.III.4 Suggest and implement alternative characters, settings, or events after viewing or participating in a performance.
ART.T.III.7 Question emotions and thoughts evoked by performance.

Welcome to THE CIVIC

The Kalamazoo community is rich in the arts with several theatres, a fine arts institute, a symphony, and many, many other arts organizations. But it is a rare thing to have one world-premiere, let alone, two! We are thrilled to be presenting our second brand new production written by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman. The production you will see was written specifically for us here in Kalamazoo and soon, I’m sure it will be seen on stages across the country like our previous commission of Sleepy Hollow, A Musical Tale which is actually being performed at the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre in a few weeks! It is wonderful working with Janet and Mark and we are thrilled to have built this wonderful working partnership with them!

Research has shown that as the brain develops there is a need to educate the whole child through shaping key academic, social and critical thinking skills. The Arts are vital to the teaching of empathy, emotional intelligence, imagination, creativity and introducing ideas that challenge us to see the world in a different way. By exposing yourself, family, and students to live theatre, you are helping to expand their imagination and education.

We at the Civic (And the over 40 volunteer youth that are involved as actors and crew members on this production!) hope that your audience experience sparks discussion between friends, classmates and families that will get imaginations working and put a creative component in your communication!

Nicki Poer | Director of Education & Outreach

MEET THE WRITING TEAM BEHIND THE STORY!

Award-winning composers, lyricists, and playwrights Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman have been long-standing creative partners - each of them - together - composing the music, lyrics, and books for all of their shows. Recognized for their outstanding musicals for young audiences, their works have played on stages and have toured across the United States, Canada, Europe, and Australia, published by Theatrical Rights Worldwide. In 2005 they were honored together as National Music Educators of the Year, and have won three distinguished Owen Awards for outstanding music and recording sales achievement. They have produced CDs and digital online recordings, music for videos, and have written choral music in a variety of styles and genres which are featured in numerous music catalogs. Their music is marketed and sung throughout the world and is available on iTunes, Amazon, Spotify and many other online music sites. They are members of ASCAP, The Dramatist Guild, and the Theatre Communications Group and are represented by the Paradigm Agency in New York City.

FUN FACT
This is the Civic’s 2nd world-premiere written by Janet and Mark! We commissioned them previously to write Sleepy Hollow, A Musical Tale. It opened in October 2010.
BEHIND THE SCENES OF *Sherlock Holmes & the Mystery of the Crown Jewel*

All of the actors that you will see onstage are between the ages of 9-18 years old; all of the people on the crews are also between the ages of 9-18—read below to find out more information on what the crews do.

**Stage Management**
The Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Managers begin their job generally about 8 weeks before auditions by attending design meetings for the production. They also help facilitate auditions and callbacks. During the early part of rehearsals, the Stage Manager’s primary responsibility is to record blocking, which is the movement of the actors on the stage. Throughout rehearsals it is also the stage manager’s responsibility to help coordinate the placement and movement of all hand props as well as the placement and movement of furniture. The Stage Manager is the communication hub of a production.

**Lighting Crew** (Electricians, Board Operator, Master Electrician)
The Lighting Crew hung and patched all of the lighting instruments for the production. They then serve as the spotlight and light board operators for every performance. The Master Electrician worked ahead of time.

**Sound Crew** (Playback & Live Mixing)
The Sound Crew does live mixing of all of the microphones for this production and the playback crew member runs the music tracks.

**Costume/Makeup Crew**
The Costume & Makeup Crew is responsible for helping to construct costumes and help out with quick changes, hair & makeup during the show run.

**Paint Crew**
The Paint Crew has participated in the complete process of painting set and props. This crew’s job is finished prior to the run of the show and they are able to watch the production from the audience.

**Properties Crew**
This crew was very busy getting props built and found for this production.

**Scenery Construction Crew**
We are proud to say that the Set Crew was very active in the construction process for the past five weeks. They were here Monday-Friday from 4-6 PM to work on building the scenery. This crew is very active in the Scene Shop and learned how to use many different tools—they even welded!

**Front of House Crew**
This crew becomes the front of house staff for the run of the production. They usher every performance and help to ensure that the audience (patrons) have an enjoyable experience at theatre!

These hard-working crews keep the production running! Do you think that you would like to be onstage performing or backstage on a crew? If you are between the ages of 9-18 years old—go to www.kazoocivic.com for more info!
Before, After & In-Between

BEFORE

Prepare to see the play...

- Make sure everyone understands proper audience etiquette—sit quietly but laugh or clap when appropriate.
- And make sure everyone knows that the lights go out in theatre but they always come back on!
- Research Sir Arthur Conan Doyle who wrote all of the Sherlock Holmes stories—there is a LOT of information about there and the stories are all so different. See what you can find and then compare it to our story!
- This musical focuses on solving mysteries—have you ever had to solve a mystery on your own? It could be anything from where is your missing sock to what is your sibling doing with the craft supplies!
- This play is based on the characters of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle but the story is entirely original and was created by the playwrights, Mark Friedman and Janet Yates Vogt. Have you ever taken your favorite characters and created a new story for them to follow?

IN-BETWEEN

Engage as an audience...

- As you watch the show—what are the similarities and difference between Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty? They all have things that they want but how do they go after them? Do they all get what they needed or wanted at the end of the play? And what about the Irregulars? What do they want?

AFTER

Reflect on your experience...

- The Irregulars learned a lot about family history in the play. Genealogy is a mystery to many of us. Ask your older family members about your family history and see if you can solve the mystery of where your family originated? Where did you come from?
- What about the set? Draw or talk about things you remember. Did the set change during the play? How was it moved or changed? Was there any space besides the stage where the action took place?
- How did the lights set the mood of the play? What do you think “house lights” are? How do they differ from stage lights? Did you notice different areas of lighting?
- What did you think about the costumes? Do you think they fit the story? What things do you think the costume designers had to consider before creating the costumes?
- What about the actors? Do you think they were able to bring the characters to life? Did you feel caught up in the story?

Contact Us...

Encourage your students to contact us and tell us what they thought of the play.

We would love to read some of the writing inspired by the prompt in this study guide!

Kalamazoo Civic Theatre
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The Director of Education & Outreach is available for workshops before or after the production. Please contact Nicki Poer at education@kazoocivic.com or (269) 569-9035.