

A PROPOSAL FOR
A CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL THEATRE PROGRAM

A Five-Week Program for Summer 1975

Phyllis E. Quanbeck
Program Director

Pat McReal
955 Holiday Ct St,
next to Morrison's
First Wednesday
Next meeting on
Apr 2

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

For several years parents of students in Salem Public Schools have inquired about the possibility of a summer program of children's theatre. Such a program has not been financially feasible. Now, however, monies are being made available from the Oregon Arts Commission to implement programs in Educational Theatre.

McKinley Community Education and the Children's Theatre Advisory Board are proposing a program for Children's Educational Theatre for the summer of 1975. The program will run for five weeks and be open to students from grades four through nine. Generally, the purpose of the program is to build an awareness and appreciation of, and interest in, the dramatic arts, as well as to develop special skills in singing, dancing, acting and mime.

The program will be financed by monies now in a McKinley Community Education Trust and Agency account, Children's Theatre Fund, registration fee for participating students, income from sale of tickets for performances, and a grant from the Oregon Arts Commission.

THE PROBLEM

As stated above, parents have made repeated inquiries about a summer program in educational theatre for children. Observations of literally hundreds of students who have participated in drama classes and dramatic

productions have revealed that students generally are below a desirable level in social poise, communication skills, and awareness and knowledge of theatre arts which are needed to make them effective performers and communicators.

Social and educational research indicate that such knowledge and skills can better be acquired by students at a younger age than high school. However, the time and competencies necessary to teach them and the funds necessary to implement such a program have not been available at the elementary and junior high level.

The fact that one of the goals of Oregon education is the development of an awareness of the constructive use of leisure time is also of vital importance. The proposal for a summer program in Children's Educational Theatre would capitalize on the availability of that time and would also equip students with knowledge and skills for continuing use of leisure time.

PROGRAM GOALS

Although the instruction which the students will receive will have specific objectives, the goals of the program are more comprehensive and inclusive. They are:

1. Students of elementary and junior high age will acquire knowledge and develop skills in theatre which will evoke an interest in theatre which will provide a basis for constructive use of leisure time.
2. Students will understand the basic elements in dramatic communication and demonstrate that knowledge by playing a part on stage before an audience.
3. Students will communicate various ideas, both verbally and non-verbally, both in classroom situations and in stage production situations.

4. Students will comfortably perform before peers and adults in controlled situations (stage performances) and in unstructured social situations.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The program will include four classes in communication skills each day. It is planned that enrollment will be held to approximately one hundred students. These will be divided into four classes. The students will be instructed in various communication skills which will specifically include mime, improvisation, dance and singing. Each enrolled student will be required to take a class in improvisational drama and a movement class (physical coordination training). The student will have options for specialty classes in drama, music, mime, and story interpretation.

Class Schedule: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Class I	8:30 - 9:15	
Class II	9:20 - 10:00	
Break	10:00 - 10:15	
Class III	10:15 - 10:55	
Class IV	11:00 - 11:40	
Special		
Performance	11:45 - 12:00	(Entire group assembled)
Class V	12:30 - 1:30	Working with volunteers Costumes, promotion, and planning

PROJECT TIME-LINE

1. Brochure with description of the Program for Children's Theatre to all grade schools and junior high schools by May 5, 1975.
2. Pre-registration of students by June 1.
3. Curriculum data formulated; scheduling of classes and classrooms worked out by June 1.
4. Lesson plans and objectives for each class completed by June 21.
5. Two-day workshop with instructors, June 21, 22.

6. Classes begin June 23; conclude July 25.
Four weeks of classes.
One week of special classes and performances.
7. Special performances in Bush Park and South High Theatres last week
of the five-week Children's Theatre Program.

LOCATION

South Salem High School Little Theatre; choir room;

two auxiliary classrooms.

South - Leslie Auditorium

PERSONNEL

Program Director: Phyllis E. Quanbeck, English and Drama Teacher,
South Salem High School.

Assistants: Leslie Green, Elementary music Major,
University of Oregon student.
Sally Long, Education Theatre Major,
University of Washington, Oregon College
of Education student.
Jean Badenoch, English and Drama Teacher,
Lodgegrass, Montana.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following persons have indicated their willingness to serve as
an advisory council to the program:

Pat McReal, Chairman
A representative from McKinley Advisory Council
Dave King
Mrs. T. W. Hansen
Mrs. Lester Green
Mrs. James Gray
Mrs. Sue Stanford -
Mrs. Isabel Rosebough
Mrs. Jack Thornton

Consultants:
Bart Simmons, Wally Turnidge

EVALUATION

Evaluation of the program will be conducted primarily through judgments by instructors of entry and exit performances of participating students. In addition, evaluation of effectiveness and community impact will be conducted through exchanges of information with the advisory council and with parents of participating students.