

An Emerald World

Enrichment Works

Our Mission

Enrichment Works creates and presents theater to inspire learning.

Classroom Connections

Synopsis

With Selkies, Leprechauns and Tall Tales, An Emerald World is a celebration of Ireland told through song, folk tales and a wee bit of magic. Peppered with poems and songs by the likes of James Joyce, Katharine Tynan, and Seamus Heaney, Pat, our guide, shares some of his favorite stories from the "Book of Fairies."

In the first story, we meet Finn Fitzgerald, a very lonely fisherman. One day, he sees some mermaids (sea fairies) dancing near the ocean. After taking one of their enchanted red caps, he makes one of

them his wife. Together, they have 2 children and, eventually the children find the cap that allows Muirín the mermaid to return to the sea.

For the second piece, we meet Fina and Froachán, two twins and their dog, Laddie, who find a leprechaun in the forest. They demand he gives them his pot of gold. He tricks them and they never find his pot of gold, proving that it can be very hard to outsmart a leprechaun.

Our final tale is about Rory Rooney. He believes that nothing exciting happens in his life. But, after one unexpected evening, he learns that it only takes a life lived to tell a great story!



About the Artists

Travis Joe Dixon (Pat): is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a BFA in Musical Theatre. He works in film, television and theater as an actor. Credits include: for television, *True Blood*, *Blackish*, *NCIS*. For film, *The Riot Act*, *Mother's Day*, *The Saint of Auschwitz*. For theater, *The Full Monty* (National Tour), and dozens of plays and musicals at theaters across the country.

Randy Brenner (Director): Previous directing credits include: at PVPA, *Fiddler and White Christmas (twice)*, *Man of La Mancha*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (GCT), *The Fix*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *I Remember Mama*, *Nine* (MTG), *Autumn Canticle* (GLAAD nomination; Celebration)). Directed/Collaborated Stephen Schwartz's *Snapshots* (regional).

Brigitte Viellieu Davis (Playwright): Brigitte Viellieu-Davis is a playwright, producer, performer and consultant. She has worked with theatrical pioneers Anna Deavere Smith and Eve Ensler, and has created initiatives for and consulted with such organizations as NYU's School for Art & Public Policy, The Actors Fund Home, and Educators for Social Responsibility. She holds an M.F.A. from Carnegie Mellon University, and is a member of Actors Equity, SAG/AFTRA, and the Dramatists Guild. After 30 years in the NYC area, Brigitte now resides in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Please visit www.enrichmentworks.org to see full bios for the creative team, as well as the performers.

Discussion and Writing Questions

- Why is it important to share our stories?
- Discuss the 5 W's for each Character. Who? What? Where? When? Why?
- What was the moral of each story?
- Is it possible to have "No" story?

Vocabulary Words

Myth
Fairy
Cead Mille Failte
Mermaid
Leprechaun
Spit (for cooking)
adventure
Blessing
Erin Go Brough

Project Ideas

- Using people and lessons from their own lives, have the class plan and perform their own "Irish folk tale."
- Using recycled materials and construction paper, create your own "Mermaid tail" and Enchanted Red Cap so you can have your own transformation.
- Using resources from the internet, as well as the groups imagination, create your own Irish song and dance.
- Have the class think of the events that make up a person's story. Then, have the students write a one or two paragraph version of "their" story and share it with the class.
- "The Emerald World Game:" Have a team based riddle contest. Each team sends up one person to answer a riddle. If the person knows the answer to the riddle, they must be the first person to say their name in order to attempt to answer the question. If it is correct, they get a point. If it is incorrect, the other team has a chance to answer. The first team to correctly guess 10 riddles will find the Leprechaun's Pot of Gold.

Resources

Websites:

<https://ireland-calling.com/100-favourite-poems/> (Irish Poem Resource)
<https://faeriemagick.com/> (Fairy project ideas, myth and folklore)
<https://www.yourirish.com/> (Irish Culture and history)
<http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/1Kids/2Index.html> (Stories for kids)
<https://owlcation.com/academia/Irish-Facts-Information-Kids> (Irish Facts)

Booklist:

O' Sullivan Stew by Hudson Talbot, Puffin Books, 1999.
Fiona's Luck by Teresa Bateman, Charlesbridge, 2007.
Jamie O' Rourke and the Pooka by Tomie dePaola, Puffin Books, 2002
Brave Margaret: An Irish Adventure by Robert D. San Souci, Simon Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1999
Fin M'Coul: The Giant of Knockmany Hill by Tomie dePaola, Holiday House, 1981
Tim O' Toole and the Wee Folk by Gerald McDermott, Puffin Books, 1992

Contact Us

Enrichment Works

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Standards and Learning

Enrichment Works is a theater company whose productions are designed to inspire children to learn by creating an emotional connection to educational subjects. “An Emerald World” uses the Theater Content Standards of California to provide a positive theatrical experience. The show helps students learn important life lessons through the lens of an Irish Storyteller. Using script, song, dance and interaction with the performers, students learn how to find connection with a culture that may or may not be their own.

Visual and Performing Arts Connections

1.0 Artistic Perception

Students process, analyze and respond to sensory information through language and skills unique to theatre. They learn theatrical vocabulary such as actor, musical, prop, script, score, etc. They analyze the elements of "An Emerald World" by identifying the who, what, when, where and why of the story.

2.0 Creative Expression

Students observe the actors dramatize music, lyrics and dialogue through the medium of theater, and learn how a story can be lifted from real situations and presented on the stage. Through interaction with the actors, they get to place themselves in the shoes of a variety of different people, and creatures. Post-Performance activities provide the students the opportunity to explore their creative expression through multiple mediums including discussion, drawing, and informal presentations.

3.0 Historical and Cultural Context

“An Emerald World” helps students understand several universal life lessons. They learn that you cannot force any other person or thing to be something other than what they are. Students also learn that wealth is not something that comes quickly or without a price. To become wealthy, you must put in hard work. Finally, students are taught that every person has an important story to tell. All lives and experiences have value for somebody.

4.0 Aesthetic Valuing

Students will have the chance to respond to, analyze, and derive meaning from theatre arts. “An Emerald World” uses audience interaction to maintain a high level of emotional connection to the story. The story is presented from an Irish Storytellers point of view, in order to bring the audience on a journey and give them a personal human connection to each story. Post-performance activities provide the students with an understanding of the characters and events. Students will be able to explain and show how the actors were able to portray strong emotions and feelings, while also teaching the audience lessons about being better human beings. Classroom Connections Guides to further emphasize the importance of storytelling and group connection, as well as give the students more understanding about the characters and events.

5.0 Connections, Relationship, Applications

Activities will be provided through Classroom Connections guides in order to further emphasize the importance of the human connection. Students will see how theatre arts can communicate information through song and dance. They will be given a chance to learn the history and experience of Ireland.