CLEVELAND BALLET

UNVEILING THE MAGIC:
CLEVELAND BALLET'S OUTREACH PROGRAM
PRODUCTION SPOTLIGHT SERIES

By Emelia Sherin, Cleveland Ballet Outreach Educator

When working with children in arts programming, it's important not only to teach students the value of artistic expression, but also the career path of creativity.

As an Outreach Educator for Cleveland Ballet, I've had the incredible opportunity to guide students through the realm of ballet technique. This past spring semester, I decided to add a creative and interactive twist to the weekly lesson plan. I realized that while the students knew what happened on stage, but they were not familiar with what happened backstage. How does the magic happen on stage, and who is responsible for it?

From the comfortable audience seats to the dazzling stage, I decided to spotlight the many skills, roles, and potential dream jobs within a production team called the Production Spotlight Series! Our Production Spotlight Series is a journey of discovery, where students dive headfirst into the multifaceted world of stagecraft:

In Part 1, we highlighted the importance of **Set Design,** empowering students to craft immersive environments that transport audiences into captivating stories.

They helped answer the questions, "where does the story take place" and "where does the journey move us?"



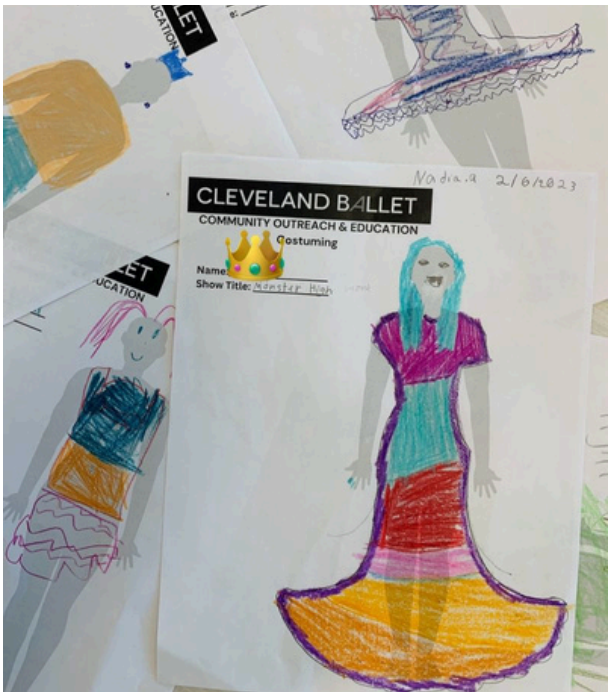
Inspired by their favorite movies, TV shows, and books, our students unleashed their imagination and storytelling abilities, but that's just the beginning!

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In Part 2, we plunged into the glamorous realm of **Costuming**, where every stitch and seam breathes life into characters. From bold color schemes to intricate patterns, our students became costume designers, infusing ballet productions with their wardrobe wizardry.

Using crayons and construction paper, they brought their outfits to life, inspired by their favorite fairytale characters.



Part 3 whisked us away into the world of **Hair and Makeup Design**, where every hairstyle and eyeshadow shade became a stroke of genius. With flair and finesse, our students brought characters to life, adding layers of emotion and personality to their facials and energy.

This activity also assisted students with connecting certain colors to particular emotions to identify different feelings through color theory.



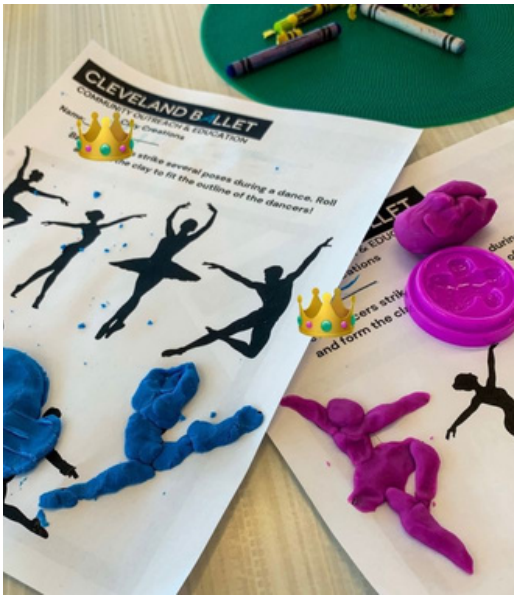
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Finally, **in Part 4,** our students donned the **Artistic Director's cap and called the shots!** From molding clay masterpieces to choreographing electrifying dances, they proved that creativity knows no bounds.

They worked with clay to mold models and instructed fellow students in dance moves that best fit the mood of the music to tell stories through movement.

There are many more positions to cover in the future, but these were a few of the many roles it takes to successfully complete a production.





From refining motor and communication skills to allowing students to express their emotions and interests, this program encouraged positive youth development. With the support from Academy of Cleveland Ballet & Additional Programs Coordinator, Lily Sargent, this program was well received and thrived within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for those who participated in Cleveland Ballet's educational outreach.

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Through these lessons, we aim to broaden students' horizons beyond performance, showing them the wealth of opportunities available in the performing arts. By emphasizing teamwork, collaboration, creativity, and the art of following direction, we're cultivating the next generation of performers and stagecraft visionaries.



With Cleveland Ballet, the spotlight isn't only on the stage – it's on every artist who works together to make their mark in the world of ballet theatre production! We hope these students remember these lessons for years to come, fostering skills for both the classroom and the stage.

Who knows — maybe they'll be working with Cleveland Ballet in the future.