Curriculum Guide 2019
Galileo - Stars In His Eyes - Brüka Theatre For Children
www.bruka.org

1) ABOUT THE BRÜKA THEATRE AND THE ARTISTS

Brüka Theatre has been presenting Theatre for Children for 26 years in communities and schools throughout western Nevada and northern California. The creators, crew and actors in the show have long and diversified experiences that bring them to our Theatre For Children. Mary Bennett is the creator of today's show and has been creating or involved with the Brüka Theatre For Children for 25 years. Mary works professionally in live and educational theatre and is the Producing Artistic Director at Brüka. David Simpson, our Stage Manager and actor in the show is also the Technical Director at Brüka Theatre. Our other wonderful artists: Jessey Richards, Sarah Mackie and Carrie Lynn are local theatre artists as well. Carrie Lynn built our planet props for the show. We also use understudies from the Brüka Ensemble and volunteers from your school. Brüka Theatre is located in downtown Reno. Brüka Theatre Website: www.bruka.org. Address: Brüka Theatre 99 N. Virginia St. Reno, NV 89501 (775) 323-3221.

2) Program Synopsis

Brüka's Theatre For Children incorporates a simple and innovative set, costumes and props to bring stories to life in theatrical form in virtually any environment. This year we have created a story in biography form to integrate theatre, language arts and science inside and outside the classroom. We use improvisational games within the performances and a few volunteers will be asked to come on stage as part of our performance to play within the show. We hope you will discuss **audience etiquette**, the structure of a play and what to expect with your students.

3) Program Objectives

Our productions are aimed at introducing students to a live, professional theatre experience and the techniques used to tour a theatrical performance to a variety of venues. We use theatre creation and acting and improvisational techniques that enhance storytelling and the joy of performance in hopes that teachers and students will find accessibility to the art and use tools of performance in their own classrooms and lives. We believe that by bringing theatre into the schools we are encouraging both students and adults to embrace their artistic sides and the possibilities it creates in life and education. Students will also experience lessons that are true to their own lives, and find courage, humor and tools to develop their own character.

4) Vocabulary

Telescope - *noun*. An optical instrument designed to make distant objects appear nearer, containing an arrangement of lenses, or of curved mirrors and lenses, by which rays of light are collected and focused and the resulting image magnified.

synonyms: spyglass, glass: informal scope

4) Vocabulary *(continued)*

Foreshadowing - *verb.* 1. A storytelling technique. 2. An indication of a future event. Vincenzo foreshadows information about his father Galileo's life. *synonyms:* foretell, promise, forewarn, point to.

Collaboration - *noun.* 1. The action of working with someone to produce or create something. Galileo makes a joke that he has used Lippershey's idea for the telescope as a "collaboration". Galileo actually built on the idea of the "spyglass" to evolve the telescope toward the sky. synonyms: cooperation, alliance, partnership, participation, association.

Patent - *noun.* 1. A government authority or license conferring a right or title for a set period, especially the sole right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention. *Hans Lippershey* is commonly associated with the invention of the telescope, because he was the first one who tried to obtain a patent for it. *synonyms:* copyright, license, legal protection, right, registered trademark.

Convex - *adjective*. 1. having an outline or surface curved like the exterior of a circle or sphere. A convex lens. *synonym*: curved outwards.

Concave - *adjective*. 1. Having an outline or surface that curves inward like the interior of a circle or sphere. "concave lenses". *synonym*: hollow, curved inwards.

Lodestone - *noun.* 1**.** A piece of magnetite or other naturally magnetized mineral, able to be used as a magnet. 2. A thing that is the focus of attention or attraction.

Convent - *noun.* 1**.** A school, especially one for girls, attached to and run by convent (a religious community). *synonym*: A Nunnery.

5) Main Characters

Galileo Galilei (born February 15, 1564, Pisa [Italy]—died January 8, 1642, Arcetri, near Florence) was a true genius. Though we think of him mainly as an astronomer, Galileo was a man of many interests. He enjoyed science, mathematics, music and art and made great discoveries that revolutionized the world. His discoveries with the telescope revolutionized astronomy and paved the way for the acceptance of the Copernican heliocentric system, but his advocacy of that system eventually resulted in an Inquisition process against him. (https://www.museogalileo.it/en)

Virginia Galilei (sister Maria Celeste) (born August 12, 1600 - Died 1643
Galileo's oldest child. At her birth Galileo personally wrote her horoscope, in which he stated her main character traits and the influxes of the planets that would determine its development. Her zeal, sensitivity and devotion to God, all predicted by Galileo, actually did reveal themselves in Virginia's personality, as can be seen in the 124 letters to her father that have come down to us. Virginia Galilei entered the convent at a very young age, taking the name of Sister Maria Celeste.

From 1623 to 1634, the year of her death, Virginia kept up a steady correspondence with her father, which was a source of comfort for them both. Galileo formed strong ties with both his daughters, but he had a special empathy with Virginia and often confided in her. Virginia stood by her father affectionately during the dramatic events of his trial and subsequent condemnation. Her death in 1634 was a harsh blow for Galileo. (https://www.museogalileo.it/en)

Livia Galilei (sister Arcangela) (born August 12, 1601 - Died 1659
Livia Galilei, Galileo's second eldest child, was born on August 18, 1601. At her birth, as with Virginia (1600-1634), Galileo personally wrote her horoscope. Livia took her vows in 1617 at the convent of San Matteo in Arcetri, where her father had sent her together with her sister some years previously. No direct testimony remains about her, though she is often mentioned in Virginia's letters to Galileo. In contrast to Virginia, Livia did not adjust well to convent life. Her frequent illnesses and indispositions were probably due to her rejection of the harsh convent life. Also, her lack of responsibility toward the tasks she was assigned often led Virginia, though without guile and with great concern, to report on her to their father. Although there is no evidence of resentment toward Galileo, the harsh life at San Matteo probably created ill feeling between father and daughter, which time did nothing to alleviate.
(https://www.museogalileo.it/en)

Vincenzo Galilei junior ((born 1606 - Died 1649 Few documents remain about the brief life of this natural son of Galileo (1564-1642) and Marina Gamba, a Venetian woman. Vincenzo was born in Padua, like the couple's two daughters: Virginia (1600-1634) (later Sister Maria Celeste) and Livia (1601-1659) (later Sister Arcangela). Vincenzo was legitimated by his father in 1618. He was particularly gifted in poetry, music, and mechanics. His father encouraged him to study law in Pisa, entrusting him to Benedetto Castelli (1577/8-1643). In 1629, he married Sestilia Bocchinieri (1629-1669). After his marriage, he quarrelled with his father over financial matters; their relationship later improved and Vincenzo lovingly assisted his father in the last, difficult years of his life. Vincenzo Viviani (1622-1703) mentions Vincenzo's skill as inventor of musical instruments and in particular his construction of a "lute made with such art that, playing it so excellently, he extracted continuous and goliardic voices from the cords as if they were issuing from an organ's pipes...".

Hans Lippershey (1570 – buried 29 September 1619), also known as **Johann Lippershey** or **Lipperhey**, was a German-Dutch spectacle-maker. He is commonly associated with the invention of the telescope, because he was the first one who tried to obtain a patent for it. It is, however, unclear if he was the first one to build a telescope. (Wikipedia)

5) Connections to Curriculum

Our presentation enhances the Nevada Common Core standards and strategies defined by The Department of Education For Grades K – 12. http://www.corestandards.org. Specifically our structure supports: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, Key Ideas and Details, Research to Build & Present Knowledge within the K – 12 Standards.

6) Recommended Reading for Further Study

Books used for research on Virginia & Galileo Galilei -
Galileo's Daughter - Author: Dava Sobel
Galileo For Kids - His Life and Ideas, 25 Activities
By Richard Panchyk, Foreword by Buzz Aldrin

ABOUT THE PLAY

Galileo - Stars In His Eyes is an original play that strives to make a brief time in the life of the great Galileo accessible to children by seeing Galileo in relationship with his own children and his development of the telescope. *The story of Galileo* dates back over 400 years. Core Curriculum: Sequencing, retelling and summarizing through the exploration and integration of science and theatre arts. With the exploration of historical characters, relationships and discovery we see through the Galilei family and their sacrifices as Galileo made discoveries and became very famous and controversial in Italy, risking his life and happiness to stand by what he believed.

It also gives students an appreciation of history and dramatic tools. These themes are integrated throughout to promote children's awareness of being independent decision makers. The story also enhances social and cultural studies as well as strengthening research and reading, especially if the basic story is read with or by your class and discussed pre or post performance.

7) Hands-On Activities

We will be playing improvisational games including environment and setting and use of the stage space. We will be asking for participation from the students. The basis of all improvisation is the ability to say 'yes'.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM INTERGRATION ACTIVITIES

The Order of The planets. Line the participants up in the order of the planets from the sun. Have them rotate in the order. Breakdown the different tempos and spacing. Add music. Here are the planets listed in order of their distance from **the Sun**: **Mercury**, **Venus**, **Earth**, **Mars**, **Jupiter**, **Saturn**, **Uranus**, and **Neptune**. An easy mnemonic for remembering the order is "My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Noodles." **Mercury**: **Venus**: **Earth**: **Mars**: **Jupiter**: **Saturn**: **Uranus**:. What rhythm can you put to the line-up?

David Farmer is also great resource for improvisation and drama games for teachers and the classrooms. http://dramaresource.com/

9) Follow-Up Questions

What are the morals or lessons of the story? What character to you most relate to? Why do you think Galileo was so fascinated by the universe? Who is the protagonist in the story? Who is the antagonist? What other discoveries did Galileo make? How would you have felt if Galileo was your father?

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