

verizon

Passport TO CULTURE

Teacher's Resource Guide

SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE SERIES • SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011
Grades 2-6

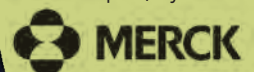
David Gonzalez
Sleeping Beauty

Photo: Myles Aronowitz

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NJPAC



Kid Power!

Through energy efficiency and conservation, kids can help preserve our planet's rich natural resources and promote a healthy environment.

Tip of the Day

Sleeping Beauty slept for an entire century! During each century, the Earth's resources go through many changes. In the past 100 years, for example, the number of natural forests on our planet went from being abundant to being in danger of vanishing. But, did you know that if all the people in the U.S. recycled just their Sunday newspapers, half a million trees could be spared weekly? Imagine how many trees that would save in the next 100 years!

Made possible through the generosity of the PSEG Foundation.

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Arts Education and You

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) Arts Education Department presents the 14th season of the *Verizon Passport to Culture SchoolTime Performance Series*.

With *Passport to Culture*, Verizon and NJPAC open up a world of culture to you and your students, offering the best in live performance from a wide diversity of traditions and disciplines. At NJPAC's state-of-the-art facility in Newark, with support from Verizon, the *SchoolTime Performance Series* enriches the lives of New Jersey's students and teachers by inviting them to see, feel, and hear the joy of artistic expression. The exciting roster of productions features outstanding New Jersey companies as well as performers of national and international renown. Meet-the-artist sessions and NJPAC tours are available to expand the arts adventure.

The *Verizon Passport to Culture SchoolTime Performance Series* is one of many current arts education offerings at NJPAC. Others include:

- Professional Development Workshops that support the use of the arts to enhance classroom curriculum
- Arts Academy school residency programs in dance, theater and literature, and Early Learning Through the Arts—the NJ Wolf Trap Program
- After-school residencies with United Way agencies

In association with statewide arts organizations, educational institutions, and generous funders, the Arts Education Department sponsors the following arts training programs:

- *Wachovia Jazz for Teens*
- The All-State Concerts
- *The Star-Ledger* Scholarship for the Performing Arts
- The Jeffrey Carollo Music Scholarship
- Summer Youth Performance Workshop
- Young Artist Institute
- NJPAC/New Jersey Youth Theater Summer Musical Program

Students have the opportunity to audition for admission to NJPAC's arts training programs during NJPAC's annual Young Artist Talent Search.

Detailed information on these programs is available online at njpac.org. Click on Education. The Teacher's Resource Guide and additional activities and resources for each production in the *Verizon Passport to Culture SchoolTime Series* are also online. Click on Education, then on Performances. Scroll down to "Download Teacher Guide in Adobe Acrobat PDF format" and select desired guide.

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To Teachers and Parents

The resource guide accompanying each performance is designed

- to maximize students' enjoyment and appreciation of the performing arts;
- to extend the impact of the performance by providing discussion ideas, activities, and further reading that promote learning across the curriculum;
- to promote arts literacy by expanding students' knowledge of music, dance, and theater;
- to illustrate that the arts are a legacy reflecting the traditional values, customs, beliefs, expressions, and reflections of a culture;
- to use the arts to teach about the cultures of other people and to celebrate students' own heritage through self-expression;
- to reinforce the New Jersey Department of Education's Core Curriculum Content Standards in the arts.

On Stage

Photo: Myles Aronowitz



David Gonzalez and musician Daniel Kelly in "Sleeping Beauty"

Storytelling is one of the oldest art forms. We respond to stories, we imagine ourselves inside them and when a special story comes our way, we hold onto it and want to hear it over and over. And, because there is always something a little different each time the tale is retold, a very old story is rich with layers, motifs and variations.

Sleeping Beauty is one of those old stories, a fairy tale passed down by word of mouth for hundreds of years and fixed in form by scholar and poet Charles Perrault in 1697. Contrary to some rumors, *Sleeping Beauty* is not just a story about a beautiful, passive girl waiting for her prince to come and wake her with a kiss. So much activity occurs in this story: the christening of the long-awaited princess, the invited fairies bestowing their magical gifts, the uninvited fairy casting her evil spell, the discovery of the dreaded spindle, the passage of time, and the brave prince battling his way through the forest

of briars. There are also underlying universal themes including those of fear, joy and struggle. Perhaps that is why children and adults have enjoyed this story all these years.

Now the classic fairy tale is told once again in David Gonzalez's innovative and poetic presentation. An entertaining narrator, Gonzalez combines the ancient art of storytelling with a variety of techniques to involve the audience. He incorporates quirky, rhymed verse, live music, projection images, and the most extraordinary device of all—our imaginations to create a world in which our beautiful (and funky) princess is awakened by true love's kiss...or not.

Gonzalez, whose storytelling has been engaging imaginations for over a quarter of a century, was inspired for this piece by the unlikely combination of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Goldberg Variations* and Dr. Seuss. He calls his *Sleeping Beauty* "poetical theater" where "the word meets the pulse, the pulse meets the music, the music meets the image, and it all meets the child."

If you think you know all there is to know about *Sleeping Beauty*, you are in for a wonderful and magical surprise.

David Gonzalez's *Sleeping Beauty* is a new work co-commissioned by NJPAC.

In the Spotlight

I never set out to be a storyteller. I just kept following my points of inspiration, and it keeps taking me down these crazy roads. David Gonzalez

David Gonzalez brings a rich background to the stage. He is a poet, actor, musician, and a master storyteller. He was a recipient of the Helen Hayes Performing Artist of the Year award in 1998, and in 2006, was nominated for a Drama Desk Award for his version of *The Frog Bride*. Gonzalez also hosted WNYC's *New York Kids* for eight seasons, appeared on Bill Moyers' documentary *Fooling with Words* and was featured at the 2008 National Storytelling Festival. Recently, he received the great honor of being named the Joseph Campbell Foundation Fellow for 2010.

In addition, Gonzalez is a music therapist, having earned his Ph.D. from New York University where he taught for 10 years. Plus, he still finds the time to conduct workshops for teachers.

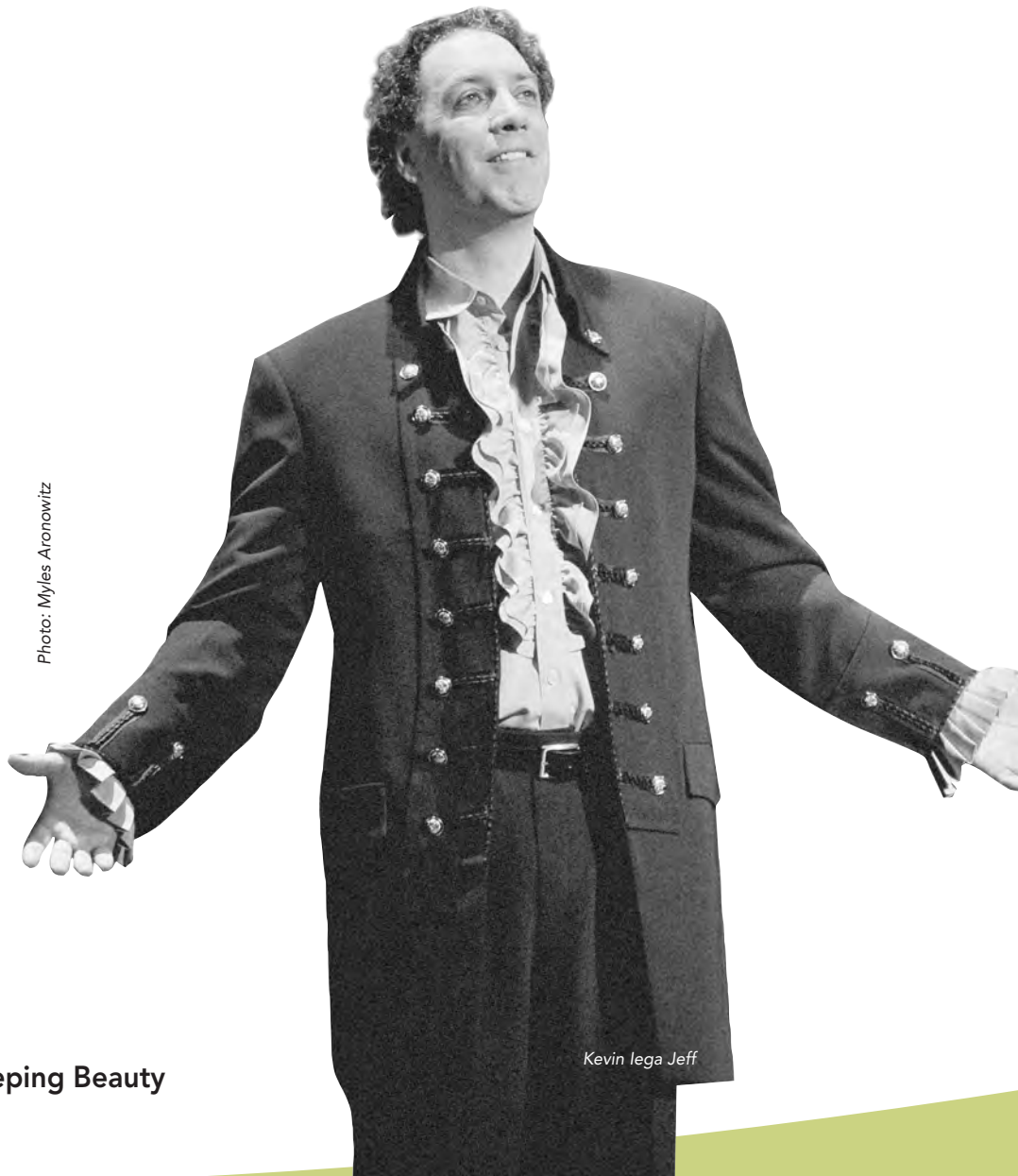
Gonzalez tells stories the old fashioned verbal way but with a modern twist which he calls "poetical theater." While facing the audience to tell his story, he incorporates music, image projections, lighting, and dance. He conceived this approach while reading Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax* to a friend's youngster. "That delicate intimacy of reading together with a young child, of completing rhymes and lines touched me deeply and made me remember the joy I knew as a child and when I was a young parent reading to my own little ones. In that moment, I knew that I wanted my *Sleeping Beauty* to have a sense of precious interactivity and co-conjuring."

This is just what happens in his presentation of the famous fairy tale. As he rhymes through his story, audiences are caught up in his tale and listen intently. When he pauses, they keep the rhymes going by filling in the right words. "Creativity," Gonzalez has said, "is a birthright...a defining characteristic of being human." We have the story. Gonzalez brings out the story's life from within us.

Interestingly, Gonzalez took his musical inspiration for his *Sleeping Beauty* not from the famous Tchaikovsky music of the same name but, rather from J.S. Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. "With their passion, intelligence, grace, and power, they (the variations) truly are magnificent. The first movement, the Aria, is the root of all the variations. Its gentle poise and sense of longing and redemption are stunning. I wanted my *Sleeping Beauty* to have that quality of delicate passion, precision and grace and asked my collaborators to listen intently to it and to make their work on the project accountable to its charms. I said to them, 'Our *Sleeping Beauty* should leave the same impression on the children who see it as the Bach does to us.'"

Information about David Gonzalez's collaborators on *Sleeping Beauty* can be found online at njpac.org. Click on Education, then on Performances, then on Curriculum Materials. Scroll down to "Download Teacher Guide in Adobe Acrobat PDF format" and select desired guide.

Photo: Myles Aronowitz



Kevin Iega Jeff

Theater Talk

Photo: Myles Aronowitz



Here are some words associated with David Gonzalez's *Sleeping Beauty*:

storyteller - a person who tells stories for entertainment.

pianist - a person who plays the piano.

invitation - a request to be present at an event.

virtue - moral excellence, always good.

reject - to refuse to take or use.

spindle - a round stick with tapered ends used to form and twist the yarn in hand spinning or the long, slender pin by which the thread is twisted in a spinning wheel.

spinning wheel - a small machine for spinning yarn or thread which was an improvement over the spindle used alone.

squiggly - shaped like a short wavy twist or line, a curlicue.

precocious - mature or talented at an unusually young age.

curious - having a strong desire to learn; something that is very strange or unexpected.

flute - a woodwind instrument with a high musical range.

manners - polite behavior.

patient - steadfast despite difficulties, willing to wait for an outcome.

thorn hedge - a thick, high planting of bushes with thorns.

dove - a small white bird, often a symbol for peace.

Storytelling: An Art for All Ages



Photo: Myles Aronowitz

David Gonzalez and musician Daniel Kelly in "Sleeping Beauty"

Storytelling is an art form that reaches back before recorded history when people exchanged tales in the shadowy light of the fire. Before the written word, oral tradition was the only way to pass on information and knowledge. That is why every culture in the world has its own storytelling tradition. Stories were used to teach people to behave properly toward one another and to describe the consequences of ignoring the social mores of a particular culture. Stories were told of gods, great deeds, adventures of the past, or the sacrifices and labors of heroes and heroines who overcame evil against great odds. Stories also explained the natural events that people saw every day like the sun rising and setting or the reasons for nature's fury as expressed in storms, earthquakes and smoldering volcanoes. Tales even described spiritual journeys and visions, and many of the stories were fairy tales characterized by elements of magic, enchantment and the supernatural. In stories, fools could become wise, the poor could become wealthy and perseverance and goodness could be rewarded. Stories were told for lessons, for laughs, for tears shed, and fears ignited or assuaged. The stories were passed down generation after generation by storytellers.

Through the ages, as stories grew in complexity, storytelling developed from a skill into an art. The master storytellers of the community were those who told stories most effectively, using the tools of gesture, voice, movement, rhythm, and humor. They understood that a tell-able tale needs a strong plot, well-developed characters, believable dialogue, action, imaginative resolution, and colorful expression. They knew that different stories appeal to different audiences and may require different methods of telling. They incorporated music to create or change a mood or to help tell longer stories. The language of oral tradition has a different, more immediate beauty than the polished, carefully crafted expression of literature that is written to be read. The storyteller must be constantly aware of the audience and be able to tailor a story on-the-spot to achieve the desired response and communicate the message. The plot of the fairy tale or folk tale handed down for generations can be sparse. The vision and skill of the storyteller adds the poetry, brings the characters to life and makes us care about their destinies.

In the hands of master storyteller David Gonzalez, the art form is continuing to develop and flourish. Gonzalez's *Sleeping Beauty*, for example, combines great storytelling with live and electronic music, dance, projected images, and exquisite lighting to create a new spin on this beloved classic fairy tale.

"The Beauty of Sleep," an article discussing what happens when we sleep, as well as "Fun Facts about Sleep" can be found online at njpac.org. Click on Education, then on Performances, then on Curriculum Materials. Scroll down to "Download Teacher Guide in Adobe Acrobat PDF format" and select desired guide.

In the Classroom

Before the Performance

1. Read *Sleeping Beauty* to the class or ask older students to read the story aloud. (See “Delving Deeper” on page 8.) Then, develop the story of *Sleeping Beauty* by discussing specific events in the sequence they occur. Ask each student to select one of the events discussed and draw a picture of it. As the students work, play a recording of J.S. Bach’s *Goldberg Variations*. (See “Delving Deeper” on page 8.) Display the drawings around the room as a gallery for students to explore on their own.* (1.1, 1.3)*

2. “Fairy Tale from Life” is an arts integrated resource of Verizon’s Thinkfinity.org. In this lesson from ReadWriteThink, picture books provide the basis for an analysis of fairy tale elements before students write their own original stories. readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/fairy-tales-from-life-42.html (1.1, 1.3)

After the Performance

1. Discuss with students what they liked about the performance and if it differed from any other theatrical experience they have had. What techniques did David Gonzalez use to make the story interesting? Did his presentation have any surprises in it? What were they? How did he accomplish them? (1.1, 1.3)*

*Number(s) indicate the NJ Core Curriculum Content Standard(s) supported by the activity.

Additional Before and After activities can be found online at njpac.org. Click on Education, then on Performances, then on Curriculum Materials. Scroll down to “Download Teacher Guide in Adobe Acrobat PDF format” and select desired guide.

Teaching Science Through Theater (K-8)

By Sharon J. Sherman, Ed.D.

Encouraging the growth of theatrical creativity in children is an excellent way to deepen their understanding of the subjects they study in school. Guiding them in the script writing process is a way to bring the curriculum to life and make it more meaningful and engaging. Learning about the environment through theater can deepen their understanding of their world.

Reuse, recycling and reducing waste help us preserve our precious natural resources. Each day, children come to school with lunches packed at home. At the end of the lunch period, waste containers in schools everywhere abound with items such as paper and plastic bags, Styrofoam, empty juice cartons, plastic utensils, and more. You can use theater to encourage your students to think about bringing environmentally friendly packed lunches to school.

Begin the creative writing process by asking your students to write short plays about a class that will lead a school-wide campaign to reduce waste in the lunchroom. You can divide the class into teams of four to six students who will work together. In order to convince their schoolmates of the importance of reuse, recycling and waste reduction, teams should begin their work by doing research on the topic. How many trees are cut down each year from the use of non-recycled paper? How many plastic bottles are discarded each day? What happens to a juice box after it is put in the trash? Students will enhance their information literacy skills as they do their research. They will also deepen their understanding of the topic.

Once the research phase is completed, the groups can begin to write their plays. Ask them to select the main characters and define their characteristics. After that, they should select the secondary characters and define their roles. Then, it is time to set the scene for the play. Beginning with the first act, have your students visualize what is going to happen. Which characters will speak and what will they say to each other to get the message across? Continue developing the story line until the first draft is written. Once the drafts are done, have the groups rehearse their plays. Then, it is time for presenting their productions. Ask the class to critique each performance in a constructive manner.

Sharon J. Sherman, Ed.D. is Dean of the School of Education and Professor of Teacher Education at Rider University in Lawrenceville, NJ.

The Teaching Science Through the Arts content of this guide is made possible through the generous support of Roche.

Additional Before and After activities can be found online at njpac.org. Click on Education, then on Performances, then on Curriculum Materials. Scroll down to “Download Teacher Guide in Adobe Acrobat PDF format” and select desired guide.

Delving Deeper

Books to Share with Children

Muller, Martina. *Sleeping Beauty: A Grimm's Fairytale with Illustrations*. Floris Books, 2001.

Sleeping Beauty (Disney). Golden Books Publishing Co., 2004.

Film/DVD

Sleeping Beauty. Walt Disney Studios. 1959. (The Platinum edition of the Disney DVD contains a documentary about Tchaikovsky's life that was broadcast on *Walt Disney Presents*, 1960.)

Books for Teachers

Travers, PL, and Charles Keeping. *About Sleeping Beauty*. McGraw-Hill, 1975.

Websites

pit.edu/~dash/type0410.html#grimm - Various versions of the Sleeping Beauty story.

youtube.com/user/davidgonzalez2020 and davidgonzalez.com - Samples of David Gonzalez's *Sleeping Beauty*.

cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=152&cid=1771 - A website all about sleep for youngsters. Includes why we sleep and getting enough sleep.

Music

Bach: Goldberg Variations by Johann Sebastian Bach. Arte Nova Classics, 2008.

Additional resources can be found online at njpac.org. Click on Education, then on Performances, then on Curriculum Materials. Scroll down to "Download Teacher Guide in Adobe Acrobat PDF format" and select desired guide.

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as of 12/1/10

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For even more arts integration resources, please go to Thinkfinity.org, the Verizon Foundation's signature digital learning platform, designed to improve educational and literacy achievement.



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