

STONE SOUP & OTHER HEARTWARMING TALES

BRIGHT STAR TOURING THEATRE

A NATIONALLY TOURING PROFESSIONAL THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

About our Production!

We love the holidays and the spirit of the holidays is something that we sought to capture in creating this production. We scoured the globe for tales that celebrated the season and found three that we think you'll agree do just that!

Our production is broken into three separate tales: "The Gift of the Magi," "The Drum," and "Stone Soup." Each of these literary classics carry with them a storyline that celebrates and honors the spirit of the season and we hope you'll feel that with our renditions.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

While "Stone Soup" has renditions from around the world and "Gift of the Magi" is an American short story, "The Drum" comes to us from India! It's a folktale that's been around for a very long time. Can your students find India on a map? More importantly, what other traditions and customs come to us from this region of the world?



Gift of the Magi

Perhaps the most famous of the three stories celebrated in this production is O. Henry's short story, "The Gift of the Magi". First published in 1906, the story of a couple giving up their most prized possession in order to get enough money to buy the other a present is considered by many a great holiday tradition.

"Gift of the Magi" captures the spirit of the holidays with a unique twist at the end. It is rumored that O. Henry wrote this short story at Pete's Tavern on Irving Place in New York City. Joni Mitchell and Squirrel Nut Zippers both have written songs about this exact story. It is world famous and we know exactly why.



GIFT OF THE MAGI The O. Henry short story celebrates themes of love, generosity, wealth and poverty in a story of a husband and wife selling their most prized possessions for the perfect gift for each other.



THE DRUM: This Indian folktale celebrates the spirit of the holidays with a tale about a young man who wanted a drum and ended up with one by doing good to those around him in need.



STONE SOUP: This classic short story speaks to the power of cooperation, especially in times of need. Travelers ask the local townspeople to contribute to their meal of stone soup by contributing a little something extra to the pot.

OTHER



O. HENRY STORIES!

Ransom of Red Chief Two men kidnap a boy who's so bratty the kidnapers end up paying the boy's father to take him back.

The Cop & the

Anthem: A hobo named Soapy sets out to get arrested to spend the night in the heated jail. His work goes unnoticed until he stops to hear a church organist--which inspires him to clean up his life. He's promptly arrested for loitering.

The Duplicity of

Hargrave: A nearly destitute father and daughter's trip to D.C.

In a nutshell!

William Sydney Porter
O. Henry

Short stories he wrote! **300**

Height! **5'7"**

Prison sentence! **3 years**

From! **North Carolina**

William Sydney Porter



BETTER KNOWN AS O. HENRY

Born September 11, 1862, O. Henry was a celebrated American writer known for his short stories filled with wit & clever twists.

Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, O. Henry started life working in his uncle's drug store as a pharmacist before eventually moving to Austin, Texas in 1884. In 1898 he was convicted of embezzling from a bank he had been working in. Although he escaped to Honduras to escape trial--he had returned to be with his dying wife (tuberculosis)--he was found guilty and was sentenced to five years in an Ohio prison.

As a licensed pharmacist he found work and a private lodging in the prison hospital and eventually was released in 1901 for good behavior. Yet, it was in prison that he began to publish short stories under the name O. Henry. Most notably 'Whistling Dick's Christmas Stocking.'

Upon his release in 1902 he moved to NY and produced more than 381 short stories. In 1910, he died and was buried in Asheville, NC (where Bright Star was originally founded)!

“
There is one day that is ours.
Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American
”

Classroom Activities!

...

Have you thought about making a pot of stone soup? Have students or the cafeteria donate items for one spectacular dish of Stone Soup! Just don't try the stones--that can be a very expensive and painful bite :)

...

Think about the story of "The Drum." What are the lessons that we can learn from that tale?

...

Thinking about "Gift of the Magi" and your own family or caregivers, what are the most important things to them and what presents would you exchange with them to have a similar outcome as in the Magi story?

...

What would've happened had the little boy not reached out and helped someone else in "The Drum?"

...

Draw pictures of your favorite moments from the show and mail them to us! Have older students write a review of the show. We love getting mail!

ABOUT US!



Packed into a mini van, our actors are carrying on a legacy that began long ago of traveling theatre performers.



Our actors travel the country doing performances in every imaginable venue and space performing many times a week!

Think about things that you can give as gifts or presents that don't cost anything. Sometimes the best presents that we can give come from ourselves and not a store.

...

Think about how important it is to work together to make the world a better place. How, in your own

community, do people come together to ensure that things run smoothly?

What do all three of these stories have in common? People put someone else in front of their own needs and the world became a much better place.

MANY VERSIONS OF THE SAME STORY!



At least 12 film versions, an off-Broadway musical and several inspired songs are credited with being inspired or based upon "The Gift of the Magi."



Books, a song, a movie scene and numerous adapted short stories for children find their roots in the story of "Stone Soup!"

Did ya know?



"Stone Soup" has many renditions from across the globe! Including many versions that involve soldiers asking for things from the local town folk.

In many traditions, the stones have been replaced with other inedible objects like 'Ax Soup!'

Seeing a play!



Is it your first time with LIVE THEATRE?

Attending the theatre is very different than going to the movies or watching television. For one thing, the actors are real people who can hear and see everything that's happening in the audience. It's important to know a few rules before seeing a play:

1. Please be quiet and respectful during the performance so that those around

you can hear what is happening.

2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh.
3. If the actors ask you a question, respond! Volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!

PROPS/COSTUMES!

Did you know the things that actors carry with them on stage are called props? What are some of the props from the show?

Costumes are the clothing that the actors wear during a show. What were some of your favorite costumes from the production?

GOOD THEATRE TERMS TO KNOW!

Actors: The people on-stage performing for you today!

Director: The person who made the show come to life working with the actors and the script.

Script: Everything the actors said today was written down in a script! **Backdrops:** The setting painted on the fabric that created the background.

Backstage: The area behind the set, where the actors can change costumes, etc.

Audience: The most important part of the play. You!

WHAT'S A FOLKTALE?

"The Drum" is considered a folktale from India. Just what exactly is a folktale you ask?

It's a story passed on by word of mouth, rather than writing, and thus partly modified by successive retellings. Many folktales involve mythical creatures and magical transformations but not necessarily.

ABOUT US!

This is just one of the many productions that Bright Star tours each season. We invite you to visit our website for information on all of our literary, curriculum and character education-based programs. Our company serves thousands of audiences annually with professional theatre. Please connect with us anytime about your experience: booking@brightstartheatre.com

WE THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for making the arts part of your young person's experience!



WE LOVE MAIL!

Bright Star Touring Theatre
Visit our website for our mailing address and send us any mail you'd like!

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This production made its debut in November 2012

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