**Written and Directed by Don Butler**

**The Cast**
- Vickie Anderson
- Stephen Hedger
- Tom Jackson
- Courtney Poston
- Darryl Willis

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**Scene Breakdown**
1) Prologue
2) Louisiana Purchase
3) Lewis and Clark Expedition (Corps of Discovery)
4) Kit Carson
5) California Gold Rush
6) Johnny Appleseed

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**The Story on Story Theater**

So what’s the story on Story Theater? What is it and where did it come from? Story Theater was the idea of a man named Paul Sills whose mother was a famous acting teacher named Viola Spolin. She’s called the mother of improvisation. Improvisation is when actors work without a script and usually take suggestions from the audience and then make up a play or scene right on the spot without using sets, costumes or props.

Paul Sills took this idea and developed it into what we call Story Theater. Although what you see on stage has been rehearsed and the actors have used a script, a lot of what they do comes through playing theater games and improvising on myths, folk tales or just about any good story. The magic of Story Theater happens when the actors use what we call “space objects”. They simply “find” an object in the air and make you see it. When the actors believe that what they are doing is real, and that the things they are using are real, then suddenly, they are. When the actors can “see” the invisible and “touch” the invisible, like magic, it becomes visible and you can see it too. But they have to believe so that you can believe.

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**Suggested Curricula**
- Language Arts, Social Studies, Theatre

**NGSSS and Florida Standards**
### Notable Characters/Figures


### Locations

American River  Canada  Chinook, Washington  Illinois  Indiana  Mississippi  Missouri River  New Orleans, Louisiana  Oregon Trail  Pennsylvania  Rocky Mountains  San Francisco, California  St. Louis, Missouri  Santa Fe, New Mexico  West Virginia  Western frontier  Whetstone, Nebraska

### Vocabulary Terms

Confederates  Corps of Discovery  Forty-niner  Frontiersman  Gold Rush  Great Northwest Passage  Hidatsa  Jicarilla Apaches  Louisiana Purchase  Manifest Destiny  Miner  Namihe  Navajo  Noabe  Parchment  Quill  Quinine  Seedlings  Shoal  Shoshone  Sutter’s Mill  Unalienable  Ute  Wampum

### Definitions

**Folklore** is any of the beliefs, customs and traditions that people pass on from one generation to another. Ballads, fairy tales, folktales, legends and myths are folklore.

**Folktales** are often stories of animals that act like humans and live in a world of wonder and magic. Most of them have a message or moral or explain natural phenomena, such as where the sun goes at night.

**Legends** are fictional stories associated with a historical person or place.

**Myths** are traditional stories concerning the early history of a people or explaining some natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.

**Tall Tales** are stories that are told as if they were true but contain exaggerated or unbelievable parts. Some tall tales are exaggerations of real events, while others are completely make-believe. Tall tales are usually very funny because the exaggerations in the story tend to be the main focus of the whole story.
Pre-performance Activities

1) Print or draw a map of the US and trace the Lewis and Clark expedition. Do the same for the Oregon Trail. What were the differences and why didn’t the settlers just use Lewis and Clark’s route?

2) Make a list or create cutouts of items the settlers took with them in their wagons. What would you take with you if you made the journey?

3) Read about York, William Clark’s “manservant.” What did he do? What places were named for him?

4) What person or event would you include in a play about Westward Expansion?

Post-performance Student Response Activity

1) List some of the lines or images in the play that stick in your mind.
2) What questions do you have for the characters, for the playwright or for the director?
3) What did you like about the production? What would you have changed?
4) What message does the playwright want you to take away from the play?

Theater Etiquette

Here are some things all students should know before they arrive at the theater.

• Respect
  Being a great audience member requires respect—respect for the theater space, the performers, your teacher, your classmates, other patrons and yourself.

• No Food, Drink or Gum
  Show your respect for the theater space by keeping it clean. Do not bring any food, drinks or gum into the theater. Not only does this create a mess when you are finished eating, but the crinkling of wrappers is distracting to the rest of the audience and the performers.

• Listening
  One of the basic elements of being a great audience member is listening. The audience is an important part of the show. The people on stage can see and hear you, so your reactions and behavior affect the performance. When you are watching a live performance, it’s important not to talk. However, laughing and applauding at appropriate times is encouraged! That’s how you help create a supportive and focused atmosphere, making the best experience possible for everyone involved.

• Stay seated
  Once you are seated you should avoid standing or getting out of your seat because this distracts others and can block their view.

• Electronic devices
  Please turn off all cell phones! It’s rude to talk on your cell phone or send text messages during a performance. The light from your phone is distracting to other audience members and to the actors on stage. Also, there is no photography or recording allowed during the performance.

• The End
  The curtain call is when the performers take their final bow and the audience thanks them for a job well done. At the end of the performance, it’s important that you stay in your seat until your teacher guides you to the exit.

• Above all … enjoy yourself!

Resources


