

Teacher Tool 74: Inside the Artist's Studio: The Black Rep Presents: Porch Lies Study Guide

Study Guide for Theater 24: Black Rep Porch Lies Program 2 and
Theater 25: Black Rep Porch Lies Program 1

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HEC-TV Live! Presents
Inside the Artist's Studio with the St. Louis Black Rep
The Black Rep Presents: *Porch Lies*

Original Air Date: April 14, 2009

Grade Level: Grades 2-6

Program Description:

Join us from the rehearsal space of the St. Louis Black Repertory Company to enjoy excerpts from their touring performance of *Porch Lies*, adapted by Linda Kennedy from Patricia McKissick's endearing book. Meet the actors and director who bring the story to life. View a performance of scenes from the show. Hear what it means to "act a part." How do the actors prepare? How do they create a character? What does the director do? What's it like to stage a touring production in a variety of different places? Participants meet actors, director, and designers to discuss how the show came to life from the first phase of design to the final phase of implementation.

About the Play

Side-splittingly funny, spine-chillingly spooky, this sequel to a Newberry Honor-winning anthology is filled with bad characters who know how to charm. It takes us back to McKissick's own childhood when she would listen to stories told on her front porch. . . to the captivating introductions to each tale, in which the storyteller introduces himself and sets the stage for what follows. . . to the ten-entertaining tales. In "The Best Lie Ever Told," meet Dooley Hunter, a trickster who spins an enormous whopper at the State Liar's Contest. In "Aunt Gran and the Outlaws," watch a little old lady slickster outsmart Frank and Jesse James. And in "Cake Norris Lives On," meet a man some folks believe may have died up to twenty-seven different times!

Program Objectives:

1. The participant will explore the nature of the theatrical experience by participating both as an audience member and as a critical questioner.
2. The participant will interact with professional theatre performers.
3. The participant will view scenes from a theatrical production.

Program Agenda:

The program will consist of three main segments plus an introduction and closing.

I. Welcome and Introduction—Will include introductions of guests and participating student groups.

II. Performance of Scenes from the Play—Students will enjoy scenes from the play performed by members of the cast.

III. Interaction with Actors—Students will learn from questions asked of the actors about the scenes performed, how they created their characters, etc.

IV. Interaction with Director and Designers—Students will learn from questions asked of the director about the scenes performed and how they work with actors. Questions were also asked of designers about the set, use of props and costumes in the play.

V. Closing Segment—Will include summary of major ideas learned and final questions from the students.

National Standards:

From the National Standards for Arts Education
Theatre Grades K-4

Content Standard #2: Acting by assuming roles and interacting in improvisations

Content Standard #3: Designing by visualizing and arranging environments for classroom dramatizations

Content Standard #7: Analyzing and explaining personal preferences and [constructing meanings](#) from classroom dramatizations and from theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions

Grades 5-8

Content Standard #2: Acting by developing basic acting skills to portray characters who interact in improvised and scripted scenes

Content Standard #3: Designing by developing environments for improvised and scripted scenes

Content Standard #6: Comparing and incorporating art forms by analyzing methods of presentation and audience response for theatre, dramatic media (such as film, television, and [electronic media](#)), and other art forms

Content Standard #7: Analyzing, evaluating, and [constructing meanings](#) from improvised and scripted scenes and from theatre, film, television, and electronic media productions

State Standards:**Featured Missouri Grade Level Expectations (Theatre):**

Schools from across the country are invited to enroll for the program. Missouri state standards are included for Missouri teachers since partial funding support for the program comes from Missouri Arts Council.

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GLE: PP1B8.9-12 Develop and apply skills to communicate ideas through theatrical performances—Acting

Display logical choices within the boundaries of situation and character in dramatic circumstances

Use basic terms of theatre

Use advanced terms of theatre

GLE: PP1D9-12 Develop and apply skills to communicate ideas through theatrical performances—Directing

Evaluate the director's role in creating a production

GLE: AP1A7.8.9-12 Develop and apply skills to explain perceptions about and evaluations of theatre and theatrical performance—Analysis and Evaluation

Define the terminology and process of evaluation and apply this process to performances using appropriate theatre vocabulary

GLE: AP1B9-12 Develop and apply skills to explain perceptions about and evaluations of theatre and theatrical performance—Personal Preferences

Articulate, justify and apply personal criteria for critiquing dramatic texts and performances

GLE: HCC2A7.8 Develop and apply skills necessary to understand cultural diversity and heritage as they relate to theatre—Cultural Diversity and Heritage

Examine and compare characteristics of theatrical works from various cultures throughout history

GLE: HCC2B7.8.9-12 Develop and apply skills necessary to understand cultural diversity and heritage as they relate to theatre—Careers

Compare and contrast selected occupations in theatre