Live Interactive Video Education

LIVE

Arts Education Programming

Grade

6-9

Strand

Drama

Curriculum

www.curriculum.gov.sk.ca

Grade 6-9: Getting in Character with Greg Ochitwa

Aim: This session will give students the opportunity to participate in a live broadcast with professional theatre artist Greg Ochitwa.

Students will learn how professional playwrights 'workshop' a play and how actors work from a script to interpret characters.

This workshop will show teachers and students one approach to writing a scene and the stages an actor may go through when interpreting a script.

Creative/Productive: Students will create their own short scene and then interpret another classmate's work.

Critical/Responsive: Students will have the opportunity to ask theatre artist Greg Ochitwa questions about his life as a professional actor and playwright.

Cultural/Historical: Students will learn about the work of Canadian playwrights and the nature of Canadian theatre.

About the Artist

Greg is an actor/writer/rapper, born and raised in Saskatchewan. He was a member of the 2010 Globe Theatre Actor Conservatory, and holds a BFA in Theatre Acting from the U of R. Favourite theatre credits include *Metamorphoses* (Globe Theatre), *Over the River and Through the Woods* and *The Drawer Boy*(Mae Wilson Theatre). Film/television credits include *Corner Gas*, *The Lost Angel*, *renegadepress.com*, and three seasons on *Incredible Story Studio*.

Greg is a founding member of the hip-hop group TopWise. He has spent a large part of the past three years developing a hip-hop musical, *Cope*. A portion of the musical was showcased at the Recovery LabCab at Factory Theatre in Toronto. It was presented by the Globe Theatre in Regina as part of the 2010-2011 Sandbox Reading Series, and is one of five shows selected to be part of the 2011-2012 Sandbox Series Season.

Greg absolutely loves his work as an acting teacher at The Globe Theatre School.

Upcoming: *Robin Hood* (Globe Theatre); *Cope* (Sandbox Series, Globe Theatre)

Program Structure (1 hour 40 min.)

Teachers are encouraged to send in questions from their students via Adobe Connect at any point during the broadcast http://connect.edonline.sk.ca/liveartsed/.

PART 1: 20 min. LIVE broadcast introductory session with professional artist Greg Ochitwa.

- Video Biography 'This is your life Greg Ochitwa …'
- Where does inspiration come from?
- Pair & Share: *Tell story of something odd and unusual that has or could happen to you.*
- Artist interprets the story.
- Artist Challenge: Can you make a play from any idea? Students will need 2 characters; location; a problem; the problem gets worse; solution.

PART 2: 15 min. Teacher-guided hands-on workshop activity. Writing a short scene.

PART 3: 10 min. LIVE broadcast with professional artist Greg Ochitwa.

- Presentation of short scene sample.
- Stages of interpreting a scene.
  - Read through -- making sense of a scene.
  - Identifying characters. Who are the characters? Looking for clues.
  - Analyze stage directions
  - How setting and activity is revealed in the script.

PART 4: 20 min. Teacher-guided hands-on workshop activity. Interpreting a scene.

PART 5: 30 min. LIVE broadcast conclusion with professional artist Greg Ochitwa.

- Students report (presentation by students in the broadcast classroom).
- Artist responds.
- Backstage Pass.
- Q & A with the Artist. Teachers are encouraged to send in questions using Adobe Connect http://connect.edonline.sk.ca/liveartsed/ or by phoning the broadcast classroom 306.791.1739.

Curriculum Outcomes

Creative/Productive

CP6.4 Initiate and develop roles in selected drama forms (e.g., contextual, improv, puppetry, radio drama).
CP7.4 Investigate how dramatic character develops from role.
CP8.4 Demonstrate how dramatic characters interact in relationships within the drama and/or collective creation.
CP9.5 Manipulate drama strategies and theatrical elements (e.g., story, character, design, space) to achieve dramatic purpose.

Critical/Responsive and Cultural/Historical

Refer to renewed Arts Education curriculum documents for further information on grade specific outcomes, indicators, and assessment.

Materials and Resources

Students will need paper and pencils/pens for a writing activity during the broadcast. Students will also be working with a partner during this writing activity. Teachers may wish to assign partners prior to the broadcast.

Teacher Guide for Hands-on Workshop Segment of the Broadcast

PART 2: 15 min. Teacher-guided hands-on workshop activity. Writing a short scene.

1. Working on a flip-chart or board, list the elements that students will need to include in their scene. Refer back to broadcast example: 1 to 2 characters; location; a problem; problem gets worse; solution.

2. Have students work individually to write a brief paragraph (scene) that uses all of the above-mentioned elements. If students are struggling for ideas refer them back to the Pair/Share activity.

3. If time permits, have students share their scene with their partners.

PART 4: 20 min. Teacher-guided hands-on workshop activity. Interpreting a scene.

1. Working on a flip-chart or board, list the stages of interpreting a scene that students will follow during this activity. Refer back to broadcast example for stages of interpreting a scene:
   - Read through -- making sense of a scene.
   - Identifying characters. Who are the characters? Looking for clues.
   - Analyze stage directions
   - How setting and activity is revealed in the script.

2. Have students trade scenes with their partners (the challenge is to interpret someone else's scene). Working individually, students should quietly work through the stages of interpreting the scene (let them know that they are allowed to read it aloud to themselves). Give students 5-10 min. to work on their interpretations.

3. Have students present their interpretations to their partners. Then, if time permits have several students present their scenes to the class.