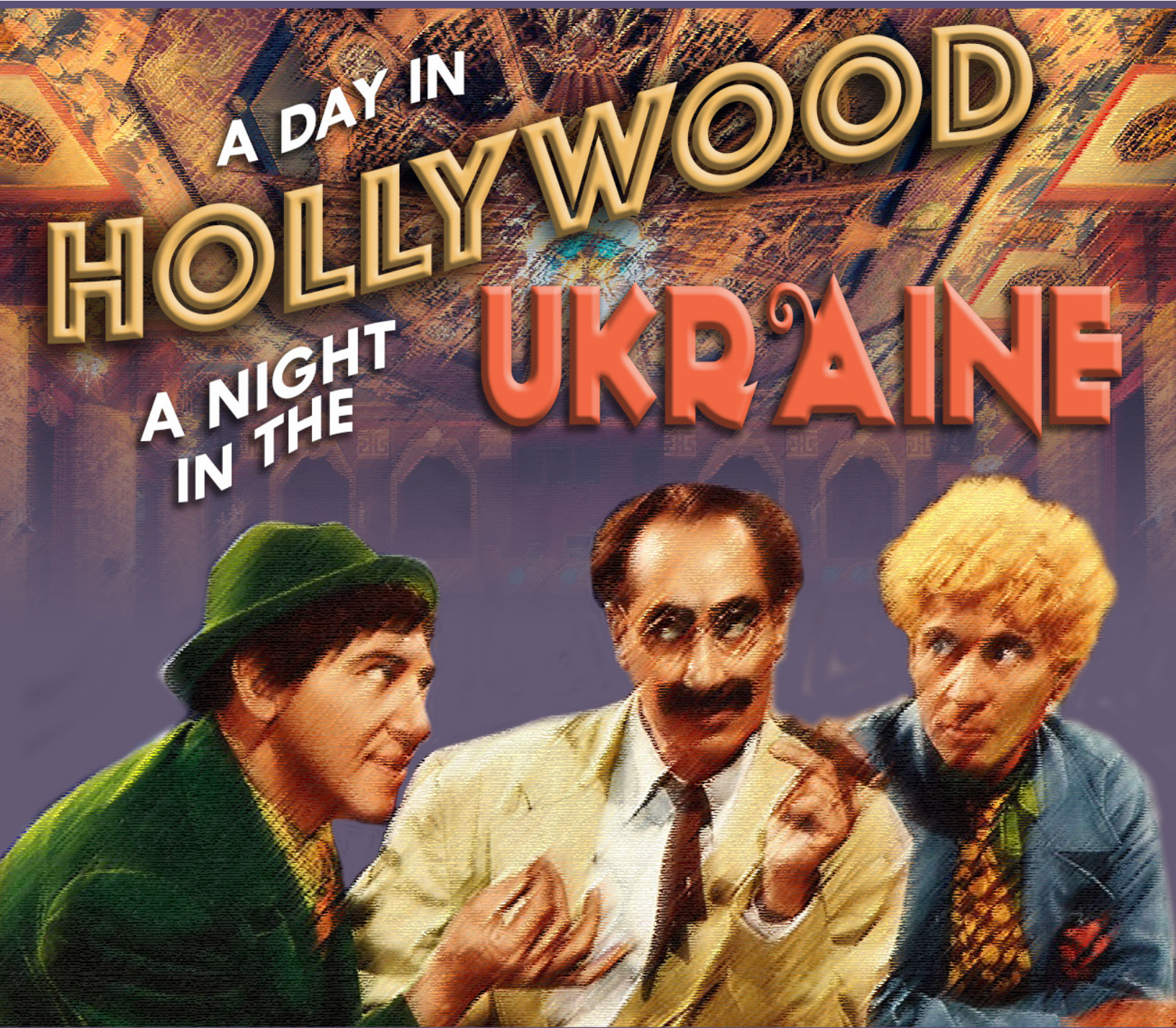


STUDY GUIDE



COMPANY OF FOOLS

Company of Fools
P.O. Box 656, Sun Valley, Idaho 83353
208.788.6520
www.companyoffools.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- WELCOME TO THE LIBERTY
- THE CAST
- HOW TO BE A GREAT AUDIENCE
- THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD
- ABOUT A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD...
- THE MARX BROTHERS
- HOLLYWOOD CENSORED
- GLOSSARY
- POST OR PRE SHOW ACTIVITIES

The information and classroom activities in this study guide support Idaho State Department of Education Common Core Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy for grades 9-12.

WELCOME TO THE LIBERTY

Dear Educator,

Company of Fools is pleased to offer you this study guide to prepare you and your students for our production of *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine*. Working with schools is a fundamental part of Company of Fools' and The Sun Valley Center for the Arts' mission.

We hope this study guide will serve as a useful resource for you as educators and parents. This study guide is designed to enhance student learning both before and after the performance, to support your classroom lesson plans and deepen the educational value of your students' experience. The resources and activities in this study guide support the Idaho Core Standards in English Language Arts and Literacy for grades 9-12.

Thank you for the sharing the magic of performing arts with your students!

- Company of Fools

THE CAST

A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD **A Musical Revue** **The Company**

Taylor Eliason	David Janeski	Audra Honaker
R.L. Rowsey	Melodie Taylor-Mauldin	Taylor Telford
Cliff Todd	Aly Wepplo	Samantha White

A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE **Loosley based on Chekhov's The Bear**

Mrs. Pavlenko, a Rich Widow	Melodie Taylor-Mauldin
Carlo, her Italian Footman	David Janeski*
Gino, her Gardener	Audra Honaker
Serge B. Samovar, a Moscow Lawyer	Cliff Todd*
Nina, Mrs. Pavlenko's Daughter	Aly Wepplo
Constantine, a Coachman	Taylor Eliason*
Masha, a Maid	Samantha White
Sascha, a Maid	Taylor Telford

* A member of Actors Equity Association.
The union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States

HOW TO BE A GREAT AUDIENCE

Live theatre productions are exciting and vibrant. Actors, audience, and backstage technicians are all part of the experience. As audience members, your students will play an important role in the overall atmosphere of the performance.

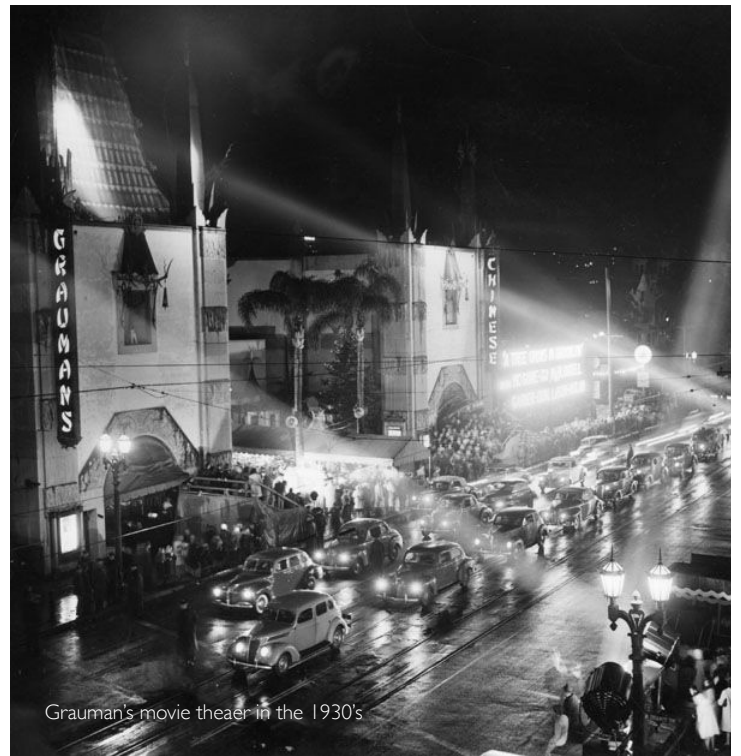
To ensure that everyone has a great time at the theatre, please share the following expectations with your students:

- Please remain seated throughout the entire performance.
- Try not to rock back and forth in your seats. They can—and sometimes do—break.
- Restroom visits are best made before leaving school. ***A Day in Hollywood...*** is 2 hours in length with one intermission (a 10-minute Q&A session will follow the performance). The theatre's restroom facilities are very limited.
- Please do not talk or whisper during the performance. You might think whispering during the show is okay. But if everyone in the audience whispers, it will be disruptive to the performers.
- Do not drink, eat, or chew gum during the performance.
- Turn cell phones to the “silent” setting. And **absolutely** no texting.
- Keep your feet on the floor, not on the seat in front of you.

We hope you and your students will enjoy your visit to the Liberty Theatre!

Teacher Tip: Spark conversation with your students by asking them to remember a time when they were in an audience. Was it a great audience or were there distractions? Have students make their own criteria for what a GREAT audience is and have them share their thoughts.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF HOLLYWOOD:



Grauman's movie theater in the 1930's

The 1930s and early 1940s are considered to be Hollywood's Golden Age. During this period there were eight major studios who produced 95% of all American films. Between 1930 and 1945, more than 7,500 films were released and more than 80 million people saw at least one film a week. This period is also notable for introducing the Production Code, B-films, and the first animated movie *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Some major films that were produced during the golden age include: *42nd Street*, *King Kong*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Gone with the Wind*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Citizen Kane*, and *Casablanca*. Some notable actors of this period are: Humphrey Bogart, Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Clark Gable, Cary Grant, Katharine Hepburn, Shirley Temple, and Jimmy Stewart. There were also notable directors during this time including: Frank Capra, Alfred Hitchcock, and John Ford. The Golden Age began its decline in the 1940s due to the introduction of television, blacklisting, and actors gaining the ability to be 'free agents.' It was finally finished in 1948, when antitrust lawsuits were filed against the major studios.

More information about the Golden Age of Hollywood:
<https://ils.unc.edu/dpr/path/goldenhollywood/>

ABOUT A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD/ A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE

When Hollywood realized that the “talkies” weren’t just a passing fad, the whole town burst into song, literally. By the end of 1930, sound was here to stay and with it came the musicals. Artists from around the world flocked to California, and at the height of the boom, every important song writer was in Hollywood. The glorious era of movie musicals had begun.

A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine salutes the era with a musical double feature. The first act, *A Day in Hollywood*, is a revue of classic Hollywood songs of the 1930s performed by singing and dancing ushers from Grauman’s Chinese Theatre, the iconic Hollywood landmark. The second act, *A Night in the Ukraine*, is loosely based on *The Bear* by the great Russian playwright Anton Chekhov. *The Bear* is a three-character play, but the author of *A Night in the Ukraine* adds Nina and Constantine, the lovers from Chekhov’s *The Seagull*.

The score of *A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine* combines songs by composer Frank Lazarus and lyricist Dick Vosburgh, three songs by Jerry Herman and many movie musical standards.

Dick Vosburgh, writer, broadcaster and lyricist, was born in 1929 in Elizabeth, New Jersey. He provided material for virtually every leading comic performer in the United Kingdom, as well as American stars Bob Hope, Dean Martin, Carol Channing and Peggy Lee.

As a young man, he studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and he was soon writing for BBC Radio. From writing for radio, he segued into television and his credits could fill several pages.



A Day in Hollywood/ A Night in the Ukraine premiered in London in 1979 before moving to the New York stage. The Broadway show, directed and co-choreographed by Tommy Tune, opened in 1980, won two Tony Awards and ran for nearly two years.

Devised and written with actor and composer Frank Lazarus, the first section includes an inspired number created by Vosburgh and Lazarus, in which the cast of nine tap dances while reciting the Production Code devised by censors in 1930s Hollywood. The second half, a pastiche of a Marx Brothers movie, resulted in a lawsuit from the heirs of two of the brothers, who claimed plagiarism. They were shocked to learn that everything in the script was pure Vosburgh. Though the case dragged on for months, Vosburgh and Lazarus ultimately won.

The team met when Lazarus, starring in a play in London, heard that Vosburgh was looking for an actor who could play the piano. “During our first phone conversation,” said Lazarus, “I asked him what the role was. Dick told me that he had the idea of doing a new Marx Brothers show based on Chekhov’s *The Bear*. When he described how the parts would be adapted to fit Groucho, Chico, Harpo and Margaret Dumont, I was laughing hysterically. I was delighted at the prospect of playing Chico, and when he told me that for the moment he lacked a composer I mentioned that I also wrote tunes . . .”

American composer and lyricist Jerry Herman also contributed material to the show. Herman is one of the great Broadway musical theater composers. His best known shows are *Hello Dolly!*, *Mame* and *La Cage Aux Folles*. He has been nominated for the Tony Award five times, and won twice. Many of his show tunes have become pop standards. Louis Armstrong’s single of the title song from *Hello, Dolly* became one of the most successful ever to come out of a Broadway musical knocking The Beatles from #1 in 1964, and the original cast album featuring Carol Channing brought Herman a Gold Record and a Grammy.

THE MARX BROTHERS

The Marx Brothers were the sons of Simon and Minnie Marx. Chico (actually named Leonard), the eldest, was born in 1887, followed by Harpo (actually named Adolph, later changed to Arthur) in 1888, Groucho (actually named Julius) in 1890, Gummo (actually named Milton) in 1892, and Zeppo (actually named Herbert) in 1901. They began in vaudeville, and the first show to exemplify what would come to be known as the Marx Brothers 'style' was called *Fun in Hi Skule* in 1912. However, they did not become successful until 1924 with their show *I'll Say She Is*. It was during this period that Gummo left the group and became an agent. He was replaced by Zeppo. They then starred in the Broadway show *The Cocoanuts*, which would become their first film in 1925. From 1929, they mainly performed in films and in 1933 Zeppo left the movie business, and the group became the trio that is well-known today. Between 1929 and 1949, the brothers made 13 films, and after 1949 Chico and Harpo retired while Groucho became a game show host.

More information on the Marx Brothers:

<http://www.marx-brothers.org/biography/marxes.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0Gwe5gKgjo>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_Sy6oijbEk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lHaAjGgFiQ>



The Marx Brothers

HOLLYWOOD CENSORED: The Production Code

When moving pictures first emerged at the turn of the century, they presented viewers with a new form of entertainment. The mass appeal of these early movies and their portrayal of sex and violence managed to draw fire from America's moral guardians. In the 1930s, film industry executives embraced the Production Code, a strict set of guidelines that governed movie content for two decades.

As the Depression wore on, moviemakers slacked off on their adherence to the Code. Dozens of films produced in 1932 and 1933 presented women using their sexuality to get ahead. The "bad girl" movies were huge box office hits.

Continued pressure from religious leaders, economic hardships and the growing threat of federal censorship forced Hays and the studios to change their ways. In 1934, Joe Breen, a strict Catholic moralist, was hired to run Hollywood's Production Code Administration, which was set up to enforce the Code. The PCA had the authority to review all movies and demand script changes. Any theater that ran a film without the PCA seal of approval would be fined \$25,000. The Code had power at last. "The vulgar, the cheap, and the tawdry are out. There is no room on the screen at any time for pictures which offend against common decency. And these the industry will not allow," pledged Breen.

Moviemakers and scriptwriters acquiesced. They accepted the Code as the rule by which they had to work and created films that met Breen's standards. The Production Code began to fade in 1952 when movies were finally granted free speech protection under the First Amendment. The motion picture industry officially abandoned the Code in 1968 and replaced it with the system of age-based ratings that still exist today.

GLOSSARY

A DAY IN HOLLYWOOD

“Fay Wray in the palm of an ape”: Fay Wray was a Canadian actress who was famous for her roles in movies such as King Kong, which this line is referring to, and Tammy and the Bachelor.

Errol Flynn: Australian actor known for his roles in adventure films such as Captain Blood and The Adventures of Robin Hood.

“Busby’s Beauties”: Busby Berkeley was a director and choreographer who directed innovative musical sequences often starring beautiful women.

Fred Astaire: Dancer and actor best known for the musical comedy films he starred in with Ginger Rogers.

“Scarlett make a dress out of the drapes”: In *Gone with the Wind*, Scarlett O’Hara makes a dress out of the drapes in her house because she has no other fabric left.

Tom Mix: Star of silent-film westerns.

Sid Grauman: A showman and theater magnate, who built the Chinese Theater on Hollywood Boulevard.

Famous Feet: This number is referring to the many famous people who have put their foot and handprints in the cement outside of the Chinese Theater.

Charlie Chaplin: Comedic British silent film actor who became well known for his character “The Tramp.”

“A test”: Referencing a screen test, which is a filmed test to see if an actor is suitable for a role.

Clapperboard: Device used in filmmaking and video production to assist in the synchronizing of picture and sound, and to designate and mark particular scenes and takes recorded during a production.

Paramount Studios: Paramount is a film studio, television production company, and motion picture distributor.

Prohibition: Nationwide ban in the United States on the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages from 1920 to 1933

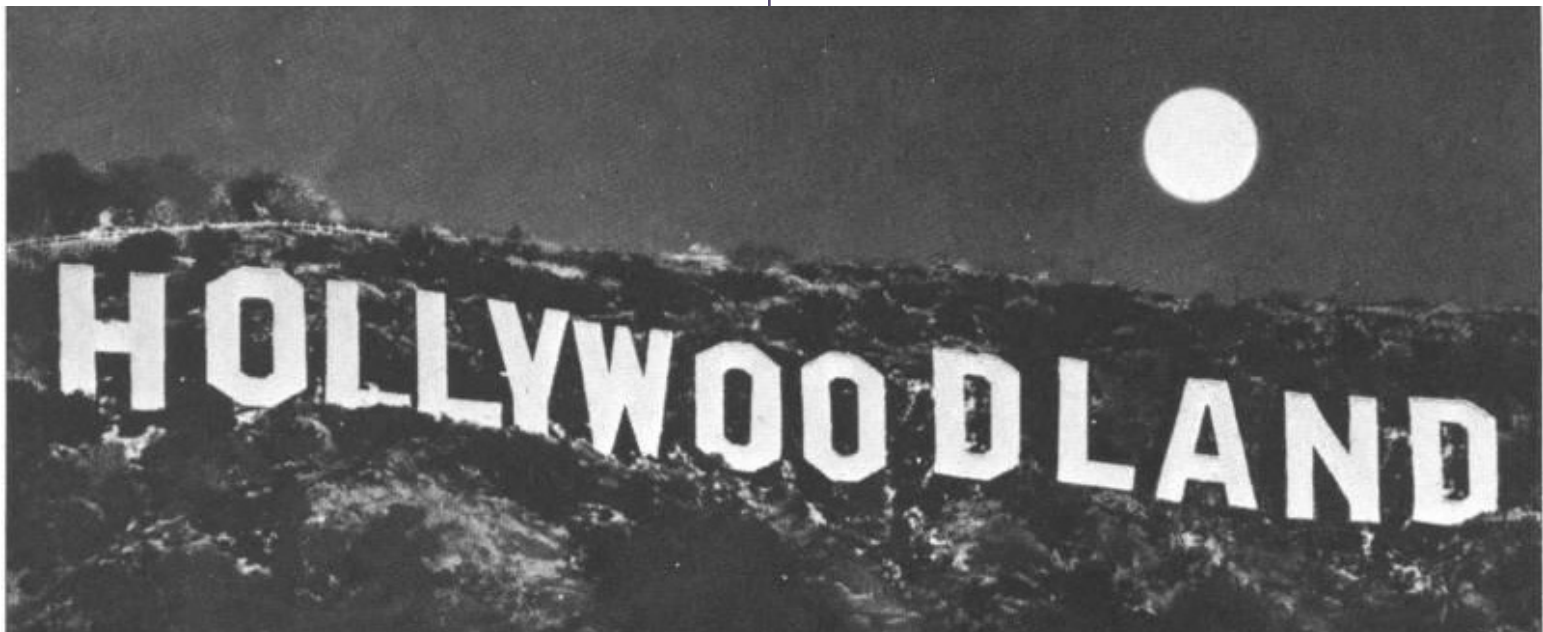
Flapper: A fashionable young woman in the 1920s intent on enjoying herself and flouting established standards of behavior.

Harlem: Neighborhood in the northern section of Manhattan. Since the 1920s, it has been known as a major African-American residential, cultural, and business center.

“Gardens at Versailles”: The Palace of Versailles is a royal chateau in the city of Versailles. The gardens are a major part of the palace.

Entre nous: French for “between us.”

Hollywood Production Code: More formally known as the Motion Picture Production Code, it was a set of industry moral guidelines that was applied to most U.S. motion pictures released by major studios from 1930 to 1968.



A NIGHT IN THE UKRAINE

The Bear: One-act comedic play written by Anton Chekhov. Anton Chekhov: Russian playwright known for works such as *Three Sisters* and *The Cherry Orchard*.

MGM lion: Leo the Lion is the mascot for MGM studios.

The Cherry Orchard: *The Cherry Orchard* is the last play that Anton Chekhov wrote.

Charleston: Dance in the 1920s that involved bending the knees inward and kicking out the lower legs.

Nerve tonic: A medicine that acts as a sedative to calm ruffled nerves.

Moscow: Capital of and most populous city in Russia.

The Boor: A boor is an unrefined, ill-mannered person.

Muscovite: A resident of Moscow.

Shyster: A person, especially a lawyer, who uses unscrupulous, fraudulent, and deceptive methods in business.

Eighteen hundred rouble fee: About \$12.18.

Moscow Art Theatre: Theater company in Moscow founded by Konstantin Stanislavski.

Ipsa facto: By that very fact or act.

Kiev: Capital and largest city of the Ukraine.

Balalaika: Russian stringed musical instrument with a triangular body and three strings.

Shnorrer: A beggar.

Blackjack: Small, easily-concealed club consisting of a leather wrapped lead weight attached to the end of a rigid shaft.

Guttersnipe: Scruffy and badly behaved child who spends most of their time on the street.

Rapscallion: A mischievous person.

Pullet: A young hen.

Bass fiddle: Also known as a bass, is the lowest pitched bowed instrument in the modern symphony orchestra.

Tchaikovsky: Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky was a Russian composer of the Late-Romantic period.

A thousand roubles: About \$15.22.

Five hundred (roubles): About \$7.61.

Marathon dance: Event where people dance or walk to music for an extended amount of time.

Tsar: Title used to designate certain European and Slavic monarchs or supreme rulers.



Anton Chekhov

POST OR PRE SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. There are nearly 200 Hollywood celebrity handprints, footprints, and autographs in the concrete of the Chinese theatre's forecourt. Jump on the internet and type in "How to create your own Hollywood Star." Then have the class create their own walk of fame!

2. Have the class YouTube Marx brother's clips and movies. Talk about what is consistent with their movies, what routines occur over and over, what makes them unique. Then divide your class into groups of 5-6 and have them take a short story and create a Marx's brother skit using the story as their inspiration! It can be a short scene or if the group is truly ambitious they can do the entire story!

3. Create GROUP SCULPTURES!

Have the class create a sculpture together. Demonstrate first –

"_____ (pick a volunteer) and I will show you how this goes. Let's say the word is HOLLYWOOD. When I tap _____ they are going to run across the room and freeze into a sculpture of how they feel about this word and then remain frozen. However you land is right. Make sure you can hold it for a long time in a frozen position. Then if I'm tapped I'm going to add by connecting or touching any part of their sculpture without disturbing the other person... I'll do that by touching, safely, a part of their sculpture. Give them their word and begin."

Use the words from the glossary as possible things to sculpt. Or create your own after you see the play. Ask the students for words or images from the play as well.

HELPFUL HINT: Ask them if they remember The Magic Hat and Stages of Wonder in grade school! From grades 1-5 most of them did sculpting work!

