



Fall Culture Club Newsletter 2017

Hello Portland Public School Education Team,

The member organizations of Culture Club-Portland hope you are having a wonderful school year! We have started this newsletter to keep you up to date on the latest news from each of our organizations.

Established in 2012, Culture Club-Portland is a consortium of local arts organizations created to support cultural experiences for students in public schools. The consortium, brought together by a generous anonymous donor, includes the Portland Museum of Art, Portland Ovations, Portland Stage, and Portland Symphony Orchestra. Culture Club-Portland has the aspirational goal of providing a free arts experience in all four member organizations for every child in Portland Public Schools, every year. Culture Club-Portland programs are generously supported through the philanthropy of an anonymous benefactor, The Old Bug Light Foundation, and the Ernie Ayer Education Foundation.

As always, please be in touch. We are looking forward to working with you and your students.



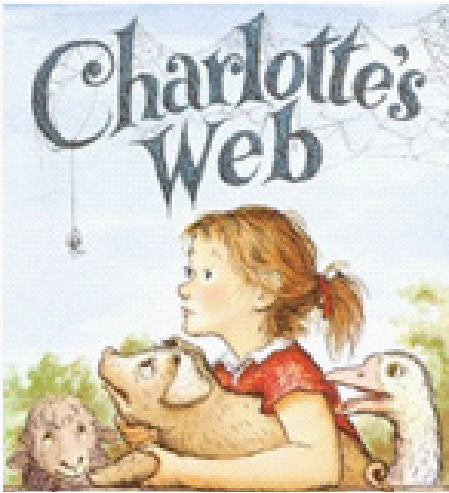
PORTLAND MUSEUM *of* ART

PORTLANDSTAGE
The Theater of Maine



Charlotte's Web

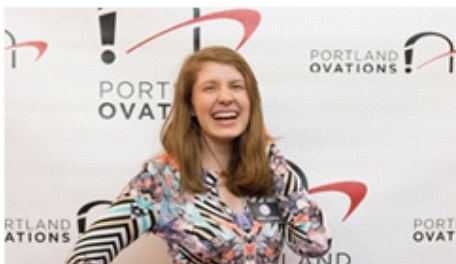
Just announced! A 12pm performance of "Charlotte's Web" has been added.



Theatreworks USA's 60 minute production of "Charlotte's Web" is based on E.B. White's loving story of the friendship between a pig named Wilbur and a little gray spider named Charlotte. Wilbur has a problem: how to avoid winding up as pork chops! Charlotte, a fine writer and true friend, hits on a plan to fool Farmer Zuckerman—she will create a "miracle." Spinning the words "Some Pig" in her web, Charlotte weaves a solution which not only makes Wilbur a prize pig, but ensures his place on the farm forever. This treasured tale, featuring mad-cap and endearing farm animals, explores bravery, selfless love, and the true meaning of friendship.

A variety of workshops will be offered for this performance appropriate for 1st-5th grade. For additional materials, please check out our study guide and for recommended reading, please see "Some Writer!" by Melissa Sweet. Workshop subsidies are available for Culture Club schools. Contact us for more information.

Ovarations Offstage Ambassadors



On November 15th announced the first class of Ovarations Offstage Ambassadors, a program offered to any high school student in Maine. Check the website to see which high school students have been selected! Ambassadors will gain:

- Opportunities to attend different genres of performances and write reviews for immediate posting, tweeting, and status updating
- Meetings with different arts professionals throughout the season
- An insider's view of different performance and administrative careers in the performing arts
- Opportunities to represent Portland Ovarations at different events
- Exposure to a non-profit business model
- Guest speakers, masterclasses, backstage tours, meet and greets with professionals in various career paths connected to the arts

**BECOME A PORTLAND OVATIONS
OFFSTAGE AMBASSADOR!**



News from Portland Symphony Orchestra
jelliott@portlandsymphony.org
207.773.6128 x308

Middle School Programs

Availability is open now to book dates for *America: The Musical Melting Pot*, the PSO's Middle school American History program. *A:MMP* focuses on early American history, from the pre-colonial era to the turn of the 20th century. Students will learn about the music, composers, and people of each era and how music was an important part of their lives.

Originally piloted at Lincoln Middle School in 2016, the PSO is hoping to have this performance featuring 4 string players and a narrator visit each Middle School in 2018.

If you would like the PSO in your classroom, contact the PSO at jelliott@portlandsymphony.org

High School Programs

Being a great musician takes a huge amount of practice and focus. Being a professional musician takes practice, focus and so much more. PSO members frequently make **Musicians in the Classroom** visits to High School classrooms to talk about a wide range of topics including their instruments, their craft, as well as what life is like as a creative professional. These open dialogue sessions often last up to an hour and can be tailored to focus on specific topics and often include live demos by the musician.

If you would like a musician to visit your classroom, reach out to jelliott@portlandsymphony.org.

Programs for K-5

In the 17-18 school year the PSO will again be bringing all four of our *KinderKonzert* programs to the Elementary schools in Portland. Dates are being set now so if you would like a visit to your school, talk to your music teacher or reach out to jelliott@portlandsymphony.org.

The PSO is also continuing the tradition for Youth Concerts for all 4th, 5th, and now 6th graders. The springtime PSO Youth Concert will be on May 21st at 9:50am and 10:50am. The program will feature former PSO Assistant Conductor Norman Huynh and focuses on partnerships in music like soloist and orchestra, John Williams and Stephen Spielberg and more. If you would like to reserve tickets for your 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, reach out to jelliott@portlandsymphony.org.



PORTLAND MUSEUM of ART

News from Portland Museum of Art
tours@portlandmuseum.org
207.699.4985

So what actually happens on a Portland Museum of Art field trip?

The PMA is proud to open our doors to all Portland Pre-K-grade 12 students for free tours and free bus transportation. Our free, one-hour educational experiences use authentic works of art to inspire and encourage critical thinking while making real-world connections. The tours are led by docent educators who use conversation, inquiry, interactive, hands-on activities, and Visual Thinking Strategies to explore themes relevant to your students. Curious what kinds of things happen on a PMA tour? Below are a few examples of activities or teaching strategies that may take place on a tour:

Visual Thinking Strategies

Our Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) tours are the most open-ended, inquiry-based tours we offer. VTS is a method of facilitated discussion that asks students, as a group, to utilize their existing visual and cognitive skills as well as previous life experiences and knowledge to slow down and carefully investigate and interpret works of art. Facilitators ask a series of questions: “What is going on in this artwork?”, “What do you see that makes you say that?” and “What more can we find”

Haiku and Peregrination Poem Writing

Facilitated poetry writing exercises encourage students and adults to slow down, look closely, and use strong descriptive language to paint a picture with words. Students take home completed poems inspired by authentic works of art.

Drawing From Clues

A partner or team based activity, students provide their teammates with comprehensive, elaborate, nuanced, verbal descriptions of a mystery artwork while the others draw what they are told. The activity supports close looking and listening, encourages descriptive language, and helps students separate interpretation from fact.

The Elaboration Game

This thinking routine encourages students to look carefully at details within an artwork. It challenges students to develop thorough verbal descriptions. It also helps to distinguish between observations and interpretations by asking them to withhold their ideas about the artwork – their interpretations – until the end of the routine. This strengthens students’ ability to reason carefully because it gives them practice making sustained observations before jumping into judgment.

If you would like to include a specific activity on your tour, please make sure to mention this during the booking process. To schedule your PMA tour, or to discuss options, please contact the Learning and Interpretation department, (207) 699-4985, or tours@portlandmuseum.org or visit <http://www.portlandmuseum.org/learn/schools>



PORTLANDSTAGE The Theater of Maine

News from Portland Stage
education@portlandstage.org
207.774.1043 x104

UP NEXT IN STUDENT MATINEES:



Babette's Feast

Conceived & Developed by Abigail Killeen | Written by Rose Courtney |
Adapted from the short story by Isak Dinesen
Thursday, Feb. 1st & Wednesday, Feb. 14th

Babette's Feast tells the story of how a refugee transforms a closed religious community by sacrificing all she has to throw a lavish dinner party. Through her radical hospitality, this mysterious woman converts her guests' deeply held notions of scarcity and judgment and opens them up to give and receive abundant grace. This adaptation re-imagines the story you thought you knew about Babette's singular feast: deep, funny, dangerous, and beautiful.



Red Herring

By Michael Hollinger
Wednesday, Mar. 7th & Thursday, Mar. 8th

Maggie's a tough, Boston cop, trying to get her finger on the one man who gave her the slip: a sly crime boss who worked his way into her heart. As she deals with murder, mystery, and intrigue in Boston Harbor, she also has to deal with Frank, an FBI gumshoe with a proposal more dangerous than commie spies, murderous mobs, and McCarthyism combined: marriage.

IN OTHER NEWS:

We just finished our first series of this season's PLAY in Schools program with Presumpscot Elementary School, Riverton Elementary School, and Ocean Avenue School. The books focused on the theme of Celebrating Difference and Accepting Others. We featured Richard Blanco's poem, "One Today" and explored the poem with our voices, bodies, and imaginations in workshops with the students. We will continue to work on the poem with the students in January so that in May, on our final visit, the students will be able to put on their actor hats and perform the poems themselves at the full school assembly. Blanco's poem, in the words of a 4th grade student at Ocean Avenue, "celebrates the diversity of our country and that you can be anything you want to be."

