

Michael Lee And Opus Mime

A successful artist-in-residence...

- Supports teachers with an expert, professional artist
- Gives students a rigorous, intense learning experience
- Strengthens the host teachers role, brings recognition to the program
- Provides additional performing and production opportunities for students
- Invites younger audiences to high school performances (program recruitment)
- Supports independent artists
- It's a fund-raiser!

How?

An artist-in-residence program serves so many! When hosting a guest artist, make the most of it! The local news will cover your program, letting others in the school and community know that you're running an innovative program. Younger students looking ahead to the drama program will be more interested in what you offer. When the residency ends in a public performance, not only will the auditorium be full, but you'll pay for the program! Does it get any better?

An example...two weeks:

Artist arrives on Sunday, begins teaching the high school drama classes on Monday, and continues for the duration of the residency. During the day the artist also visits younger children for "classroom assemblies," lasting 15-45 minutes, introducing and demonstrating the art form in small intimate settings. He shares the excitement of the art form, and sends them home with a small flyer about the upcoming show. The audience gets built from the ground up. Middle school teachers and local theatre groups want workshops too!

By the end of the first week, some students are selected to perform with the guest artist (requiring after-school rehearsal time). This is where those interested students get to dive deeper, and learn the art form from rehearsing and learning mime pieces.

The residency culminates in a public performance; one that has generated publicity, and by now the whole town knows (remember the local news story?).

Some challenges for the host...

- Coordinating housing, travel and payments for the artist
- Sending out press releases, following up, and inviting interviews
- Preparing students
- Delegating to students to make flyers, programs, etc.

And challenges for the artist...

- Be well organized and willing to teach classes with many age groups
- Provide prep materials (teacher notes, press kit)
- Provide contracts