

Instant Meeting for 9-11 Year Olds

Drama & Theatre

Overall Goal:

Introduce your group to the magnificent field of the performing arts! This involves exploring characters, developing stories, writing, directing, taking on leadership roles, and creating original works of art. Participants will learn about creative professions, practice their communication and leadership skills, discover their artistic abilities, and improve their teambuilding and collaboration skills. Welcome to the world of drama and theatre!

Program Areas Covered:

You and Others
Discovering You
Beyond You

We have included many activities.

Please pick and choose to what you feel is suitable for your group.

Opening

Enjoy your usual Opening.

Begin the meeting by explaining what drama and theatre is all about. You can say something along the lines of:

“Drama and theatre is a very creative industry! It involves actors, actresses, directors, scriptwriters, set and costume designers, technicians, producers and a whole lot of fun! People who work in this field as professionals get the opportunity to develop scripts, act, direct, create wonderful set pieces, discover their artistic talents such as singing or dancing, and manage entire productions. Today, we will explore the world of drama and theatre by doing activities where we will express ourselves, practice communication through drama, learn about our artistic talents, design costumes, and enjoy each others’ performances! Let’s begin!”

Introduce drama and theatre by doing the following preparatory activity together.

Character Ties

Group size: 10-15

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Listening skills
- Participation in group discussion
- Career awareness
- Thinking/Concentration

Preparation Materials:

- 3-5 Canadian celebrity photos

Prior to the discussion circle, print out photos of famous Canadian actors and actresses on standard white paper and keep them with you. You will be using these images to start your discussion.

Sit in a circle. Hold up a photo of a famous Canadian celebrity and ask the group if they recognize who it is. For example, you can ask, “Can anyone tell me who this beautiful lady is?” while holding up a photo of Rachel McAdams for everyone to see. Then, hold up another celebrity photo and ask the participants if they can recognize the next actor or actress. Do this with a few different celebrities.



Image Source:

This image below was created by grouping two separate images together.

The black and white image holding the board was retrieved from Microsoft Word Clip Art. The photo of Rachel McAdams was retrieved from Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_McAdams

As your group becomes aware of these performers, let the group know that all of these actors and actresses are Canadian. Explain that each of them work in Canadian productions as well as in Hollywood films. Then ask the group to name some films which star the performers that you have shown to them. For example, ask the group, “Can anyone tell me if they have seen a Ryan Gosling movie? If so, which one?” or “In which film or TV show have you seen the actress Evangeline Lilly?” Make sure to hold up the photos of the celebrities (as visual aids) in case participants do not recognize the name of a performer right away. If the participants do not know the names of films or TV shows, feel free to give clues or provide the answer.

Finally, ask the participants to think about which movie character they feel they resemble or would most likely want to portray if they were an actor or actress. They can choose a character from any movie, animated or live. Ask each participant to share their character match and to briefly explain why they feel they resemble or would want to portray their chosen character. Go around the circle until everyone has shared their movie characters.

Here is an example:

Participant 1: My name is Julia. I think I would want to portray Lara Croft from Tomb Raider. She is really athletic and strong, and I feel the same way too.

Participant 2: My name is Marc. I would like to be Kevin from Home Alone because he is so clever and funny. He plays the best pranks and I find I can be a prankster sometimes too.

If someone does not have a particular character in mind but has details about the kind of character they like, or, if there are a few 'Cinderellas' or 'James Bonds' in the group, that is perfectly fine! Welcome all of the film characters and/or character descriptions in the circle. It is more important to understand that every participant finds a unique personal connection to their chosen character and that all of their choices are acceptable.

After everyone has contributed to the discussion, have a round of applause to welcome everyone to the group and to set a positive mood for the meeting.

Now that everyone has an initial understanding of drama, have them participate in a combination of the following activities!

Activities

What Are We?

Objective:

Twist! Bend! Glide! Work together to create a given object using your bodies and facial expressions.

Group size: small groups of 5 members each

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Teambuilding/Cooperation
- Imagination
- Tableau practice/communication
- Thinking/Feedback



Image Source:
Microsoft Word Clip Art

Allow participants to form small groups of 5 members. Assign each small group an object: for example, a school bus, a bridge or a giant tree. Make sure to whisper so other groups cannot hear each others' objects. The members must form this shape as a group in a tableau. Let each small group find a corner to briefly huddle together and allow the members to figure out how they will recreate their

assigned object with their bodies. The group members can only speak among their group to decide on the actions they will use and can only whisper to each other. Once the groups are ready, have one group come to the stage/front of the room. The rest of the groups sit together as the audience.



Image Source:
Google Images
<http://pinterest.com/tjmccamm/on/summer-fun/>

Tableau:

As the group creates their tableau, ask the members to hold their positions for 20 seconds. After 20 seconds of holding the tableau, the group can relax. Ask the audience members to guess which object the group has shaped. When an audience member answers correctly, have a round of applause for the group and the audience.

Positive Feedback:

While the group members are still standing on the stage, ask the audience to provide positive feedback to the group. For example: ask the audience, “what did you like about this group’s tableau?” or “how did you recognize which object they formed?” Providing positive feedback to each group creates a supportive environment and allows the performers to reflect upon their collaboration and realize the benefits of working together.

After the mini feedback session, ask the performing group to have a seat in the audience and invite another group to come to the stage and share their tableau. Repeat until all groups have performed their objects and received positive feedback from their audience.

Heyyy Macarena!

Objective:

Learn the steps to the classic Macarena dance!

Group size: 10-15

Duration: 10-20 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Teambuilding/Cooperation
- Communication/body language
- Macarena dance steps
- Staying fit while having fun

Preparation Materials:

- Instructional video
- Macarena song CD
- Stereo player

Image Source:
Microsoft Word Clip Art



If you do not already know the steps to The Macarena, view the following instructional video online:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpW-djiKVg8>.

Once you have learned the steps, teach your group by showing them the video and/or practicing the dance moves with them. When everyone is ready, play Los del Rio’s Macarena song and enjoy performing the dance together!

Campfire Theatre

Image Source:
All 3 images below were
retrieved from Microsoft Word
Clip Art

Objective:

Go outdoors and experience theatre in the natural environment!

Group size: 15-20

Duration: 45-60 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Teambuilding/Cooperation
- Singing
- Storytelling
- Performance/audience awareness

Preparation Materials:

- Wooden logs
- Rocks/charcoal/matches to start fire
- Snacks (optional)
- Musical instruments (optional)



Who says drama and theatre is an indoor activity!?! Take your group outdoors for an absolutely fun adventure! Find a place in a nearby forest and start a campfire. Sit around the campfire and take turns standing up in front of everyone to tell scary stories, funny stories, and sing songs together.

Classic campfire songs from Guiding include:

- Quartermaster Store
- If I Were Not a Girl Guide
- The Bear Song
- Happy Wanderer
- Linger

Personalized Costumes

Objective:

Design a shirt that represents YOU!

Group Size: 15-20

Duration: 30 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Encourage creative thinking
- Designing/drawing
- Communication/visual storytelling
- Teambuilding



Preparation Materials:

- Plain, white t-shirts (one for each participant)
- Markers and/or fabric paint
- Scissors
- Felts/other fabrics
- Stickers
- Craft glue or masking tape

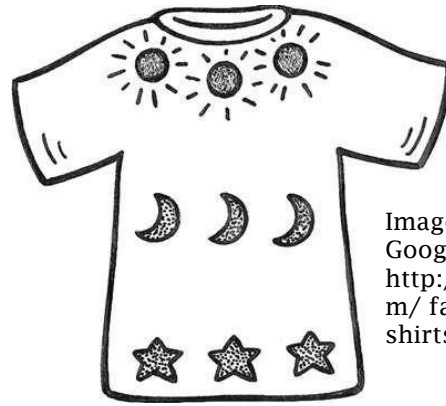


Image Source:
Google Images
<http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/decorate-kids-t-shirts2.htm>

Use your imagination and design a costume that depicts your interests, hobbies, talents and values!

There is only one step: decorate/design your shirt using craft materials, fabric paint, stickers and images to visually represent yourself. You can use a variety of symbols to express things you like - for example, draw a basketball on your shirt to show that you like to play basketball or have an interest in sports. Or, paint key words around your shirt to demonstrate your values, such as 'honesty' or 'respect'.

Make sure you leave the back of your shirt completely blank!

After everyone has designed their personalized costumes, ask each participant to wear their shirt and give each participant a marker. Ask all of the participants to casually walk around the room. As they approach a fellow participant, ask them to stop and think about a positive word that describes the person they have approached. Both individuals should then write the encouraging word they have thought of on the back of the other person's shirt.

For example: while walking around, Kelly and Eva meet each other face to face. Kelly takes a moment to think about a positive word/comment that describes Eva. She then asks Eva to turn around so that she can write the comment, "amazing singer", on Eva's back. Then, Eva thinks about a positive word/comment that describes Kelly. Eva then asks Kelly to turn around so she can write the word "spectacular" on Kelly's back. They do not verbally reveal to each other the words they have written on each others' backs. Kelly and Eva then continue walking until they meet other participants and repeat the process again.

When the participants go home and view their personalized costumes, they will be able to see a representation of themselves as well as gain an understanding of how others see them!

Talent Reflections

Objective:

Write a journal entry reflecting upon your best artistic talent!

Group size: 10-15

Duration: 30 minutes

Skills Developed:

- Creative writing
- Reading
- Thinking
- Communication skills

Preparation Materials:

- Lined paper
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil crayons/crayons (optional)
- Relaxing music (optional)



Image Source:
The 3 images below were
retrieved from
Microsoft Word Clip Art.

This activity should be done in a calm and tranquil atmosphere. You may want to play soft, relaxing music in the background to create such an atmosphere. After the participants have completed a variety of artistic activities, such as acting/making tableaux, dancing, singing, costume designing, storytelling, etc., have them reflect on their drama and theatre experience!



Provide each participant some pieces of lined paper, pencils, erasers and crayons. Give them 15 minutes to write about their favourite drama and theatre activity and a personal talent they may have discovered. After they have written their journal entry, participants can also draw a picture to go with their reflection (optional).

Some questions you can use to prompt the reflections:

- Which activity did you enjoy most today?
- Have you discovered an artistic ability or personal skill by doing the activities today?
- Describe your talent/skill.
- How do you feel about performing in front of an audience?
- Draw a picture of something you enjoyed doing today.

Return to the circle. Inform the participants that this circle is supposed to be a supportive and positive environment for everyone. No one should feel pressured or uncomfortable about sharing their reflections and talents. Ask if any participant would like to share their journal reflection with the group. If none of the participants want to share their reflections, then you can conclude this activity by informing the participants about creative writing, its uses and its many benefits.

Famous Canadian Performers

If you still have some time left in the meeting or find that a participant wants to try something else instead of the activity you have chosen, check out the attached word search puzzles. Distribute the word searches to the participants. Keep the solution sheet with you. After 10 minutes, take up the solutions together.

Solutions:

Famous Canadian Actors

H S D L O N Y E R N A Y R F M J V G J M
V A O X E K A R D E M O X M O O N Y I I
E R Y T G I E R N I M N M S D H P K M C
K D G D L I J K K M D G H B R N E X C H
A O Q M E L C E O G L U N C W C R N A A
F N L R Y N M D R B A K O I M A Y O R E
I A I W M Y C W C J Q W J X D N A R R L
N L R Z E N L H A C V C B I I D N E E J
B D E R R U V A C R T J E S U D Y G M Y F
E S S E Y B K M I I L W E B S C O A X O
Y U X N Q S B C H Q S M V A G E S C T X
D T V G O F N F V O T T E E D E L S J E
W H F N G R A H A M G R E E N E I E K A
H E Q X L F M X X P G C R N K F N M N D
Z R J Q A W K P D P B M U E S D G A Q Q
Y L G E L K M T D O U A N B N E P J X T
Y A Q N W V O G H D I G A S D I N E S L
U N Y C M A T T H E W P E R R Y S B A B
C D Y H R N K B C G J C K J L K W W D H
A M M W Q S E U G E N E L E V Y Z J M E

Famous Canadian Actresses

Z T R E B H T U C A H S I L E Y C R Y S
T O Q W Z U Q E N U U O Z U X M Z A L H
L J O D E L L E F E R L A N D V X C O I
H I U I W V J X S V C V T L K N T H M R
R V S Y E G A P N E L L E F G Q T E R L
W M N A X V C L N Q B S I P Q G B L N E
P W S S R E V A N G E L I N E L I L L Y
L Y Q H P A R G O B H S I K K Z V E O D
H V U P T A Y V M J P Q Y N N O Z L L O
I U Q I R H C E L L E U N A M M E E L U
C A R R I E A N N E M O S S A G C F A G
X J Y L R A L W Y Z S Z V Q N A H E R L
M N G G U R U B L V G W H L N O H V T A
C O B I E S M U L D E R S O A D G R T S
U T X F J Y R B N S X D F R P W E E A Z
B T L Z T R Y U O T L N D P A T O K C H
R T Z J S D R C K Q V N S O Q N N R M I
R A C H E L M C A D A M S O U H P C I W
R Z Z O O X T T M S W E H L I K M R K G
H R O L A N I D R A C O O T N A T B E M

Closing

Enjoy your usual Closing.

Have the participants bring their personalized costume, journal entry and word search puzzles home to show their parents.

FAMOUS CANADIAN ACTORS

WORD SEARCH

Look for the names of the following famous Canadian actors.
Circle or highlight the words when you find them! Good luck!

EUGENE LEVY
RYAN GOSLING
JIM CARREY
RYAN REYNOLDS
GRAHAM GREENE

MIKE MYERS
KEANU REEVES
JOSHUA JACKSON
DONALD SUTHERLAND
JOHN CANDY

MICHAEL J FOX
MATTHEW PERRY
HAYDEN CHRISTENSEN
JAMES CAMERON
DRAKE

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H S D L O N Y E R N A Y R F M J V G J M
V A O X E K A R D E M O X M O O N Y I I
E R Y T G I E R N I M N M S D H P K M C
K D G D L I J K K M D G H B R N E X C H
A O Q M E L C E O G L U N C W C R N A A
F N L R Y N M D R B A K O I M A Y O R E
I A I W M Y C W C J Q W J X D N A R R L
N L R Z E N L H A C V C B I I D N E E J
B D E R U V A C R T J E S U D Y G M Y F
E S S E Y B K M I I L W E B S C O A X O
Y U X N Q S B C H Q S M V A G E S C T X
D T V G O F N F V O T T E E D E L S J E
W H F N G R A H A M G R E E N E I E K A
H E Q X L F M X X P G C R N K F N M N D
Z R J Q A W K P D P B M U E S D G A Q Q
Y L G E L K M T D O U A N B N E P J X T
Y A Q N W V O G H D I G A S D I N E S L
U N Y C M A T T H E W P E R R Y S B A B
C D Y H R N K B C G J C K J L K W W D H
A M M W Q S E U G E N E L E V Y Z J M E
  
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FAMOUS CANADIAN ACTRESSES

WORD SEARCH

Look for the names of the following famous Canadian actresses. Circle or highlight the words when you find them!
Good luck!

ANNA PAQUIN
ELLEN PAGE
JODELLE FERLAND
RACHEL McADAMS
TANTOO CARDINAL

CARRIE-ANNE MOSS
EMMANUELLE CHRIQUI
LISA RAY
SANDRA OH
KIM CATTRALL

COBIE SMULDERS
EVANGELINE LILLY
RACHELLE LEFEVRE
SHIRLEY DOUGLAS
ELISHA CUTHBERT

Z T R E B H T U C A H S I L E Y C R Y S
T O Q W Z U Q E N U U O Z U X M Z A L H
L J O D E L L E F E R L A N D V X C O I
H I U I W V J X S V C V T L K N T H M R
R V S Y E G A P N E L L E F G Q T E R L
W M N A X V C L N Q B S I P Q G B L N E
P W S S R E V A N G E L I N E L I L L Y
L Y Q H P A R G O B H S I K K Z V E O D
H V U P T A Y V M J P Q Y N N O Z L L O
I U Q I R H C E L L E U N A M M E E L U
C A R R I E A N N E M O S S A G C F A G
X J Y L R A L W Y Z S Z V Q N A H E R L
M N G G U R U B L V G W H L N O H V T A
C O B I E S M U L D E R S O A D G R T S
U T X F J Y R B N S X D F R P W E E A Z
B T L Z T R Y U O T L N D P A T O K C H
R T Z J S D R C K Q V N S O Q N N R M I
R A C H E L M C A D A M S O U H P C I W
R Z Z O O X T T M S W E H L I K M R K G
H R O L A N I D R A C O O T N A T B E M

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