

Our Civil War Study Guide



Interactive Plays

Kitty's unique interactive plays weave history, literature, manners, customs, dance and music into theatrical presentations where audience members - both teachers and students - portray the key characters and historical figures of the times. Great sensitivity is used when involving participants, as some folks would prefer to sit back and watch the antics of their comrades.

In order to set good examples of theatre etiquette, it is respectfully requested that teachers attend programs without papers or homework in hand.

Our Civil War Virginia (1865)

Virginia - 1865 - The major economic and political issues of the day, such as the institution of slavery and states' rights are interwoven into the program to offer a contextual understanding of life during the Civil War.

Charlotte Beaugard, a Virginian, is devastated when her two sons, Samuel and Nathan both join the fighting. Samuel enlists with the Confederate Army while Nathan joins the Union Army. We watch with Charlotte as key events, such as the first shots at Fort Sumter, the Battle of Antietam, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Gettysburg Address shape the era, and we get to know the political positions of Presidents Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln. The bravery of Harriet Tubman and her involvement in the Underground Railroad are stated and honored. After a poignant rendition of Pickett's Charge--the Confederate Army's final attempt to overcome the northern forces in Gettysburg--the program shifts to a joyous celebration as Charlotte's two sons are reunited at the farm house. A lively square dance marks the festive occasion. The program concludes with the southern surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, VA.



Charlotte Beaugard

Miss Charlotte is a fictitious upper class Southern Belle. An appropriate period hoop skirt, gloves and matching head piece is worn. Speaking in a southern dialect, the character creates a historic depiction of life during the 19th Century.



Performance Objectives

To create a supportive environment whereby students' participation results in a positive, self-affirming experience that allows them to co-create the show with the character by illustrating the reasons our country went to war and the challenges faced by the citizenry in a war torn nation.

Pre-Show Preparation

- Familiarize students with the two warring armies
 - o The Confederate Army – Confederate States of America - “The Grey” including Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arkansas
 - o The Union Army-- United States of America - “The Blue” including the Border States - Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri
- Read stories from the period such as Charlie Skedaddle by Patricia Beatty
- Have the students gather the various supplies needed by a Civil War soldier like canteens, blankets and rations

Post-Show Activities Discuss the necessary reconstruction of the South. Have students devise means of restoring the South to social and economic stability.

The Artist

Having developed her unique style of interactive theatre since 1987, Kitty combines her passion for history with her love of theatre to create 16 different high-energy shows.

Ms. Jones brings 4000 years of history and literature to life in programs ranging from *The Mysteries of Ancient Egypt* to *Women's Rights*. Since 1996, she has written, choreographed, produced and performed her own original material for Kit's Interactive Theatre. Kitty Jones has appeared on TV, Film and the stages of New York.



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