**Program Overview Theatre for educators**

This 12-week program is designed for educators, teaching artists, and community leaders seeking to integrate storytelling and theatre in education with a focus on culturally responsive and inclusive practices. The curriculum incorporates oral traditions, community narratives, and Afro-Caribbean, Indigenous, and Latin American cultural frameworks.

Each week includes thematic learning, active methodologies, and project-based outcomes, culminating in a showcase performance. Activities are adapted to support multilingual learners and students with varying learning needs.

**WEEKLY BREAKDOWN**

**Week 1: Introduction to Storytelling & Theatre in Education**

**Theme:** The Educator as Cultural Bridge
**Focus:** Understanding storytelling's role in cultural education and community voice.

* **Core Topics:** Oral traditions, decolonizing pedagogy, educator identity
* **Activities:** Story circle ("A story from my childhood"), community mapping
* **Assessment:** Reflective journal entry – "What stories shaped me as an educator?"
* **Resources:**
	+ *Theatre for Development in the Caribbean* (UNESCO)
	+ Video: "The Role of the Griot in West African Storytelling"

**Week 2: Voice, Expression & Body Language**

**Theme:** Finding Voice in Cultural Contexts
**Focus:** Developing vocal and physical tools through cultural lenses.

* **Core Topics:** Chants, call-and-response, expressive movement
* **Activities:** Cultural chant practice, emotional walks using traditional gestures
* **Assessment:** Peer feedback on expressive clarity during storytelling
* **Resources:**
	+ Caribbean folk songs (audio/video)
	+ Augusto Boal's vocal warm-ups from *Theatre of the Oppressed*

**Week 3: Character Development & Emotion in Performance**

**Theme:** Embodying Community Archetypes
**Focus:** Building emotionally authentic characters from cultural archetypes.

* **Core Topics:** Trickster, elder, warrior, mother
* **Activities:** Hot-seating, monologue writing in character
* **Assessment:** Short character performance with peer feedback
* **Resources:**
	+ Caribbean Folktales by Trish Cooke (selected readings)
	+ Role-on-the-wall technique template

**Week 4: Narrative Structure & Creating Engaging Stories**

**Theme:** Stories as Cultural Memory
**Focus:** Crafting narratives rooted in local experience and oral traditions.

* **Core Topics:** Non-linear storytelling, hero’s journey, community storytelling
* **Activities:** Deconstruct a legend, write a community-based story
* **Assessment:** Group presentation of story arc using visual map
* **Resources:**
	+ Template: "Story Structure Wheel"
	+ Caribbean and Latin American myths (digital archive)

**Week 5: Improvisation & Spontaneous Creativity**

**Theme:** Freedom & Play within Cultural Frameworks
**Focus:** Building creative confidence using oral tradition games.

* **Core Topics:** Improvisation, quick-thinking, collaboration
* **Activities:** One-word story circle, storytelling with objects
* **Assessment:** Journal reflection on improvisation and spontaneity
* **Resources:**
	+ Improvisation cards (printable PDF)
	+ Traditional storytelling games from Suriname, Curaçao, and the Andes

**Week 6: Visual Storytelling & Symbolism in Theatre**

**Theme:** Art, Symbol, and Identity
**Focus:** Using visuals to express culture and emotion in storytelling.

* **Core Topics:** Symbolism, cultural color meanings, props
* **Activities:** Create symbolic props or masks, group tableau
* **Assessment:** Visual design explanation (oral or written)
* **Resources:**
	+ Indigenous and Afro-Caribbean color symbolism chart
	+ Image cards of traditional costumes and masks

**Week 7: Dramatic Techniques for Classroom Engagement**

**Theme:** Culturally Grounded Pedagogy in Action
**Focus:** Applying theatre strategies to engage diverse learners.

* **Core Topics:** Drama across curriculum, teacher-in-role, classroom management
* **Activities:** Model lesson using drama, role-play as teacher
* **Assessment:** Lesson plan submission with embedded theatre strategy
* **Resources:**
	+ Caribbean TIE case studies (PDF)
	+ Sample drama-integrated lesson plans

**Week 8: Cultural Narratives & Inclusive Storytelling**

**Theme:** Telling the Stories that Need to Be Told
**Focus:** Ensuring accessibility and inclusion in performance.

* **Core Topics:** Marginalized voices, sensory storytelling, co-creation
* **Activities:** Develop a group scene inspired by a community voice
* **Assessment:** Scene draft and inclusive design checklist
* **Resources:**
	+ Inclusive theatre guide (from VSA or similar)
	+ Interviews with Caribbean community elders

**Weeks 9–12: Practical Application & Showcase Performance**

**Theme:** Bringing Community Stories to Life
**Focus:** Collaborative creation and performance of original theatre pieces

**Week 9: Visioning & Planning**

* Select a cultural or community theme
* Develop storyline, characters, visual elements

**Week 10: Creation & Rehearsal**

* Refine script, rehearse scenes
* Integrate music, visuals, movement

**Week 11: Final Rehearsals**

* Add technical elements
* Peer and mentor feedback

**Week 12: Showcase & Reflection**

* Perform for peers/community
* Reflective circle: Lessons, growth, future use in classroom

**Final Assessment:**

* Showcase performance (group)
* Reflective portfolio (individual): lesson plan, journal entries, design sketches, photo documentation

**Showcase Options:**

* School-wide assembly
* Outdoor community event
* Video-recorded classroom piece for virtual sharing

**General Assessment Criteria**

* Engagement and participation
* Evidence of cultural sensitivity and inclusion
* Creativity in storytelling and use of theatre tools
* Application of techniques in planning or performance
* Reflective and critical thinking through journals and discussions

**Appendices & Resources**

1. **Story Structure Templates** (Linear, Circular, Call-and-Response)
2. **Community Story Map** worksheet
3. **Multilingual Word Bank for Storytelling** (English, Spanish, Papiamento)
4. **Suggested Reading List** (including regional tales)
5. **Printable Improvisation & Drama Game Cards**
6. **Inclusive Performance Checklist**
7. **Music & Rhythm Resources:** links to traditional Caribbean instruments and songs

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