



Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

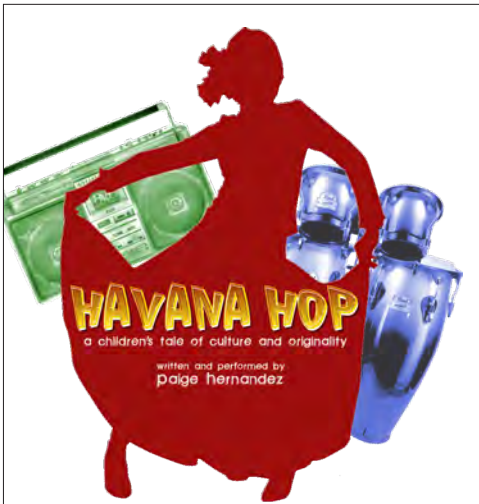
We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

Visiting Artist Performance

Recommended for ages 4 and older



A children's tale of culture and originality written and performed by Paige Hernandez

Themes explored

Family values, cultural appreciation, acceptance

About the Performance

What if you were invited to dance for the President? You'd want it to be the best dance ever! Come meet young Yelia who visits her grandmother in Cuba to add a salsa flavor to her own hip-hop style! The audience gets to dance along in this dynamic participation play where one actress creates three generations of lively women. Journey with Yelia as she discovers the fun of her multi-cultural heritage.

Audience Expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can't turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

- Respect other audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
- We do not permit food and drinks in the theatre.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

The Artist's Inspiration

Paige's inspiration as a performer comes from her multicultural background. It's important to her to acknowledge every aspect of her identity and not just one facet. Keeping this in mind, she created *Havana Hop*, a story that takes a young girl's passion and fuses it with culture and family history.

Paige creates different characters using props, music, dance and costumes and hopes that by the end of the performance, the audience will see that the differences that divide us can only make us more well-rounded if we accept them. As Paige says: "Anything is possible when you listen to your grandmother and keep an open mind!"



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings.

Hip-Hop Culture

Hip-hop is a cultural movement that exploded in the early 1970s in the Bronx, New York. It draws upon the dance, poetry, visual art, social and political legacy of African, African American, Caribbean and Latino immigrant communities in the United States. Hip-hop began as an independent, non-commercial musical and cultural form of expression. The roots of hip-hop are often traced directly to the African American community, but hip-hop scholar Daniel Banks says it has been multi-ethnic since the beginning. A distinct hip-hop culture emerged as urbanized youth united and, as a way to identify themselves with unions, formed gangs – often referred to as “crews” or “posses”– with whom they found support, identity and family.

Cuban Cuisine

Cuban cuisine is a fusion of Native American Taino food, Spanish, African and Caribbean cuisines. Some Cuban recipes share spices and techniques with Spanish and African cooking, with some Caribbean influence in spice and flavor. This results in a unique, interesting and flavorful blend of the several different cultural influences, with strong similarities with the cuisine of the neighboring Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. A small but noteworthy Chinese influence can also be accounted for, mainly in the Havana area.

A typical meal would consist of:

- Rice and beans, cooked together or apart
- Main course (mainly pork or beef)
- Some sort of *vianda**
- Salad**

When cooked together, the rice and beans dish is called either *conгри* or *moros* or *moros y cristianos* (black beans and rice). If cooked separately it is called *arroz con frijoles* (rice with beans).

* The term *vianda* – not to be confused with the French *viande* (meat) – encompasses several types of tubers: yuca, malgana and potato all served either *hervidas* (boiled) or *fritas* (fried), as well as plaintains, unripe bananas and even corn.

**The salad is usually simply composed of tomato, lettuce and avocado, though cucumber, carrots, cabbage, fermented green beans and radish are not uncommon.

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children’s Theatre of Charlotte’s Pinterest boards.



Paige Hernandez

(Writer, Choreographer, Performer) is a graduate of the Baltimore School for the Arts and the University of Maryland, College Park. She is a multifaceted artist, who is known for her innovative fusion of poetry, hip hop, dance and education. As a teaching artist, Paige has taught throughout the U.S. and partnered with many organizations including Wolfrap and Arena Stage where she was awarded the Thomas Fichandler award for exceptional promise in theater education.

In the D.C. metro area, she has performed on many stages including: Arena Stage, Folger Theatre, Roundhouse, The Everyman Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Imagination Stage, Manship Theatre, GALA, Discovery Theatre, Charter Theatre and PlayhouseSquare. As a performer and playwright, Hernandez has performed her children’s show *Havana Hop* and her one-woman show, *Paige In Full*, in various theaters, schools and colleges along the East Coast.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



www.paigehernandez.com | www.paigeinfull.com



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.



Write to Us!

Children’s Theatre of Charlotte
300 E. Seventh St.
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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg library branch. Check availability at cmlibrary.org.

Drum Dream Girl by Margarita Engle
Feel the Beat: Dance Poems that Zing from Salsa to Swing by Marilyn Singer
Cultural Traditions in Cuba by Kylie Burns
A Dictionary of Dance by Liz Murphy
How Do You Dance? by Thyra Heder
I Got the Rhythm by Connie Schofield-Morrison