

Connecting
COLLEGE

and



Elementary

using

Music Theater



Using Music Theater to Make Connections Between Elementary and College

Intro.

I'm really honored and excited to be here doing this today. I've only run across one major problem in my preparation - too many words for too few minutes! There's so much to be said about developing relationships between levels - using Music Theatre to do it - and the need for creativity in the classroom. In regard to those, I wanted to answer two questions - WHY? and HOW? I decided to talk about WHY and let *Once Upon a Rhyme* demonstrate HOW. The first WHY is...

I. Why develop relationships?

- A. We have to stick together!
 - 1. We're all in this together
from Preschool to College to Pro
 - 2. We should have a unity of purpose
Teach/Promote Music and Fine Arts
 - 3. If one level becomes exclusive - it hurts us all!
 - 4. It shouldn't be My Program vs. Your Program
NOT "are we better than them?"
BUT "are we better than we were?"

- B. It benefits both programs!
 - 1. What does it do for the elementary program?
 - a. Gives a higher standard of achievement to emulate
 - b. Communicates that we (the college people) care about them
 - c. Serves to provide role models
 - d. Starts them thinking about college early
gives them positive impressions
 - e. Could be the spark to ignite a new elementary music program

 - 2. What does it do for college?
 - a. Gives a preview of what some of the Mus. Ed.
majors are heading toward
 - b. Helps college students realize they are role models -- they should
be positive examples
 - c. Helps to discourage elitist attitudes
"We're better. . . too good for just kids."
 - d. Helps develop a unity of purpose between levels
 - e. Very early recruitment -- every seed planted makes a difference
 - f. Could help those "stuffy" college kids get in touch with some
child-like qualities that can help us all stay mentally healthier
(hopefully not the childish qualities)

II. Why Music Theatre?

- A. It's the ultimate art form
combines most of the Fine Arts into one medium
 1. Solo vocal
 2. Choral/Chorus
 3. Instrumental / Keyboard
 4. Visual Art - Set, Lights, Costume
 5. Dance
 6. Drama

- B. It's more accessible for the masses
 1. Music for musicians is OK - but if that's all we present we're limiting our vision and our support
 2. At some point we have to reach the "Average Joe", the non-musician, the guy on the street - Musicals can meet that need

- C. There's Flexibility and Inclusion within the realm of Music Theatre
 1. No matter what kind of group or what combination of performers you have, there's probably a show that's suitable
 2. There are shows for any budget or facility
 3. There can be a place for anyone to participate - from makeup to tickets to construction and so on

III. Why do we need Creativity and Imagination in the Classroom?

- A. It can help build your program
 1. If the students create something, their investment can stimulate greater involvement - they're part owners
 2. Often, if they are challenged to create something they will discover a need for more knowledge or skill to accomplish their goal
 3. It really is fun - people outside will want to be in

- B. Why should children create? ...Because they can!
 1. The younger they are the more active their imaginations usually are - help them use it
 2. When they're young they really don't see any risk involved - the older they get the more conditioned they become to fearing failure - they're afraid to make mistakes, take risks, to try something new - start them young and don't let it get stifled along the way
 3. These kids are living in the computer generation - they are growing up with it - they're not afraid of it - this technology makes creativity easily expressible

- C. It's healthy
 - 1. Creativity helps develop both right and left-brain functions - makes connections between "instinctive" and "verbal", "tangible" and "intangible"
 - 2. Promotes self-worth, self-esteem, confidence
 - 3. Can create a great sense of accomplishment
- D. It's practical
 - 1. You will create for specific performers - so it should suit your students perfectly
 - 2. It's cheaper than royalties and rentals

IV. **About *Once Upon a Rhyme***

- A. It takes familiar nursery rhymes and brings them to life
- B. It combines, interweaves, and expands the characters and their basic stories
- C. Presents real-life circumstances from a perspective that may help us deal with those same things in our lives
- D. Depicts characters that we know in real life or that we might actually be
 - 1. Jack - shy, afraid to share his pie or himself with anyone
 - 2. Jill - nice, sweet girl who discovers that some things are worth fighting for
 - 3. Georgy - the kid who doesn't fit in who tries to fill his emptiness with things that don't satisfy
 - 4. Mary - the little girl who needs attention ...from the boys - she's the one we've all seen chasing the boys on the playground trying to kiss them
 - 5. The Baker - just a guy trying to make a buck
 - 6. The Candlestick Maker - just a guy trying to cheat someone out of a buck - the proverbial used car salesman
 - 7. Tom - a hungry kid that works for a meal the only way he knows how - by singing (like most of us, I guess!)
 - 8. Will - the narrator - he's most like me - easily confused - has a hard time putting his thoughts and words together

I think I've said enough. It's time for me to sit down and turn this over to Will. Thank you so much for coming!