

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To increase awareness and curiosity / interest of our inter-related global humanitarian challenges and affairs.
- Students will learn how roles created in theatre relate to and mentor roles in real life, and the responsibilities aligned with roles.
- Students will look into pivotal and exemplary points that inspire them to reflect and overcome challenges as world citizens, not only as individuals.
- Students will be introduced to elements of South African culture through music.
- Students will engage in a question and answer session with Tsidii Le Loka at the end of the presentation.



Tsidii Le Loka

South African Choral Traditions

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A voice rings out in the darkness... powerful enough to shake the leaves in a mountain forest, or to stop traffic in the big city. It's distinct, familiar and universal, and it seems to say "we are all connected." Surrounding this mesmerizing voice are the deep, warm notes of a giant marimba and the driving rhythms of drums. This is a meeting of worlds once worlds apart in a now effortless blend of Black and White, male and female, voice and drums, tradition and innovation... a love song connecting South Africa and America with threads uniting past, present and future. This is musical global citizenship at its best.

Tsidii Le Loka and percussionist, Tony Vacca, combine their artistic talents into a repertoire that effortlessly blends ancient and modern in a style that is simply all their own. While Tsidii's voice completely transforms any hall and embraces all who are in it, world class percussionist, Tony Vacca simultaneously cradles her songs and catapults them to new heights. In addition to their in-school concerts they offer several hands-on workshops. Each of these are designed to give students insight into how these two extraordinary performers found their calling and found their way.



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Arts for
Learning
Connecticut



About the Artist & Program Preparations

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Born in the Kingdom of Lesotho, and growing up in both South Africa and Lesotho, Tsidii brings a lifetime of language, culture and history to her essence as a person and artist. She was the only performer invited to sing at Nelson Mandela's first international press conference after his release from prison; and has a family history deeply rooted in the history of South Africa and beyond to the Congo. She is the first South African woman to be awarded the prestigious Ivor Novello Award for International Excellence in Musical Theatre, presented in London by the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors (BASCA). Additionally, she is a Ton Award nominee and winner of the Drama League, Outer Critics Circle Award, Drama Desk Award for originating the role of "Rafiki" in The Lion King on Broadway.

PRE PROGRAM

- Give students a short history of South Africa.
- Teacher prepares students by exploring the geography of the regions of The Kingdom of Lesotho, Cape Town, Robben Island, Pretoria, Johannesburg

POST PROGRAM

Break the students into groups. Have them discuss a problem that can be solved using the inspiration and ideas of the experience of Tsidii's story, history and culture of South Africa. Include all the elements that were discussed during the presentation and / or workshop.

CURRICULAR LINKS

Common Core State Standard for English Language Arts.

Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration; Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas.
Language Standard: Knowledge of Language, Vocabulary Acquisition

National Arts Standards: Theater

Anchor Standard 9: Apply criteria to evaluate artistic work.

Anchor Standard 10: Synthesis and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

MESSAGE FROM THE ARTIST

"My mission is to engage people in considering a larger cultural perspective of our human experience, and to engage art as a platform of healing and inspiration beyond its entertainment value. In so doing we'll enrich our positive contributions to life's platform".

~ Tsidii Le Loka



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