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NYC DOE Vendor #: AMA 07000

Amas Theatre Arts Programs – An Education in Empathy

Amas Musical Theatre is one of New York City's leading non-profit professional theater companies. Founded in 1969, Amas ("**you love**" in Latin) celebrates equity, embraces multiculturalism and focuses on the development of new American musicals and the training and encouraging young people in underserved communities in the New York City area.

One of the most compelling aspects of Amas education programming is a persistent through-line that is ever-present across all program areas. Young people at Amas learn to relate, to empathize, and to see themselves in others. This is of tremendous importance to their emergence as healthy individuals embarking on adulthood, regardless of their career choices.

Increasingly, studies report and educators agree that arts education offers vital opportunities and direct benefits in socialization for young people. These benefits have direct payoff in schools and classrooms enhancing literacy, graduation rates and healthy social interaction. Amas programs, where applicable, are structured with an awareness of the NYC Performance Standards established to assess student learning.

We **CUSTOM DESIGN** specific program curricula to meet the educational goals of our partner schools. The result is a collaboration between Amas Musical Theatre and each school's classroom teachers. Below are a number of Amas education programs that schools may consider as departure points for their individual Amas residency designs.

THE BROADWAY CHALLENGE

Pre-Teens and Teenagers

At the heart of what we do at Amas is singing, acting, and dancing. These disciplines converge in the uniquely American artform of Musical Theatre. Students in "The Broadway Challenge" learn Broadway standards spanning the history of the Musical Theatre canon (1932-2010), including elementary staging. The elements of dance, song and acting can be prioritized to suit the school curriculum and student body. At the end, students and parents are invited to a presentation. "Broadway Challenge" has been successfully employed using Special Ed student populations.



BROADWAY BABIES

Social Studies, Language Arts, Math Grades Pre-K-2

This in-school residency from four to 12 weeks brings the musical theatre experience to younger children. Students learn age-appropriate musical theatre songs as well as accompanying dances. An Amas Musical Theatre music director and choreographer work with the students in shaping a mini-version of a musical that relates to themes or curriculum being studied in their classroom. Stagecraft and other aspects of theatre production, such as dialogue, sets, costumes, etc., are introduced and explored.

LENS ON LIVE THEATRE

Students and teachers experience live, professional Amas Musical Theatre productions in an intimate Off-Broadway theatre. LENS ON LIVE THEATRE brings Amas Teaching Artists with Curriculum Guides to your school to explore theatre skills and themes related to these Amas Mainstage shows.

LIVING MUSEUM: Looking at Ancient History through Theatre, Stories & Songs

Social Studies, Language Arts

Grades 6-8

Designed to follow the NYC Sixth Grade Social Studies curriculum of Ancient Cultures, Philosophy and History of Religion, students explore being a creative artist during this residency (up to 20 workshop visits). Students engage in the roles of director, performer and writer as they create, rehearse and perform original stories and folktales of the cultures they are studying. Students work with Greek or Roman Myths, Aesop Fables and African folktales. They explore the question, "How can theatre, dance, music and visual arts be used as the vehicle to tell the story of the evolution of humankind?" Students learn traditional theatrical skills of enunciation, vocal projection, motivation and focus, gesture, physical expression, active listening, eye-contact and scene study. After each unit of study there is a short demonstration of student work. This residency also works with mask and instrument making.

URBAN MYTHOGRAPHY: Journey of The Hero

Social Studies, Language Arts

Grades 4-8

This program for elementary and middle school students explores Native American, Asian, classical Western and European mythologies and the heroic icons symbolized within these cultures. Students uncover the mythic themes that create our own culture and sense of self. Amas Teaching Artists employ a variety of theatre-based techniques to guide students in discovering and expressing their own contemporary vision of the heroic self, a kind of "best practices" for life. The class then creates an original piece which is rehearsed and presented to the extended school community.



OUR AMERICA: THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT THROUGH SONG AND STORY

Social Studies, Language Arts

Grades 4-8

This in-school residency explores the African-American Civil Rights Movement, the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, and Protest and Peace Songs. Students use their knowledge and understanding of American history to explore how artists reflected on the human condition during this important period in our not-too-distant past. Poetry of Americans of diverse backgrounds is also explored as students write about the Civil Rights Movement within their respective communities. These songs and stories become the basis for a dramatic presentation.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In Many Cases We Can Work With Our Partner Schools to Find Additional Funding Sources to Multiply the Impact of Your Arts Education Budget! For Information on Pricing, Funding, and Program Availability Contact Us Today!

PASSPORT AROUND THE WORLD

Social Studies, Language Arts, Earth Science Grades 2-5

This in-school residency, with up to 18 teaching artist visits, is based upon the Social Studies curriculum of communities and neighborhoods at home and around the world. Students study folk tales, songs and/or dances from the seven continents. Amas Teaching Artists collaborate with the classroom teacher to determine which countries or cultures will be studied. Students create their own Passports which include their picture and stamps with flags from the different countries they "visit" and study. Using theatre games, masks and improvisation, students explore themes and cultural paradigms of the various songs, dances and stories, as well as learning basic stagecraft. They examine relationships between geographical locations learning how to distinguish north, south, east and west by working with maps. This program concludes with a final presentation for the school community.



THE IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Social Studies, Language Arts, Math Grades 7-12

Amas' signature education program is a residency comprised of up to 32 visits with Amas Teaching Artists specializing in Playwriting, Theatre and Musical Composition. Students learn theatre techniques while researching their families' and communities' immigration histories through oral histories, interviews, taking field trips.

With the collaborative support of the classroom teacher and teaching artist, the students formulate their research into dramatic writings and songs which are performed for the school and the extended community. Theatre techniques include improvisation, character intent and motivation, script writing, observation, gesture, story dramatization, storytelling, and role playing. Students' original work is published in a collection they can keep. This program has improved class attendance, broadened vocabulary for ESL students and given a positive expressive outlet for all participating students.

Students at Ellis Island Trip



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Bring an Amas Musical Theatre Teaching Artist to your After School Program! Our residency programs, especially **The Broadway Challenge** and **Broadway Babies** can be structured to fit in with your After-School program or combined with other activities and homework help.

In these customized programs, Amas Teaching Artist work with students on skills related to Musical Theatre and also integrate school topics in a fun, engaging, and active environment. These programs foster personal and creative growth outside the classroom space.

Please Contact Amas Education Director, Zeynep Akca with all inquiries and booking: zakca@amasmusical.org or call 212-563-2565.



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LETTERS TO HARRIET TUBMAN

by Paul Morse

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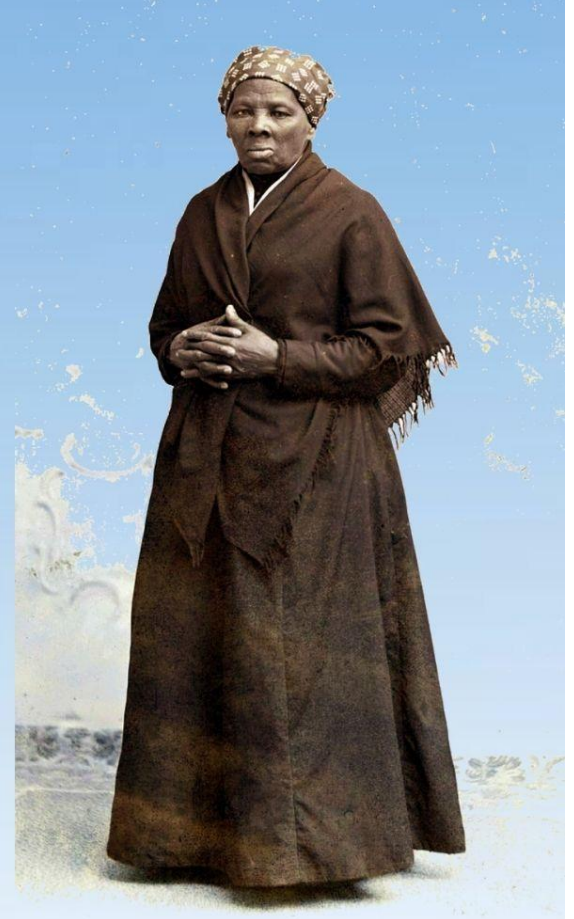
Recommended for grades: 4, 5, and 6

This interactive, two-character musical chronicles the life and work of Harriet Tubman, a prominent figure in the shaping of American History. Students are cast as “visitors” to Harriet’s home, as she recounts her life and work in the Underground Railroad through letters, songs and vignettes.

Students learn about enslaved people’s struggle for freedom and they are introduced to lively period songs and African-American spirituals, including “Go Down, Moses”, “Oh, Freedom”, “Battle Hymn of the Republic”, and others.

This musical complements and adheres to curriculums in **Social Studies** and **American History**.

The performance serves to ignite students’ curiosity and awareness of the larger context of Black History. Recommended during Black History and Women’s History Months in February and March. A deeper appreciation of our country’s history, empathy for the experiences of the individuals that helped shape that history, and providing a positive expressive outlet for all participating students are the goals of this performance.



- **Letters to Harriet Tubman** is 40 minutes and includes a talkback with our performers.
- The performance is designed to be in person or live via virtual connection.
- A Curriculum Guide is included for further classroom discussion.
- We can present up to two (2) performances per school day.

For more information contact:

Zeynep Akca

Education Director

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**Finally, Our Flagship Education Program for Over 40 years,
The Rosetta LeNoire MUSICAL THEATRE ACADEMY,
the Template for Our In-School Musical Theatre Residency**

SATURDAY PRE-PROFESSIONAL MUSICAL THEATRE TRAINING PROGRAM

Ages: 12-18

The Rosetta LeNoire Musical Theatre Academy is our “flagship” education program, a multicultural, pre-professional musical theatre training program named for Amas Founder Rosetta LeNoire. Students have the wonderful opportunity to work with seasoned New York theatre professionals on Saturdays from October through May in a rigorous all-day program of classes and rehearsals in singing, dancing and acting.

Students also take workshops with specialized professionals in a variety of related disciplines. Recent workshops have included improvisation, tap, creative writing, clowning, and stage fighting.

The Academy presents a midyear “Open House” in early February that showcases our students’ progress and highlights their training regimen. We conclude the year with a fully produced musical that runs for two-weeks in an Off-Off Broadway theatre. The majority of our students receive full or partial scholarships.

The Mission:

Our program is not only about acting, but about life: teaching poise, self-confidence, professional discipline, and the desire and ability to succeed, no matter what our graduates’ ultimate career choices. And compared to national averages, a significantly higher number of our members graduate from high school and continue their educations.

What to Expect:

- Performance-gearred VOICE, ACTING and DANCE coaching with seasoned industry professionals
- Receive INDIVIDUALIZED ATTENTION geared towards your needs and level of development,
- Collaborate with fellow creative minds to bring new insight to performance work,
- Build a CLASSICAL and CONTEMPORARY theatre repertoire.



**For an In-School Musical Theatre “Intensive”, including Acting, Singing, Dance,
and Performance, Please Contact Amas Education Director, Zeynep Akca
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AMAS MUSICAL THEATRE

Amas Musical Theatre is a non-profit, multi-ethnic theatrical organization founded in 1969 by Ms. Rosetta LeNoire. Amas ("you love" in Latin) is devoted to the creation, development and professional production of new American musicals, the celebration of cultural equity and minority perspectives, the emergence of new artistic talent, and the training and encouragement of inner-city young people.

Amas celebrates its impact in pioneering multi-ethnic casting in the American Theatre and reiterates its commitment to this reflection of our diverse society.

For 53 years, Amas Amas Musical Theatre continues to commit its work to:

- Contributing to the vitality of the American Musical Theatre - a unique American esthetic expression - through the creation, development and professional production of original musicals.
- Bringing creative, musical theatre to the American education system, and enhancing the experience of students.
- Encouraging tolerance and civility among people of our diverse society by bringing them together through the art of musical theatre.



Rosetta LeNoire

(1911-2002)

Founder of Amas Musical Theatre

"I produce musicals. Music is one avenue where no one seems to have any discriminatory attitudes. Theatre techniques are a marvelous implement to bring people of all races, color and creeds together. You don't have to worry about what color is, all you care about is the end product."

**For more information email Education Director Zeynep Akca,
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Visit <http://www.amasmusical.org>

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