



Childsplay's 360° Theatre Resources for Schools
Pre and Post Show Discussion Questions for *Rock the Presidents*
2011-2012 Season
www.childsplayaz.org

Questions to Ask Before Seeing the Production:

- 1) How many presidents have there been? Name the first 3 presidents that come to your mind. Why do you think you remembered them?
- 2) What does it mean to be a leader?
- 3) What does the President of the United States do?
- 4) What is the difference between seeing a play, seeing a musical and seeing a musical review?
- 5) What stories can you recall about a president? Are there stories that are most likely myths (George Washington did not have wooden dentures)?
- 6) Many presidents have been given nicknames (for example Calvin Coolidge was Silent Cal). Do you know any of these nicknames? You can go to www.classroomhelp.com/lessons/Presidents/nicknames.html for a list.
- 7) Throughout history, there have been many political parties. What political parties are you familiar with? Why do we have different political parties?
- 8) First ladies always choose a cause or platform when they are in the White House (Michelle Obama's is fighting childhood obesity). If you were the First Lady or the First Gentleman, what would your cause or platform be?

Questions to Ask After Seeing the Production:

- 1) What are 3 things you learned about any of the presidents from the performance?
- 2) What was your favorite part of the performance?
- 3) Do the actors play characters in this musical review?
- 4) What different styles of music do you recall from the production? Why do you think the playwright and composer chose different styles of music for this production?
- 5) Would you want to be the president? Why or why not?
- 6) What are the things you would want to change if you were president?
- 7) Because it's a touring show, all of the set, costumes, sound, props and projections for *Rock the Presidents* have to fit into a van. If you could design the production elements and had endless money and space, what would you do differently?
- 8) Many presidents are known for the legacy they leave behind. What does it mean to leave a legacy? What would you want your legacy to be?
- 9) Can you think of a president who was remembered for negative reasons?
- 10) If one of your parents was president and you were going to live in the White House, what would you want to bring with you?