



A sneak peek at Childsplay's production of:



**Book and Lyrics by Dwayne Hartford**

**Music by Sarah Roberts**

**February 18—March 4, 2012**

**Tempe Center for the Arts, Studio Theatre**

**School Tour: March— May, 2012**

**Recommended for ages 7 and older**

**www.childsplayaz.org**

**Books to Check Out:**

*Our Country's Presidents: All You Need to Know About the Presidents from George Washington to Barack Obama* by Ann Bausum

*How Do We Elect Our Leaders?* by William Thomas

*We Live Here Too!: Kids Talk About Good Citizenship* by Nancy Loewen

**Interesting Internet Links:**

**www.whitehouse.gov/about/presidents**

*The Whitehouse's history of the presidents*

**www.presidentsusa.net**

*A comprehensive history of all things presidential*

**www.history.com/topics/the-us-presidents**

*History with video links*

**www.whitehouse.gov/our-government**

*About the branches of US government*

**The Story:**

You too can become president! A rollicking, multi-media-filled musical revue spanning 223 years of the American presidency – from George Washington to Barack Obama. Stories of the 44 men who rose to the highest office in the land are brought to life through all-new rock, pop and folk music. A Childsplay world premiere with national tour to follow.

**Themes/Curricular Ties:**

United States History/Presidents \* Musical Styles \* Historical Media \* Social Studies \* Government \* Biography \* Rhyming \* Storytelling \* Unlikely Heroes \* Actions and Consequences \* Ethics and Morality \* Civics/Citizenship \* Visual Elements of Design

**Questions to ask before seeing the production:**

- 1) What is the difference between seeing a play, seeing a musical and seeing a musical review?
- 2) What does it mean to be a leader?
- 3) What does the President of the United States do?
- 4) Name the first 3 presidents that come to your mind. Why do you think you remembered them?
- 5) What stories can you recall about a president? Are there stories that are most likely myths?

**Questions to ask after seeing the production:**

- 1) What are 3 things you learned about one of the president's from the performance?
- 2) What was your favorite part of the performance?
- 3) Would you want to be the president? Why or why not?
- 4) What are the things you would want to change if you were president?
- 5) 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?

**Classroom Activities Connected to Arizona Education Standards:**

**5 Minute Activity**

All presidents and their families have had a code name given to them by the Secret Service. All of the names in a family begin with the same letter. Kennedy was Lancer, Nixon was Searchlight and President Obama is Renegade. As a class, choose a letter for your code names. Choose a Secret Service code name for yourself. No duplicates allowed.  
**Writing: G4:S2:C4:PO3: Apply appropriate vocabulary**

**15 Minute Activity**

Write a letter to President Obama that includes at least 3 questions you would like to ask him. You may want to ask him a personal question or a question about an issue that you're concerned with. Have an adult proofread your letter before you send it and remember to be respectful in your correspondence. You can send your letter virtually or by US mail. Check <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> contact for contact information.  
**Writing: G5:S3:C3:PO2: Write a formal letter**

**30 Minute Activity**

The performance included trivia questions about various presidents in the form of "The Pres-i-tron." Divide into groups of 3 or 4. Choose a president and research facts about him. Come up with 3 presidential trivia questions in the form of multiple choice or true and false. Play your own version of "The Pres-i-tron" with your class.  
**Social Studies: G7:S1:C1:PO4: Formulate questions that can be answered by historical study and research.**