



TOUR TESTIMONIALS

Tell-Tale Electric Poe, 2013

Cast and crew did a great job. Very talented and capable group. Great set and music. Lights outstanding. Students very receptive. Thanks for all of your help.

Julie Ashbrook
Chillicothe Area Arts Council

The show was FANTASTIC!!! Thank you so much for sharing your considerable talents with the Leawood Middle School 8th graders this morning. As always, the Coterie has exceeded expectations!

Carrie Humphrey
Leawood Middle School (Blue Valley)

Thanks so much for bringing "Tell Tale Electric Poe" to Gardner Edgerton High School. The show was awesome!!! After the show, I heard one person say, "I never really understood Poe until tonight."

Patty Fabing
Gardner-Edgerton High School

Thank you! The performance was amazing. I had students telling me they were going to re-read *The Raven* and *Tell-Tale Heart* again, and asking if we could try performing it in class. They adored [the actor] Hughston and couldn't stop talking about him. They also want to know, "When are they coming back!?"

Alexandra Thorson, English Department Chair
East High School (Kansas City, MO)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What a wonderful show! The kids really enjoyed it and we so appreciated your flexibility working with us!

Joann Aubuchon, Assistant Principal
St. Elizabeth's School (Kansas City, MO)

Freedom Sisters, 2012

I've been meaning to write to tell you that the performance was WONDERFUL.

My 7th period class had great discussion and so did both my classes this morning – they **loved** the play. Some comments were: "The acting was so good." "They were connected with the characters." "The staging was great" "I loved the transitions – the music really helped with the time changes." "It was really cool how they had the props stored in the scenery." "The masks for the white people were great."

The English and History teachers were raving about the play and have said that the students were really pumped about it and it has stimulated great discussions that relate to the curriculum in their classes.

Please thank the cast and crew – they are great.

***Maureen Davis, Theatre Instructor
Shawnee Mission North (Shawnee Mission, KS)***

Wow! What a great performance! The kids I have spoken with really enjoyed the production and the teachers thought it was a top-notch performance!

Thanks for working with us on this and I hope to talk to you again, whether for business or pleasure!

***Angy Hill, 6A Communication Arts
Bridger Middle School (Independence, MO)***

The play was phenomenal! The acting was superb! We truly enjoyed it. Our scholars were a wonderful audience and loved it. Thank you so much for working with us. I hope we can work together again sometime.

***Rochelle D. Slaughter, 4th Grade Professor
ACECC - Lower Campus (Kansas City, MO)***

The production was just amazing. They did such a nice job. I loved the music and the masks and the towels! What creative ideas! The kids really liked it too. Thanks for making it possible for the show to come to the building. It was so totally worth it and I always enjoy working with you! You're just beautiful! Have a safe and warm day! I'll be looking forward to what you all have in store next year!

***Ronda Hassig, Librarian
Harmony Middle School (Blue Valley) (Overland Park, KS)***

Comments from students at CS 1 Elementary regarding Freedom Sisters:

I hope you will continue to make plays. - ***Mike (Age 10)***

I hope I can come to the theater again. - ***Skye (Age 8)***

Thanks again for such a wonderful well done show! I loved it! Bravo! - ***Grant (Age 13)***

The message I got was to believe in myself and to never give up for my right or dream. Thank you for the play. - ***Summer (Age Unknown)***

My favorite part was when Marrie (Lizzie) said "I am". That was beautiful. I would really love to see it again. - ***Niko (Age 9)***

This play has been one of my favorite. - ***Jack (Age 9)***

I wish I could go again. - ***Evangeline (Age 9)***

Olympiaganza, 2011

I want to thank-you so very much for offering us the chance to see *Olympiaganza*! The students loved it! Not only did many of them know some of the stories, they were in awe of the props. I also loved the props such as the Sirens. I think the play showed our students how to use their

- more -

imaginations. There are so many reasons that the play was such a total success. One of my students has been working on writing a play. She was talking with me about how she didn't think she could complete it and actually present it because our school doesn't have the props and such that she would need. Being inspired by your groups' clever use of props, this student and I came up with ideas to create images of what we are trying to create. For example, darkness can be displayed by hanging a black curtain around the stage. I told this student that she can be the inspiration to future students so that one day our school will have a drama department with all the equipment we need. Mythology is all the talk now here at East. Thank-you again,

***Cheryl Chavez, AP / 12 English, English Department Chairperson
East High School (Kansas City, MO)***

Thank-you so much. I was just so amazed yesterday. We didn't even have to worry about students texting during the performance. One of my students was so excited after yesterday that she spent my last hour of the day planning period in my room not only discussing her play but then we researched UMKC's course catalog to see if they offered any courses in Mythology. She wasn't the only student blown away, several said that seeing the play was the best thing they have done at East so far, ever! Like I stated in my earlier email, there were so many learning opportunities associated with the play. Thank-you again for considering us and for not letting me be defeated when, last Friday I only had those 12 students attending.

***Cheryl Chavez, AP / 12 English, English Department Chairperson
East High School (Kansas City, MO)***

Today's performance was absolutely awesome and so appropriate for my students!!!! They left school today talking about Hades :->) Thanks for putting this all together with the Coterie.

***Marsha Plese, 6th Grade Instructor
Briarwood Elementary (Shawnee Mission, KS)***

I heard nothing negative about feedback from teachers – only positives about the performance as they were exiting. Take care and good luck with the rest of your tour!

***Maureen Davis, Theatre Instructor
Shawnee Mission North (Shawnee Mission, KS)***

Sarah Oliver and I and most of the costume students went to the Plaza Library last night to see the Coterie production of *Olympiaganza*. It is soooooo wonderful. It runs like the speed of light, which is a delight in and of itself, but the audience LOVED the show. It was amazing to me how the different "generational jokes" kept everyone laughing because everyone was sure that no one outside of their generation understood how funny it was. Of course THAT WAS TRUE, but it was staged in such a way and delivered so magnificently that it was STILL funny even if you didn't exactly understand ALL of the reasons it was funny. Kudos. Loved the design... ALL of the design. Scenery, costumes, lights, and sound. (I thought sound was super funny!)

***Lindsay Davis
UMKC Costume Department***

Oh my goodness! I can't believe it's over so soon! My kids absolutely loved the play! It went waaaay beyond my expectations... and impressed the administration! Thanks so much Annette for taking good care of us once again. What is up your sleeve for 2011-2012? Kudos to the troupe!

***Kathy Colby, 5th & 6th Grade Instructor
Osceola Elementary (Osceola, MO)***

Everything went great and the crew/actors were superb. Hard times for teachers and students prevail these days; to leave our pressure packed and demanding reality for 60 minutes and go to another world full of fascinating and super fun people gave us *all* a bit of a break. Thanks for making the transformation happen. Will you be doing this again next year?

**Paula Ann Coder McCarthy, English Instructor
St. Thomas Aquinas (Overland Park, KS)**

I cannot tell you how much the students enjoyed this production! I was amazed at their RAPT ATTENTION during the show. Many times I book experiences with some trepidation, always wondering if the production will be well received. I have some very specific indicators: Are any electronic devices brought out? Are students having sidebar conversations? How many requests to go the restroom are fielded? *Olympiaganza* had NONE OF THE ABOVE!!! I am impressed! This show is a definite keeper!!!

I am so grateful you were able to squeeze us in with the snow days and fire days! You're TERRIFIC!

**Colleen M. Freeman, Parent and Community Engagement
Northeast High School (Kansas City, MO)**

Comments from students at St. Thomas Aquinas regarding *Olympiaganza*:

Thank you so much for brightening my day. You guys were so funny! I learned a lot about mythology while having fun at the same time. I have never seen a play so invigorating and interesting. My favorite story was about *Pandora's Box*. The actors were so good and the music choice was exquisite. Thanks again for coming to our school. - **Jarred S.**

Wow. I think I am speaking for the whole school when I am saying how amazing you guys were the day you guys came. I really felt like you guys made the play so that it would be of great interest to us as your viewer. I was totally stunned by the fact that the play was cast and created by no more than ten people. You guys should definitely come back again next year and give us another exciting experience. Not only was your play exciting and riveting, but I also learned so much by watching it, such as *Pandora's Box*. Just the way you guys made the play yours was truly amazing. I think I would much rather be in the theater than in math class or some other classroom learning. - **Michael S.**

Thank you for coming to Saint Thomas Aquinas, and performing *Olympiaganza*. The actors/crew did a wonderful job of getting our attention and taking us back in time to Greece and helped everybody learn the stories. My personal favorite story was of the Titans I liked the cool heads you wore. One of the stories I was struggling with was *Pandora Box*, and you did a great job of explain it and I understand it a lot better. You did an outstanding job. Thanks a ton. - **Andre S.**

Thank you so much for coming and entertaining all of us for 60 minutes. Your take on Greek Mythology helped to make it fun and understandable. The part I liked most about the play was the *Iliad*. It compacted a huge story into 5 interesting minutes. The music and singing, plus the lightings were a great way to help us get more pumped about learning Greek Mythology. This was very impressive for just 5 people to take on. So thanks again. - **Savannah**

As just one student from Saint Thomas Aquinas, I would like to thank you all for coming to our school. My brother majored in theater arts, so I know how much work really went into this production. We many not enjoy learning about all of the Greek figures and tales, but learning about them in such a fun and interesting way really helped catch our attention. The music, the sound effects and the costumes really helped set the mood and help us forget that we are at boring school. Than you for memorizing all of those lines and not being afraid of doing whatever it takes to make us listen! - **Mary H.**