Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.

NCES-TheaArts.(6-8).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(6-8).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

Mainstage production
Recommended for ages 12 and older

Summary of Afflicted: Daughters of Salem

In 1691 Puritan New England, fear and superstition were rampant. Singing, dancing and amusement of any kind was forbidden. The devil was everywhere. Five girls coming of age in Salem Village, desperate for release of their thoughts and feelings, find an ally in Tituba, a black slave who longs for freedom. Deep in the woods the girls make a pact and build a sisterhood. Then, alliances are formed, promises made and broken, power taken. These are the events that led up to the infamous Salem witch trials. This play explores not only the history and causes of the trials, but also how girls raised in oppression have negotiated alliances and power throughout history just as they do today.

Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn’t like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can’t turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

• Respect other audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
• Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
• Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
• We do not permit food and drinks in the theatre.

NCES-TheaArts.(6-8).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. The girls in the play are keeping many secrets from the adults in their lives. What are some of the reasons they choose not to tell their parents? What are some of the consequences of those choices?
2. Peer pressure is a key theme in the story. What are some of the ways that the girls experience peer pressure? Have you ever been in a situation where you have felt negative peer pressure?
3. Discuss the ending of the play. What are some other choices the girls could have made? How do you think their choices affected their relationships with each other and their families?

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(6-8).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings.

Themes explored
traditions, new friends, likes and dislikes
Every play Children’s Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?

2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?

3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?

4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?

5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?

Write to Us!

Children’s Theatre of Charlotte
300 E. Seventh St.
Charlotte, N.C. 28202

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Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg Library branch. Check availability at cmlibrary.org.

How to Hang a Witch by Adriana Mather

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

Tituba of Salem Village by Ann Petry

The Shape of Mercy by Susan Meissner

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children’s Theatre of Charlotte’s Pinterest boards.