

WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Grandmother Moon Tells a Tale!

DEBORAH SPICE
KLEINMANN



**WOLF
TRAP**

INSTITUTE FOR
EARLY LEARNING
THROUGH THE ARTS



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Deborah “Spice” Kleinmann started working with Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts in 2006. As a Teaching Artist, she conducts residencies in Baltimore, Takoma Park, and Silver Spring, Maryland. Her art forms are music and drama.

Spice has worked as a preschool music teacher at Downtown Baltimore Childcare Center, and Charm City Kids Club in Baltimore. She has a special interest in STEM learning, and integrating content related to the natural world into her work with young children. She has received grants from the Maryland State Arts Council to perform in schools in the surrounding areas. Her presentations include musical performances for children with the themes of natural environment, history, and peace studies.

Spice served in the Peace Corps, creating and teaching an environmental education curriculum, and has been involved with Farm and Wilderness Camps in Vermont since 1987. She was also involved with Pete Seeger’s environmental education boat ‘The Clearwater,’ and spent years sailing and singing on the Hudson River. She has been trained by the Teaching Artist Institute in Arts Integration for elementary through high school grades, and has a degree in Biology Education and Natural Resource Management from the University of Maryland.

ARTIST’S CREATIVE PROCESS FOR THIS PERFORMANCE

“I wanted to come up with my own myth about how the moon gets up into the sky. My inspiration was Grandfather Twilight, our son’s favorite book when he was little. I discussed this with friends and family and brainstormed some ideas, including having the moon come out of a stump or a cave, or instead have the moon represent all of the grandmothers who have passed on. The idea that I liked the best was the moon coming out of a body of water every evening to go up to the sky. The questions I focused on were “Why does one need a moon?” and “Who or what helps the moon get into the sky?”

I pondered how Luna Moths could help the moon get into the sky. It sounded like a hard job for one animal. Then I thought about how wolves howl at the full moon and wondered if they could help with the task. I walked my dogs to take a break and the moon happened to be just one night shy of being full. I bathed in the moonlight and took an extra long walk. When I got home, I sat outside with my binoculars. I wanted to learn more about the night sky! Back at my computer and looking up animals’ relationships with the moon, I thought of nocturnal animals and how many of them need moonlight to hunt and forage for food and enjoy their night lives because they sleep when the sun is up. Maybe the sun is too much light for them.



I wanted to add the moon phases as an introduction and a stepping stone for more research on the moon.

In my performance I would like the audience to notice that the moon has different shapes in the sky when it is waxing and waning. I would like them to wonder more about nocturnal animals and how they survive in the night. My biggest hope is that they will be caught up in the magic of the moment."

—Deborah "Spice" Kleinmann

FOR THE TEACHER...

BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE

- Read "Grandfather Twilight" by Barbara Berger and have the children come up with their own stories about how the moon gets up in the sky.
- Ask children if they know what nocturnal animals are. Make a list of them with pictures next to each animal. Reference the book "The Best Book of Nighttime Animals" Animals by Belinda Weber.
- Introduce the children to songs or poems about the moon.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE

- Discuss who the nocturnal animals were in the story. Explain that nocturnal animals cannot really do what they did in the story. This is a story from someone's imagination.
- Chart the lunar phases.
- Guide the class in creating an original moon myth.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- Berger, Barbara. Grandfather Twilight. New York, NY: Philomel Books, 1984
- DLTk's Crafts for Kids
Online: <http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/moon/mphases.htm>
- Weber, Belinda. The Best Book of Nighttime Animals.
New York, NY: Kingfisher, 2006

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ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE

This performance is a story that emerges from a myth about how the moon found its place in the sky. Grandmother Moon is a nurturing, kind keeper of the story and weaves music and myth together. She brings her audience on a journey where nocturnal animals work together to solve a big problem and then rejoices with a lullaby about her favorite friend, the moon.

Small Bites![®]

A unique arts experience modeled on an original program from the Arts Centre Melbourne, Australia.

ABOUT WOLF TRAP INSTITUTE FOR EARLY LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

Research has proven that the arts are a powerful tool through which children can learn. Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts was established in 1981 under a grant from Head Start, a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to support teachers' professional development and young children's learning. Through residencies and workshops across the country, early childhood professionals in partnership with Wolf Trap Teaching Artists learn arts-based techniques and strategies that empower them to integrate the arts in all developmental domains of curriculum. Age-appropriate experiences in music, movement, drama, and puppetry foster a love of learning and help support young children's skill development in social relations, creative representation, initiative, logic, mathematics, language, literacy, movement, and music.

WOLF TRAP INSTITUTE OFFERS A VARIETY OF SERVICES INCLUDING:

Professional Development Workshops for teachers that are designed to provide age-appropriate performing arts strategies that are linked to early childhood curricular learning outcomes.

Family Involvement Workshops offer parents and caregivers of young children an introduction to performing arts activities that can be employed at home, in the car, and even in line at the grocery store.

Wolf Trap Institute operates successful programs across the United States and has taken its services to nearly 100,000 children, educators, and parents/caregivers throughout 28 states.

For more information about Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, please visit: www.Wolftrap.org/Education, or call 703.255.1933 or 1.800.404.8461.

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