

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE



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ABOUT THE PLAY

Northwest Children's Theater presents an original adaptation of *Snow White* like you've never seen it before. There are no dwarves or birds perching on fingers. This version of *Snow White* takes a cue from a Japanese film style called "anime".

When a jealous queen is threatened by a young princess, a spell is cast to reclaim the title "fairest of all." But *Snow White* is one royal-in-training who won't give up without a fight! Loyal friends join in a battle against an evil plot, potions and a poison apple in this epic retelling of the classic tale.

Finding herself fairest in the land, *Snow White* must seek out the 7 Great Spirits to defeat the vain queen who would have them all destroyed. Each spirit has a different strength to offer her while on her journey. Step-sister *Rose Red* takes sides with the Queen, and battles *Snow White* until she finds out the truth behind her own cursed scar. A love-stricken huntsman takes aim, a poisoned apple is delivered, and *Snow White* musters her courage to unleash the power of the mythical Spirit Dragon, vanquishing the curse to save them all!

This exciting adaptation re-imagines the classic tale as a heroine's journey, featuring live drums and thrilling martial arts fight sequences! Everything from the heart-pounding score to soaring sets is 'drawn' straight from the popular artistic storytelling of anime. A stylized world of heightened reality, larger-than-life characters and explosions of ethereal color collide in homage to one of the most popular and emulated postmodern artistic movements in recent decades.

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WHAT IS ANIME?

When discussing possible design concepts for NWCT's *Snow White*, Sarah Jane Hardy, Milo Mowery, and Rodolfo Ortega agreed to create the production in a more recent form of cartoon coming out of Japan called anime (Pronounced ah- neh- may).

'Anime' is the word used to describe a form of Japanese animation. Wildly popular in America today, anime comes in many forms. Feature length movies, cartoon series and comic novels called 'manga' all use visual elements of anime, with emphasis on exaggerated colors, physical characteristics and dramatic speech and music. Here are some ways our show brings the style of anime to the stage:

Set and lights- Painted drops of scenery and bright explosions of colored light set the place and atmosphere

Costumes- Larger-than-life shapes and fanciful fabrics highlight physical characteristics

Makeup and wigs- Bright colors and exaggerated features emphasize mood and expression

Characters and plot- Recognizable humans like heroes and villains along with talking animals and spirits use stylized movements tell the story.

Sound design- Everything from solemn pipe flutes to crashing orchestration come together to underscore the action, like in a movie, or even a video game!



A still from the 1992 anime series, *Sailor Moon*

These days, anime and manga are very popular. The movies "Spirited Away" and "Howl's Moving Castle" as well as cartoon series like "The Power Puff Girls" and "The Last Air Bender" are well-known titles.

Do you draw, watch anime or read manga? Are there parts of our play that remind you of these styles?

HOW TO BE A GOOD AUDIENCE

The Audience is an important part of live theater performance. Without the audience there would be no one to laugh when the show is funny, to gasp when it is scary, or to applaud at the end. It is important to be a good audience.

Here are some things you can do to make this a great experience for everyone:

- Stay in your seat. Make sure you use the bathroom before the show starts.
- Listen quietly. Save comments and questions for later.
- Keep your feet on the floor. It will keep the seats clean for the next audience, and nobody likes having the back of their seat kicked when they're trying to watch the play.
- Save snacks and treats for after the show. Food and drinks aren't allowed in the theater, and crinkling candy and gum wrappers can sound loud.
- Sit quietly during the performance. Don't pass notes, wrestle with your friends, wriggle around, or stand up. Your movements could distract or annoy others.
- Please don't take photographs. We don't allow photos during the performance.
- The house lights (the lights in the theater) dim to signal that the show is about to start. That is your cue to settle down and get quiet so the play can begin.
- Stay in your seat when the performance ends. The actors will return to stage for the curtain call (when the actors bow and you clap). Wait until they exit for the last time and the lights come up before you leave your seat.
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers and electronic devices.

A LOOK AT SNOW WHITE FROM THE BEGINNING



A Timeline of Snow White

Literature:

Origin: Europe

Best known early version: Brothers Grimm

1833: Russian poem *The Tale of the Dead Princess and the Seven Knights* by Alexander Pushkin.

1982: Roald Dahl adaptation in *Revolting Rhymes*

2003: Gregory Maguire (author of *Wicked*) version, *Mirror, Mirror*

2004: Manga adaptation *Ludwig Revolution* by Kaori Yuki

Film & Television:

1902: First film version

1912: Broadway version

1933: Betty Boop cartoon version

1937: Disney's first animated feature film

1955: German film version

1961: Three Stooges parody film version

1984: Shelley Duvall's *Faerie Tale Theatre* version starring Vanessa Redgrave as the Evil Queen

1987: Nippon Animation told the Snow White story in four episodes of the TV series *Grimm Meisaku Gekijo*

1988: Filmmation studios made sequel of Disney version, *Happily Ever After*

1994: Tatsunoko animation studio adapted the story for a 52-episode series which aired in Japan on NHK as *The Legend of Princess Snow White*

2011... Snow White and the Huntsman set to be filmed starring Hugh Jackman as "the Huntsman"



Photo Credit: ©2011 Lucas Welsh

MORE JAPANESE ART FORMS USED IN SNOW WHITE

Taiko Drumming

Our version of Snow White features the use of drumming influenced by Taiko.

The word *Taiko* means drum in Japanese.

Taiko drums are hit with a stick called a *bachi*.

An authentic taiko drum has both ends sealed which can create a very high pitch.

The taiko was used in wartime to motivate troops, to set a beat to march and also for calling out orders.

To learn more about Taiko Drumming in Portland:
<http://www.portlandtaiko.org/>

Parts of a Taiko

Ko- the body of the drum

Hara- the center of the skin

Fuchi- the edge of the top and bottom of the drum

Kawa- the skin

Byou- the tacks that hold the skin onto the taiko

Taiko are made in different sizes including:

“nagado-daiko” has a long body about the size of a barrel.

“odaiko” the largest drum of all taiko drums. It is made from a single tree that sometimes are 1200 years old.

Martial Arts

NWCT’s version of Snow White incorporates several forms of Martial Arts as well as modern dance.

Martial Arts is literally defined as the ‘**art of war**’ but nowadays is known as **fighting arts**.

For this show, NWCT used a combination of several forms of Martial Arts fighting as well as modern dance. All of the selected forms are combined for the “Beauty Dance”. Each form includes poses and movements that are for either defeating another person, or defending yourself.

sparring- pretending you are in a fight, but no actual contact.

kata- a set of formal routines, like in Tai Chi

strike- an attack with your body or object to cause harm to an opponent.

grappling- is moving in counterweight against an opponent to gain physical advantage over them.

Kendo- means ‘Way of the Sword’ and is a more modern Japanese fighting art form while wielding a sword.

Aikido- from Japan, known as ‘The Way of unifying life energy’, originated so that one could defend themselves while also not inflicting injury on attacker.

Jujitsu- from Japan, close combat where one unarms opponent when one is unarmed.

Karate- from Japan, it uses kicking, punching and open handed techniques.



Zero Feeney, Fight Director, with actors in a choreography rehearsal.
Photo credit: David Kinder

Interested in learning Martial Arts in Portland? Check out <http://www.martialinfo.com/>

Natalie Hovee tells us all about getting to be a princess.

NWCT's teen sweetheart, Natalie Hovee, stole our hearts with her rendition of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" in *The Wizard of Oz* (for those of us who weren't snowed in that Christmas). This season, Natalie is back on the mainstage, playing the classic beauty, Snow White, in a not-so classic version of the tale.

NWCT: What is your favorite fairy tale?

Natalie: Surprisingly my favorite fairy tale has always been Snow White. She is my favorite Disney princess, I think her story is the most unique with the seven dwarves, and the huntsman, and the poison apple.

NWCT: Did you dream of playing Snow White as a child?

Natalie: Yes of course! I was Snow White for Halloween one year! I really loved her high squeaky voice, probably because it's a lot like mine...or so people tell me. Snow white has such elegance about her, and she is seen as beautiful because she's honest and stays true to herself.

NWCT: What appeals to you about the NWCT rendition of *Snow White*?

Natalie: I think the staff fighting is super-duper RAD. This version, not like the original *Snow White* at all, shows how beauty can corrupt people, and real beauty comes from strength inside. I love the spirits, they are so fun and the music is sooooo cool, I can't help but get really into it!

NWCT: What originally inspired you to be an actor?

Natalie: When I was little I was very into soccer, and even though I loved to sing I thought I was tone deaf (it's a family trait). My church would put on these little musicals every Christmas called *God's Glory Gang*. I played little parts and would really ham it up. I started to realize how much I love acting, singing and the excitement from being on stage. From then on, there was no stopping me.

NWCT: When did you first get involved at NWCT?

Natalie: I first got involved with NWCT through *Summer Nights*, (NWCT's advanced musical theatre workshop). It was such a challenging fun class, that really helped me grow. After two summers of *Summer Nights*, I landed my first role at NWCT as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, which was a wonderful experience, and I have been a part of the NWCT family ever since.

NWCT: Where would you like to be as a performer in ten years?

Natalie: Wherever I go, hopefully it will be towards a stage. I am so excited to have my whole life ahead of me, and am excited to show the world all I can be. I love to perform, I will actively pursue musical theatre, and as my theatre teacher would say "I have nothing to prove, but everything to give".



MEET ROSE RED - An interview with Lea Zawada



Lea Zawada shares with us her love for adventure.

From her first time entering the theater, Lea has been one of our most unique young actors. She has wowed audiences with her stellar performances as Hansel in “Hansel and Gretel” (2008) and won Drammy and PAMTA awards for the title role in last season’s “Pinocchio”. This season, she is toughing it up as Rose Red, the mysterious and strong-willed sister of Snow White.

NWCT: What is your favorite fairy tale?

Lea: Jack and the Beanstalk. I like the imagery of the castle in the sky, the presence of adventure and danger, and that Jack is a fast thinking kid who uses his wit to beat the giant. To me, this type of story is more entertaining than the princess type fairy tales.

NWCT: What appeals to you about the NWCT rendition of *Snow White*?

Lea: NWCT’s version of *Snow White* has colorful characters, plot twists, exciting fight sequences and dramatic music— making this production highly entertaining.

NWCT: Did you know anything about anime or Japanese before rehearsals started?

Lea: I didn’t know much about anime other than the characteristic appearance of the cartoons and their big eyes.

NWCT: What qualities do you have in common with Rose Red?

Lea: I actually have a lot in common with Rose. We are both determined, over-achieving and sometimes so caught up in our work that we forget to have fun. We both have a strong moral sense about what is right and wrong and we are willing to make difficult choices based on those convictions.

NWCT: What originally inspired you to be an actor?

Lea: I wanted to be an actor from the time that I went to my first theater performance in grade school. I thought that it looked really fun to be up on stage—and I was right!

NWCT: When did you first get involved at NWCT?

Lea: My first class at NWCT, and first acting class ever, was when I was in 3rd grade. It was a *Little Red Riding Hood* play-lab and I played the wolf! This is still one of my favorite roles.

NWCT: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Lea: I don’t know where I will be in ten years, but I hope that acting will always be a part of my life.

ONI PRESS: A COMIC BOOK COMPANY IN PORTLAND

Oni Press is a comic book publishing company right here in Portland, Oregon. They publish a large number of local authors in addition to people like Stephen Colbert (yes, that one).

Oni Press, Inc. was founded in 1997 by Joe Nozemack and Bob Schreck with the goal of publishing the kinds of comics and graphic novels they wanted to read. Unsatisfied with the material that was dominating the industry, the men believed firmly that sequential art could be used to tell virtually any story.



ONI PRESS

While Schreck left the company in 1999, twelve years later Nozemack is still fighting for diversity in comics by publishing one of the most eclectic and varied lines in comics. With the help of Jamie S. Rich (editor in chief, 1999-2003), James Lucas Jones (editor in chief, 2004-present), and an array of talented comic book creators; Nozemack built Oni Press into one of independent comics' most respected and innovative publishing houses.

In 2003, Nozemack teamed with film producer Eric Gitter to form Closed on Mondays--a media production company created specifically to help Oni Press creators and titles find life in mediums outside of comics. As a sister company, Closed on Mondays works closely with Oni creators and staff members to find creative partners appropriate for the vast array of titles in the Oni Press catalog.

Bio and logo courtesy of www.onipress.com

Meet Cory Casoni from Oni Press!

NWCT: Cory, What is it exactly that you do for Oni Press?

Cory: I am the Director of Sales and Marketing here at Oni Press. I work with comic creators to help promote their books, talk to bookstore buyers and sellers of comics, deal directly with comic shops, and organize and run the conventions that Oni Press attends all over the world. Basically I sell comic books and have a blast doing it!

NWCT: How did you first get involved with comics?

Cory: I read comics when I was a kid, mostly superhero stuff. When I was in college I discovered that comic books could tell any story, not just about people getting powers and fighting bad guys. It was then that I started exploring comics from all over the world. Adventure comics, science fiction, political intrigue, history, mystery, you name it! Comics are just like prose novels, television, or movies; they can tell any story in any genre. My new-found love for comics kept growing and eventually I started working in the industry.

NWCT: What is your favorite part about working for a comic company in Portland?

Cory: The comic community! We are very fortunate here in Portland to have a fantastic community of creators, fans, and retailers who all love comic books.

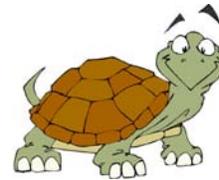
NWCT: What is your advice for any aspiring comic book creators?

Cory: Read comics and make comics, lots of comics, and don't be afraid of putting yourself and your work out there. Everyone has to start somewhere and everyone improves their skills with time and hard work. By studying the comics you love, showing your work around and inviting constructive criticism you can continue to improve your craft. Because no one ever stops learning and no one can ever master an art form, there is always something new to be created!

NWCT: What is your favorite cartoon or comic book?

Cory: That's such a hard question to answer. Obviously I love all of the comics that Oni Press publishes: *Scott Pilgrim*, *The Sixth Gun*, *Possessions*, *The Crogan Adventures*, the list goes on and on. I wouldn't work at Oni if I didn't like our comics! Outside of Oni I have a pretty wide variety of favorite comics; everything from *Bleach* and *Hikaru no Go* to *B.P.R.D.* and *Spider-Man*.

SNOW WHITE ACTIVITIES (GRADES 1—3)



Design the 8th Spirit

Some versions of *Snow White* have seven dwarves. Each dwarf has its own unique name and personality. In NWCT's version *Snow White* is accompanied by seven spirits like the cactus, wolf, and turtle, who each represent a different emotion and strength.

Design an 8th spirit companion for *Snow White* to meet and give them a name, a few personality traits, a specialty, and draw what you think they might look like and wear.

Make Your Own Magic Mirror

Supplies: glue, colored foam sheets, aluminum foil, popsicle sticks, glitter, puffy paint or other materials that may be used for decorating, mirror stencil (The outline of the mirror can be a standard oval or another shape of your choosing—we made a stencil with a crown-top).

Directions:

- 1) pre-cut the mirrors or have students cut them out as they see fit (depending on grade level).
- 2) Glue a popsicle stick between two pieces of the foam to make the handle of the mirror.
- 3) Cut out a piece of aluminum foil to paste onto one side of the mirror for the reflection glass.
- 4) Decorate the border around the glass with other pieces of foam, glitter or puffy paint.



OPTION 2: If you have an abundance of mirrors and a smaller group of students, you may use real hand-held mirrors and draw funny faces on them with puffy paint. Have students look in the mirror and draw the oval outline of their face. They can add silly expressions, crazy hair, jewelry, etc. **WHO'S MIRROR WILL MAKE THEM FAIREST OF ALL?!**

SNOW WHITE ACTIVITIES (GRADES 3—7)

Make a Comic Book Strip

NWCT's version of *Snow White* uses the Japanese form of comic making called "manga" which was later turned into a cartoon form called "anime". Create your own comic strip in the style of Japanese manga.

Some common similarities between many anime illustrators are:

- Big eyes
- Brightly colored hair
- Extremely long arms and legs or extremely short arms and legs
- Speech bubbles
- Dramatic lettering

Other notable anime features you can add are:

- A huge sweat drop on the forehead to show that a character is nervous
- A very noticeable red blush on the cheeks of characters who are embarrassed.
- Large 'X's over the eyes shows that a character got knocked out.
- Exaggerated facial expressions

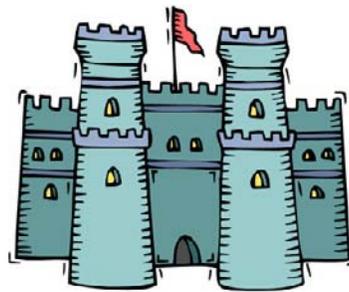


Storytelling - Create your own "Fairy Tale"

Follow the story formula to create a story of your own using ideas from your students. You can have students break out into groups to come up with their own story following this formula which they will later perform in front of the class.

The key phrases are:

- “Once upon a time...”
- “Everyday...”
- “Until one day...”
- “Because of this...”
- “Until finally...”
- “Ever since that day...”



BOOK SPOTLIGHT: *The Funny Little Woman*

The Funny Little Woman

by Arlene Mosel (Grades K-3)

The Funny Little Woman is a traditional Japanese tale in which a woman likes to laugh and make rice dumplings. One day one of her dumplings starts to roll away! She and her dumpling end up in a strange place lined with Jizo (guardian statues). The Jizo warn her not to go after the dumpling, but she does anyway. She is caught by the Wicked Oni, (a demon) who takes her back to his house to have her cook for him and the rest of the Oni. The Funny Little Woman gets a magic paddle to make rice dumplings faster. Now she must escape!

This fun tale introduces some basic Japanese mythology through the eyes of a woman who enjoys nothing more than to cook and laugh.

More recommended reading:

Japanese Childrens' Favorite Stories by Florence Sakade (Grades 1-5)

The Moon Princess by Ralph F. McCarthy (Grades 1-5)

Tikki Tikki Tembo by Arlene Mosel (Grades K-3)

Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog by Pamela S. Turner (Grades K-2)

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by the Brothers Grimm (Grades 2-6)

Anime Films and TV shows you might like to watch!

Spirited Away

Powerpuff Girls

Bakugan Battle Brawlers

Howl's Moving Castle

Digimon

Also visit, www.buzzingkidsworld.com to figure out which anime shows and movies you might like!

CURRICULUM TIE-INS:

- Japanese Culture
- Mythology
- Music
- Martial Arts
- Storytelling
- Fairytales
- Design/Art
- Imagination
- Adaptation