

Acadiana Center for the Arts sends professional artists to St. Landry Parish Schools for 54 in-school performances



Kabuki Dancers

LAFAYETTE, LA - Reading a story or a play, or listening to music digitally is one thing, but seeing it performed live is another. This week kicks off a series of In-School Performances for students in 24 St. Landry Parish public schools. With 54 shows scheduled, about 6,000 students will experience a live performance over the next 2 weeks.

These performances feature local professional artists in music, dance and literary arts who have developed shows for young audiences. More than just entertainment, these performances also incorporate an educational component. This year's artists include the Kabuki Dancers, vocalist Audrey Broussard, author Theresa Singleton and Zydeco musician Corey Ledet, and The Angelle Aces, a group out of the Traditional Music program of UL Lafayette.

"St. Landry Parish School System is very fortunate to have a partnership with AcA," says Patrick Jenkins, Superintendent. "I believe the arts in education are critical components to



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the whole child. The arts provide increased self-confidence and self-understanding, enhanced communications skills, and improves cognition. We in the St. Landry Parish School System want to give every child experiences across a broad spectrum such as the arts, athletics and enhanced academics through multiple educational platforms. By providing these experiences, all children in St. Landry Parish will grow beyond our wildest dreams. Exciting things are happening every day for every child in the St. Landry Parish School System!"

Students who attend live performances demonstrate better knowledge of vocabulary words, more tolerance, and an improved ability to read others' emotions when compared to students who did not attend, according to a 2014 study published by Education Next.

These performances are a great introduction to the performing arts and an effective, creative way to explore a variety of curricular areas. This program of the Acadiana Center for the Arts' Arts in Education program has been in existence for more than 30 years, impacting tens of thousands of students and their teachers.

About AcA

Founded in 1975, the Acadiana Center for the Arts ("AcA") is a community-supported regional arts council that fosters art and culture in South Louisiana.

Rooted in a cultural community that has made its mark on the world through food, music, and art, AcA aims to ensure that this living culture flourishes for generations to come.

AcA aims to bring equitable access to the arts through intensive residency work in schools and supports fair compensation of artists. On average, AcA serves over 300,000 people annually and provides fair compensation to 2,700 artists.

AcA supports the creation of new works of art, exhibits, festivals, performances, and public art across an eight-parish region that includes Acadia, Evangeline, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Vermilion Parishes.