

## Curriculum Guide

# The Fratello Marionettes

## *The Frog Prince*

### Teacher Guide

K-8

### **About the Artist**

The Fratello Marionettes began entertaining audiences in 1989 by bringing the ancient art of marionettes to audiences throughout the world. We have toured extensively throughout the United States and internationally.

The Fratello Marionettes produce high quality marionette shows using the “cabaret style” of manipulation. In this truly American style the puppet and puppeteer perform in full view of the audience. Our shows present intricately handcrafted marionettes that range in size from one foot to three feet tall. Our shows are geared for children of all ages, and some of our work is performed without dialog. These music-based programs are designed to surmount the language barrier.

### **About the Program**

The Frog Prince is a German fable best known from the Brothers Grimm version. This popular short story was written in the 1800’s. The magical fable demonstrates being kind towards others; why it is important to follow directions, and demonstrates how one’s selfish actions can affect others.

“The Frog Prince” is the story of a spoiled princess who discovers a frog in the well near the castle. Unbeknownst to the princess, the frog is a cursed prince punished for his vanity by a mystical witch. Watch how the princess’ broken promises, and her own vanity, change her life forever.

### **Learning Objectives**

- To introduce children to the art of Puppetry
- To open children’s imagination to the theater
- To learn as does Princess Ofelia not to lie to others
- To learn as does Princess Ofelia to follow instructions
- To increase emotional development
- To show how to follow one’s dreams (Both puppeteers started in puppetry at a young age)

### **Teacher Preparation for the Program**

## Discussing the History of Puppetry

- What is a puppet?
- What is a marionette?
- How many types of puppets are there?
- How can I make a simple puppet?
- When did the art of puppetry begin?

## The Frog Prince

- Who were the Brothers Grimm?
- What other stories did they write that I might know?
- What is a fairy tale?
- Why did the Princess turn into a frog?
- How did the Princess disobey the king?

## Follow-Up Ideas and Activities

### How to Create a Puppet Show

- Think of a clever story to tell.
- Writing the script.
- Develop what characters are involved.
- Decide what type of puppets to use to tell the story.
- Determine how and when to use sound effects or music.
- Decide who is going to play which characters.
- Rehearse the show.
- Put on a performance.
- Have fun!

## Vocabulary and Key Concepts

Fairy tale: a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures.

Jester: a professional fool or clown, especially at a medieval court.

The Brothers Grimm: Jakob and Wilhelm Grimm were German writers of fables and fairy tales in the 1800's. Amongst their vast catalogue of stories are "Rumpelstiltskin," "Snow White," "Sleeping Beauty," "Rapunzel," "Cinderella," and "Hansel and Gretel."

Marionette: mar-i-o-nette ; a puppet manipulated from above by strings attached to its jointed limbs.

## **English-Language Arts Content Standards**

This puppetry program meets the VAPA and ELAC standards:

- 1.1 Artistic Perception: puppets, story, classical music, conflict
- 2.1 Creative Expression: Students connect emotional bonds with the characters portrayed in the puppet show presentation
- 3.2 Historical and Cultural Context: Students are enlightened on one of the earliest forms of performance art. They are also encouraged to ask questions following the performance.

### **Resources**

Jakob & Wilhelm Grimm, The Frog Prince, Treasure Bay, 2001

Susanna Davidson, The Frog Prince, Usborne Books, 2008

E.D. Baker, The Frog Princess, Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2004

Luman Coad, Marionette Sourcebook, Charlamagne Press, 2007

Mabel and Les Beaton, The Complete Book of Marionettes, Dover Publications, 2005

David Currell, Making and Manipulating Marionettes, Crowood Press, 2005

Mark Mazzarella, Stories of the American Puppet, DVD, 2007