

# **ARM-OF-THE-SEA THEATER**

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## **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY PROGRAMS**

### **Introduction**

Arm-of-the-Sea's arts residency programs are intensive, hands-on introductions to our distinctive style of making theater. We seek to provide participants with an "insider's experience" of the arts.

Each residency is organized around a particular theme drawn from, science, art, literature or social studies. Under the direction of one or more AotS artists, participants engage in painting, sculpture, mask making, puppetry, creative writing and music to create the parts of a show. The "artifacts" produced in the residency are combined in rehearsals with characters from the AotS repertoire. The culminating one-of-a-kind performance event is presented to the entire school or community.

Residency programs are generally 5 to 12 days in length and can involve anywhere from 15 to 75 participants. Requirements include a designated workspace where projects and materials can remain set-up. Pre-planning is essential. Flexibility in regards to time schedule is also an asset.

In a school setting, our residency programs are effective not only with high achievers but often & most notably with students lagging in academic and language skills. We have conducted very successful residencies with young people from inner city schools, immigrant families, adjudicated youth and the hearing-impaired.

### **Examples of Recent Residency Projects**     For photos go online to [www.armofthesea.org](http://www.armofthesea.org)

June 2005     NY School for the Deaf, White Plains, NY "America as Cultural Mosaic" A study of culture and pattern with middle school students, and the creation of a large paper mosaic installation.

May 2005     Kingston High School, Kingston, NY -- "Our Block" Worked with art students to make tall paintings and shadow screens for a performance about the neighborhood.

April 2005     Springhurst Elem, School Dobbs Ferry, NY "The Spanish Conquest of Mexico" A project with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students creating a "paper theatre" production based on Aztec drawings from both before and after the Spanish conquest.

Dec 2004 & Jan 2005     Clinton & Smith Schools, Poughkeepsie, NY "A Tale of Two Tribes" An extended residency focused on conflict and resolution. Created a full stage production, which was presented by over one hundred students at a local performing arts center.

March 2004     Greenville High School, Greenville, NY "Quetzalcoatl's Children" Created a giant puppet figure of Quetzalcoatl, the mythic feathered serpent of ancient Mexico with HS sculpture class. Then put together a performance with students based on legends and history of Mexico.

Dec 2003     Clinton School, Poughkeepsie, NY "Night, Light, Sight" Explored the physics of light and the physiology of sight. Fourth graders at this inner city school created large "strolling street paintings" for Poughkeepsie's Festival of Lights procession. This was the fourth AotS residency facilitated by the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie City schools.

Sept 2003     Woodstock Elem. Woodstock, NY "Spin Cycle Circus" Theme of change. Students created eighteen giant round paintings that were wheeled on stage to tell the universe story and evolution of life on earth.

July 2003     Free Spirit Nature Camp, Westtown, NY "Tonkamoose Watershed Homecoming" Participants helped create coyote, deer & beaver masks together with giant totemic puppet figure for culminating pageant, which was performed in a hay barn.

Aug 2003 Rural & Migrant Ministry Day Camp, Newburgh, NY "Yo Soy / I Am"  
Residency for young people & teens from farmworker families. Participants painted large-scale self portraits. The culminating performance was presented in Spanish & English in a church hall. It was drawn from both contemporary immigrant experience and from the ancient Mayan story, the Popol Vuh, in which the Lords of Death are outwitted by a pair of quick-thinking hero-twins.

June 2003 Zena School, Woodstock, NY "Thinking Like a Watershed"  
A 10-day project with fifth graders exploring the natural & social history of the Sawkill Creek, which flows past the school. Funded by the Catskill Watershed Corporation.

May 2003 Rondout Middle School, Accord, NY "Everyman"  
Middle school students rehearsed a puppet version of the medieval morality play "Everyman" and presented it as part of a Middle Ages fair.

Jan 2003 NY School for the Deaf "Coming to America"  
After studying the art of Romare Bearden, Ralph Fassanella and Jacob Lawrence, hearing-impaired middle school students created collages and puppet images to tell a story of immigration, past & present.

May 2002 Marletown School, Stone Ridge "Song of India"  
An introduction to Indian culture and history. Students made paper collages of elephants & other puppet figures. The performance told the story of the non-violent resistance movement that eventually freed India from British rule.

March 2002 Lenape School, New Paltz, NY "All My Relations"  
Native American themes and a celebration of the seasons. Third grade students helped create a ten-foot turtle puppet, animal masks and individual shadow puppet figures. Performance opened with enactment of Turtle Island creation story of the Lenape Indians.

Jan. 2002 NY School for the Deaf, White Plains, NY "A Dream of Earth" Earth science-based residency with hearing impaired middle school students. They created four-dozen paintings and masks. Performance focused on geologic history, fossil fuel and climate change.

Nov. 2001 WW Smith School, Poughkeepsie, NY "Festival of Lights"  
Focus on ancient cave paintings. Students created two-dozen lanterns and a 12' high Tree of Life puppet figure for Poughkeepsie's annual community procession and tree lighting ceremony.

Aug. 2001 Berkshire Farm Center For Youth, Canaan, NY "Color's Journey"  
Adjudicated teenage boys created dozens of giant, complexly-painted cardboard puppet figures and enacted a journey tale about the search for wholeness and self respect to an audience of their peers. The next evening they presented their show at a public arts venue.

Jan. 2000 King Magnet School, Schenectady, NY "Sun~Seed~Civilization"  
An exploration into the roots of agriculture and the beginnings of cities. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students employed "x-ray" vision to paint the inner workings of plants. They also ground wheat into flour and baked bread for the audience. This was the 3rd AotS residency at King funded by the NY Foundation for the Arts.

### **References provided upon request**

For further information on Arm-of-the-Sea programs go to [www.armofthesea.org](http://www.armofthesea.org)  
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