

Exploring History and the Politics of Gender in Brazil through Performance Art

BRASA K12 Teacher Workshop: Saturday, March 29, 2008 – 8:30-12:45 pm
Alcee Fortier Hall, Room 301

Spotlight: Afro-Brazilian Music

Sponsors:

Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University

Teresa Lozano Long Institute University of Texas, Austin

Brazilian Studies Association

In the face of political repression and discrimination, Latin American cultural groups have often found a voice through music and dance. Women in particular have a unique situation in Latin American society that uses performance art to establish identity. Until recently, the people in Latin America who were powerful enough to have their lives documented were nearly always men, particularly wealthy men of European ancestry. To find out about women and minorities, we have to look harder for sources of information. Through their experiences and their personal stories, we can understand something of their public and private lives, their families, and their economic and political lives. We can learn, sometimes firsthand, how they perceive themselves and their relationship to society. In this workshop, guest speakers from cultural group Didá in Salvador da Bahia and educators from The University of Texas at Austin will explore this issue through performance art. They will lead the discussion on ways to use music and dance in a K12 classroom in order to teach about the history, culture, and traditions of women in Latin America.

This workshop is suitable for teachers of:

Foreign Language

Social Studies

Language Arts

Music

Fine Arts

Objectives and Outcomes:

- Discuss ways to use performance art to teach history, culture, and tradition.
- To teach students how to extract information from such common means of expression as music, story telling, and dance.
- Discuss ways in which music has served as a vehicle for social mobilization and protest.
- Discuss stylistic differences between different types of music in a particular country that can be used as a way of highlighting ethnicity and cultural within that nation.
- Tracing the musical development of a particular genre of music over several decades can serve as a good foreground with which to discuss the broader social history of a particular country.

This workshop will focus on many of the Louisiana Content Standards Foundation Skills:

- 1 Communication:** A process by which information is exchanged and a concept of "meaning" is created and shared between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior. Students should be able to communicate clearly, fluently, strategically, technologically, critically, and creatively in society and in a variety of workplaces. This process can best be accomplished through use of the following skills: reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and visually representing.
- 3 Resource Access and Utilization:** The process of identifying, locating, selecting, and using resource tools to help in analyzing, synthesizing, and communicating information. The identification and employment of appropriate tools, techniques, and technologies are essential to all learning processes. These resource tools include pen, pencil, and paper; audio/video materials, word processors, computers, interactive devices, telecommunication, and other emerging technologies.
- 4 Linking and Generating Knowledge:** The effective use of cognitive processes to generate and link knowledge across the disciplines and in a variety of contexts. In [Order] to engage in the principles of continual improvement, students must be able to transfer and elaborate on these processes. "Transfer" refers to the ability to apply a strategy or content knowledge effectively in a setting or context other than that in which it was originally learned. "Elaboration" refers to monitoring, adjusting, and expanding strategies into other contexts.

BRASA Teacher Workshop Schedule:

Saturday, March 29, 2008

8:30 – 12:45 PM

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| 8:30 – 9:30 am | <i>Welcome & Introduction to Women’s Movement in Brazil</i>
Denise Woltering, Tulane University
Natalie Arsenault, University of Texas at Austin |
| 9:30 – 10:30 | <i>Didá and the Role of Cultural Arts Organizations in Brazil</i>
Viviam de Jesus Queiros, Cultural Director of Didá |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Refreshment Break |
| 10:45 – 11:45 | <i>Screening of “Didá in Action”</i>
Viviam de Jesus Queiros, Cultural Director of Didá
Neginho do Samba, Founder of Didá |
| 11:45 – 12:45 | <i>Turning Performance Art into a Curriculum</i>
Sue Anderson, K12 Educator |