

# HOLIDAYS

## FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BRIGHT STAR TOURING THEATRE A NATIONALLY TOURING PROFESSIONAL THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

### About our Production!

The holidays are a special time for children and families all around the world. In this production, we've scoured the globe for some of the most unique holiday traditions from the winter season; from the Dragon Dance of Chinese New Year to the bright and colorful Junakanoo festival in the Bahamas. We've also included many of the traditions celebrated here in the United States from Christmas to Kwanzaa to the Festival of Lights!

In Holidays from Around the World, young audiences will be transported by a magical map to several of the most outstanding holiday destinations. They will even have a chance to participate in celebrations around the globe and make new friends from countries like Russia, India, Sweden, and more! All the while, the most important lessons of the holidays are brought to life; that the true spirit of the holidays lies in giving, sharing, kindness, and spending time with friends and loved ones.



### The Story of Holidays from Around the World...

A play is like a story which happens right in front of the audience. Seeing a play is a great opportunity to learn about the parts of a play, and the parts of a story. Before students watch the play, encourage them to look for the answers to these questions:

What is the main **conflict** or problem in the play? Is it resolved at the end? If so, how?

What is the **setting** of the play? Where does it take place?

Who are the **main characters** in the play? Who is the story about?

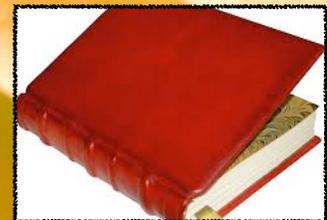
**Actors** are the people who perform in the play. Ask students to remember their favorite thing one of the actors did or said.



**HOLIDAY TRADITIONS: EVERY FAMILY HAS SPECIAL HOLIDAY TRADITIONS; FROM YUMMY DISHES TO CHRISTMAS SWEATERS. HAVE STUDENTS DRAW OR WRITE ABOUT ONE OF THEIR FAMILY'S UNIQUE TRADITIONS.**



**HOLIDAY FRIENDSHIP CHALLENGE: HAVE STUDENTS INTERVIEW EACH OTHER AND REPORT ON THE HOLIDAY TRADITIONS OF THEIR PEERS!**



**HOLIDAY STORIES:**

**TAKE A TRIP TO THE SCHOOL OR LOCAL LIBRARY IN SEARCH OF THE BEST HOLIDAY STORIES. HAVE STUDENTS REPORT ON THEIR FAVORITE AND VOTE ON THE MOST UNIQUE PRESENTATION!**

# HOLIDAYS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## A SNEAK PEAK AT SOME OF THE WINTER CELEBRATIONS IN OUR PRODUCTION



**Kwanzaa:** A week long celebration which was created in the United States to honor African heritage and principles.

**Kwanzaa Symbols:** The Kwanzaa flag, the **kinara**, a special candle holder and **kikombe cha Umoja**, a special cup, are all part of Kwanzaa celebrations.



**Chinese New Year:** Lasting fifteen days, traditions include The Dragon Dance and The Lantern Festival!



### **Snegurochka:**

The snow maiden of Russia. There is even a ballet about her called The Daughter of the Snows.



**Fun Holiday Activity!** As a class, make a Giving Thanks Tree. Everyone makes a leaf that says something that they are thankful for and attaches it to the tree. Display the tree at your school to remind everyone to be thankful during the holidays.



**St. Lucia's Day:** On this special day in Sweden, one girl from town gets to dress up as St. Lucia, the kindest woman who ever lived.



**Hanukkah:** Also called the Festival of Lights, this Jewish holiday is celebrated by millions of people world wide. It's most recognizable symbol is the Menorah, which has eight candles, one for each day of Hanukkah. Other

Jewish holidays include **Rosh**

**Hashanah**, the Jewish New Year and

**Yom Kippur**, the holiest day of the year for Jewish people.



**Junkanoo:** A lively street festival in the Bahamas, Miami, and Key West. During Junkanoo, people wear bright costumes, play music, and dance-- sometimes until 2 or 3 in the morning!



**Lohri:** An Indian holiday celebrating the shortest day of the year and the harvest of crops. One of the main events of Lohri is a huge bonfire which is usually lit in the center of town. People eat delicious foods, sing, dance, and pray around the fire in order to give thanks for all that they have.



### Fun Facts about Christmas

Christmas is celebrated by people all over the world. Can you find out about Christmas traditions in another country?

Each year, there are about 3 billion Christmas cards sent in the U.S.!

Reindeer take their first steps within one hour of being born!

The first American Christmas Carol was called "Jesus is Born." It was written in 1649.

The tallest Christmas tree ever was 221 feet tall!

All the gifts listed in the song, "12 Days of Christmas" add up to 264 presents!



## BEFORE SEEING THE PLAY...

Seeing a play is very different from watching a movie or watching TV.

For one thing the actors are real people who can hear and see you. Here are some tips for being a great audience member so that the actors can do their best, and so you can get the most out of the play!

1. If something is funny, it's okay to laugh.
2. If the actors ask you to participate or respond, feel free to do so!
3. Please be quiet and respectful during the performance so you can see and hear the story, and so those around you can see and hear too!
4. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
5. Use your imagination, have fun, and enjoy the story!

# Magical Holiday Map



## AFTER SEEING THE PLAY...

In Holidays from Around the World, Nick gets a magical holiday map from his new friend, Masha.

-Using a map of the world, find all of the places talked about in the show and mark each one. Use this list to help you remember.

\*Nick and Joy live in **England** and celebrate Christmas.

\*Masha is from **Russia**, she celebrates the Snow Maiden.

\*Hannah lives in **Israel** and celebrates Hanukkah, a Jewish holiday.

\*Aaral lives in Dehli, **India**, and celebrates Lorhi.

\*Helga lives in **Sweden** and celebrates St. Lucia Day.

\*William lives in Los Angeles, **California** and celebrates Kwanzaa.

\*Rico lives in **The Bahamas** and celebrates Junkanoo.

\*James is visiting his friend in Beijing, **China** and celebrating The Chinese New Year.

## MAKE YOUR OWN MAGICAL MAP OF HOLIDAYS!

There are hundreds of holidays celebrated around the world that we didn't have time to talk about in the play. Find out about a holiday that was not talked about in Holidays from Around the World. Find the answers to the following questions.

-Where is this holiday celebrated?  
-What special things do people do on this holiday?

-Do they eat any special foods?  
-Are there any symbols or special items used for this holiday? (Flags, candle holders, special gifts, etc).

-Can you find any pictures of people celebrating this holiday in a book or on the internet?

When you have your answers, share them with the class. Make sure to mark each destination on a large map of the world. As a class, you will have your own magical holiday map!

# Classroom Activities

\* Write your own review of the play! What did you like about it? What was your favorite moment? What character did you like best? If you had written or directed this play, would you have done anything differently?

\* Write a letter to Santa, or another holiday hero of your choice...as an added challenge, try asking for a gift for someone else instead of yourself.

\* Make a New Year's Resolution. Try to make this something that improves your health or makes you a better person!

\* List all of the holidays you can think of that are celebrated in the United States. Because there are so many cultures here, there are many different holiday traditions!

\* Write a letter to a friend or family member telling them why you are grateful to spend time with them during the holidays. OR draw them a picture of your time together.

\* Make some holiday crafts as a class. For example you can make a dreidel from paper for Hanukkah, a string of African flags for Kwanzaa, a snowflake from white paper, or make your own Junkanoo instrument from items around the classroom or house.

## Discussion Points

1. The most important thing about the holidays isn't gifts. What are the most important things about the holidays to you?

2. Why do you think its important to learn about holidays that people celebrate in other countries or cultures?

3. Who or what is your favorite holiday hero? Rudolph, Santa, St. Lucia, a loved one, a religious figure?

4. Bring in your favorite holiday item for show and tell. This could be a stocking, an ornament, a snow globe, or anything small enough to fit in your backpack that is special to you!

## INVENT YOUR OWN HOLIDAY!!

Imagine that you are the inventor of a brand new holiday-one the world has never heard of before. Make sure the holiday celebrates something you love-like National Puppy Appreciation Day, Dance Party Day, or Bake a friend a Cake Day. Consider the following questions and write or draw about them!

1. What does your holiday celebrate?
2. What do people do on this special day?
3. Are there any special foods people eat?
4. Are there certain symbols (like the Christmas tree or the Menorah) that are used during your holiday?



Who is Bright Star Theatre? Quickly becoming one of America's largest nationally touring theatre companies--Bright Star has built a national reputation of delivering professional programs at all-inclusive pricing. Black history, literary, curriculum and character education focused shows make up the season. The company has toured since August 2003 serving audiences as diverse as the National Theatre in Washington DC to the Spoleto Festival in Charleston to the National Underground Railroad Museum.

### Website:

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)  
Videos/study guides & more!

### Actors

Annually, our company watches over 1200 actors audition for our season. The actors depicted in this study guide, are not necessarily the same actors that will be arriving at your venue.

### Holidays from Around the World

Sole Property of Bright Star Children's Theatre, LLC. The show was written by David Ostergaard. For rights and inquiries connect with us anytime at [www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com) Questions? Concerns? Anything!

[david@brightstartheatre.com](mailto:david@brightstartheatre.com)