

ART ENCOUNTERS
EDUCATION PROGRAM
2004-2005

FRIENDLY
CLUES
STUDY GUIDE



Friends of the Arts
Regional arts Council PO Box 386,
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Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council
Art Encounters Education Program 2004-2005

FRIENDLY CLUES STUDY GUIDE: **Kahurangi: Maori Dance Theater of New Zealand**

This Friendly Clues Study Guide provides supplementary information and activities to enhance the upcoming Art Encounters Education Program at your school. The guide was developed to assist teachers in making connections between the arts enrichment program and their curriculum.

Inside you will find:

- 1. Kahurangi's Study Guide** for "People of the Pacific" presentation
 - I. Background information about this Maori performing group
 - II. Student Activity and Curriculum Suggestions
 - III. Supplemental Pages on the Maori and New Zealand
 - IV. Resource Links: Suggested books/videos, and websites.

- 2. Art Encounters Education Program History:** Find out how we have been able to serve schools since 1978!
- 3. Audience Responsibility:** Prepare your students for a live presentation. *Page 23*

- 4. Letter to parents:** Let your community know what wonderful cultural program you provide for your students! *Page 24*

- 5. Program Evaluation Form:** Help us to continue improving how we serve your school! Let us know how the Kahurangi's presentation worked at your school, how your teachers prepared for the visit, and what you would like from us in the future. *Page 26*

Public Performance:

Kahurangi Maori Dance Theater of New Zealand
Hanaway Theater, Silver Cultural Arts Center, Plymouth State University
Friday, October 29 at 8pm!
Call 535-ARTS for ticket information.

2. History and Mission of the *Art Encounters Education Program*

The mission of the Art Encounters Education program is to expose and connect area students to a broad base of arts and cultures, through in-school and bus-in arts performances, hands-on workshops, and in-depth artists residencies. The goal is to introduce schools and students to artists and arts experiences from New Hampshire and around the world, which can be an integral part of school curricula and the overall learning process.

The Arts Encounters Program serves over 26 schools and 7500 –10,000 students annually, bringing seven-ten diverse artistic programs into our area schools during the school year. These musical, theatrical, dance, ethnic, and visual programs include in-school presentations and bus-in performances held at Silver Cultural Arts Center at Plymouth State University.

About Friends of the Arts, Regional Arts Council

Mission : To present quality visual and performing arts that are affordable and accessible to children and adults both as observers and participants. We are dedicated to arts education, enrichment and improving the patronage and support of New Hampshire artists.

The History of Friends of the Arts

Friends of the Arts, a non-profit regional arts council, was founded in 1973 by a group of faculty members and representatives from the Plymouth State College community. The organization now serves a geographic region of over 36 small towns (POP.500-5000) in Central New Hampshire. Our programs are designed to reach year-round residents of all ages and backgrounds, and to provide both visual and performing arts experiences at affordable prices. Two major programs provided by Friends of the Arts are the Performing Arts Series and the Art Encounters school performance program. Each year we serve approximately 20,000 children and adults throughout the region. We use the art, music, and theater facilities at Plymouth State College for classes, performances, exhibits and office space; an in-kind donation.

3. Audience Responsibilities: Preparing Students for a Live Presentation

When students attend a live presentation for the first time, they often do not realize how different it is from watching a movie or show on TV. A live presentation has not been pre-recorded, with mistakes edited out. This makes it riskier for the artist and more exciting for the audience. It also means that the audience has a real contribution to make to the overall event. Each audience member affects those around him/her as well as the artist. The more the audience gives to the artist, the more the artist can give to the audience. Because of this important audience role, we suggest teachers pass on the following guidelines to their students:

- **Prepare for the experience** by reading any background information available.
- **Welcome the artists** to your school by clapping after they have been introduced.
- **Give your energy and attention** to the artists. Laugh when you think something the artist is doing is funny. Clap after a song or section you particularly enjoyed.
- **At the end** of the show, clap to show respect for the artists' time and energy. If you were disappointed in the show, clap softly. If you think it's the best show you've ever seen, give the artists a standing ovation.
- **Do not** eat, drink, or chew gum in the presentation space.
- **Use the bathroom facilities before** the performance begins. Please do not get up during the presentation unless absolutely necessary, as this disturbs the people around you as well as the artists.
- **Do not talk** during the presentation as it disturbs the people around you.
- **If there is a question/answer period**, consider asking appropriate questions about what you saw/heard in the presentation, about what it is like to create that kind of presentation, about the country or culture the artist has come from.
- **ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE!**

Dear Parents,

Your child will be experiencing an Art Encounters Education Program presentation on _____. The visiting artist group is **Kahurangi, Maori Dance Theatre of New Zealand**.

The *Kahurangi Maori Dance Theatre of New Zealand* was established in 1983 to revitalize the *ihi* or life force of Maori culture and to create cultural, educational and employment opportunities for young Maori people. Their presentation: "*People of the Pacific*" brings to life the heritage of the Maori people through a vivid repertoire of tribal music and dance. Wearing hand-crafted regalia and brandishing *taiaha* (Maori weapons), the young men perform fierce war dances. Maori women dancers gracefully twirl *poi* (a ball on the end of a string which depicts a bird in flight) in intricate patterns. In addition to Maori dances, the presentation features the songs and dances of other Polynesian Islands including Tahiti, Hawai'i, Samoa and the Cook Islands. Audience interaction and a touch of humor highlight this enthralling introduction to an ancient South Pacific culture.

This presentation has been specifically designed for school audiences. The group will also present their performance designed for family audiences on the date below.

Please join us for the experience, if you are able!

Public Performance: Kahurangi Maori Dance Theater

Hanaway Theater, Silver Cultural Arts Center ,Plymouth State University

Friday, October 29 at 8pm!

Call 535-ARTS for ticket information.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Robinson
Program Director
Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council

For more information about this or other Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council programs, visit our website at www.friends-of-the-arts.org or call our office at 536-1182.

5. Art Encounters Education Program Evaluation Form 2004-2005

Thank you for including this Friends of the Arts Art Encounters Education Program presentation in your school’s plan this year! We want to continue to serve you to the highest standards with age-appropriate and curriculum-based performances for your students. We value your professional evaluation and input about the recent Art Encounters performance. Please take a moment to complete this form and return it. Thanks!

- Art Encounters Education Program Presentation: **Kahurangi Maori Dance Theater of New Zealand**
- # of students attending _____ What grades attended? _____
- How did teachers use the Friendly Clues Study Guide?(check all that apply)
 - Students experienced workshops with the Kahurangi
 - Teachers introduced their students to New Zealand and the Maori
 - Teachers followed up the presentation with discussions about Maori Culture
 - Other? Please Explain _____
- Please rate the Friendly Clues Study Guide information:
 - Not enough info Somewhat useful Useful Excellent
- How do you rate the overall quality of the **Kahurangi** presentation?
 - Low quality OK Good Excellent
- How do you rate the educational content of the presentation as a whole?
 - Not educational Some applicable content Valuable Educationally Excellent Educational Content
- To what extent was there interaction between **the Kahurangi** and the students?
(1 being low, 5 being high) 1 2 3 4 5
- To what extent was the performance appropriate for the age/grades that attended?
1 2 3 4 5
- What do you think your students learned from this experience of **Maori culture**?
- Do you have any suggestions for the kinds of performers you would like to see us sponsoring?
Any specific curriculum enrichment needs we could research?
- Is there any part of the registration and performance procedures that we could change or improve? How can Friends of the Arts be more effective in serving you?
- Other comments?

Please return this form to: Friends of the Arts Regional Arts Council, PO Box 386, Plymouth, NH 03264 603-536-1182

