

BALLET HISPÁNICO

PARENT/CAREGIVER GUIDE

APRIL 19, 2019

Use this guide to jump-start a conversation with your child about the performance they saw recently – not only will you get to learn about what your child experienced, but it will also help them to process and reflect upon the onstage material.



ACTIVITY: STORYTELLING

- Storytelling is an ancient and valuable art that extends around the globe. Stories are a large part of what make people connected to each other and are a part of every culture. Stories about our country and its history help us feel proud of our nation. They tell us about our ancestors, teach us about where we come from, and make us realize the things we have in common with other people.
- Extension: Have a parent or caregiver share a story from their childhood, a memory, a tradition, a way they celebrated. And then discuss together how it connects to current life. What's similar? What's different? What connections can be made between the two experiences?

A BIT OF BACKGROUND

Ballet Hispánico, America's leading Latino dance organization, has been bringing individuals and communities together to celebrate and explore Latino cultures through dance for nearly 50 years. Whether dancing on stage, in school, or in the street, Ballet Hispánico creates a space where few institutions are breaking ground.

The organization's founder, National Medal of Arts recipient Tina Ramirez, sought to give voice to the Hispanic experience and break through stereotypes. Today, Ballet Hispánico is led by Eduardo Vilaro, an acclaimed choreographer and former member of the Company, whose vision of social equity, cultural identity and quality arts education for all drives its programs.

Ballet Hispánico, a role model in and for the Latino community, is inspiring creativity and social awareness in our neighborhoods and across the country by providing access to arts education.

The Company is a group of highly trained professionals who perform the works of Latino choreographers for audiences around the world. Their repertory explores the diversity of Latino cultures and brings innovative ways of experiencing and sharing a cultural dialogue. Representing a multitude of nationalities, their artists reflect the ever-changing face of our nation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What was the performance about? (Did it connect to history? To something else you've seen?)
- What did the performance make you think about? (Did it spark any new thoughts or give you any new understanding?)
- How did you connect ideas in the performance to ideas or realities in your own life? In the rest of the world?
- Can you remember something about the performance that you particularly liked or disliked? If so, what was it and why did it stand out to you?
- Did you have a favorite moment in the performance? Tell me about it.
- What are some of the cultural traditions you celebrate?
- What other cultural celebrations or traditions are you familiar with?
- What can you learn about people by experiencing the art that they create and perform?
- How do these different art forms help people to express their emotions and/or tell their stories?