



# the **mime** company

## THEATER BEYOND WORDS

### **Who is The Mime Company?**

The Mime Company is an ensemble of expert physical performers creating live theater that transcends the boundaries of spoken language. Our work is rooted in the exploration of human behavior and the invisible moments of comedy, drama, and wonder that can be revealed and shared through silence. Mime is essential, active storytelling that results in a theatrical experience that is powerful, intimate, and universal.

Mime Company artists also bring their expertise in writing and performance for the theater into schools and classrooms. In schools, we focus on engaging students physically through storytelling and expanding their awareness of body language. The nonverbal nature of mime also makes it an ideal medium, both in performance and in the classroom, for sharing across languages, cultures, and age levels.

### **How does mime impact student learning?**

Mime provides a medium for all learners to express their own creative voices regardless of age, language skill, or learning ability. How? Mime relies on two basic tools that everyone shares. It activates the body and stimulates the imagination, resulting in fun and creative kinesthetic learning. Mime also:

- Requires students to think creatively and problem-solve
- Challenges students to cooperate and communicate using nonverbal cues
- Allows students to become invested as both writers and performers of their own creative work
- Draws images and dramatic content from the students' own experiences and imaginations

### **How The Mime Company helps you meet your arts education goals:**

#### **In-School Performances**

A Mime Company performance brings your entire school community together for a shared and moving theater experience for all ages. Performance details can be tailored to your requirements (e.g. students' ages, audience size, performance space, program length). The experience also includes an informative discussion about this unique art form as well as



opportunities for students and teachers to interact with and ask questions of the performers.

#### **Hands-On Workshops**

Taught by our expert teaching artists, Mime Company workshops are fun and highly interactive. Workshops begin with unique activities that engage students with nonverbal communication, explore observations about body language, and eventually lead to student-authored creative work emphasizing their own points of view and experiences. Workshops create a safe environment for every student to share his or her own creativity as a performer. You won't believe how excited your students will be to turn off their voices!

#### **Residency Programs**

A Mime Company residency provides a deeper experience with physical storytelling through a series of workshops in which students develop their own original stories in mime. Residencies can also be focused to support specific areas of curriculum such as literacy goals, novel study, creative writing, and many other topics. The final outcome can be a performance in which students celebrate their success by sharing their exploration in this new art form with the larger school community.



The Mime Company - 2250 West Farragut Ave, Chicago, IL 60625 | 773.989.7938

Eliot Monaco, *Artistic Director* | Amanda Brown, *Board President*

Website: [www.themimecompany.com](http://www.themimecompany.com) | Email: [info@themimecompany.com](mailto:info@themimecompany.com)



# the mime company

## THEATER BEYOND WORDS

### Mime and Literacy

Mime provides a physical, sensory experience with narrative storytelling making it an excellent springboard into literacy and writing. Just like drama, storytelling in mime involves role-playing activities which help children develop social/emotional skills for cooperation and empathy, as well as literacy skills for predicting story outcomes and understanding character action. Mime also goes further to help students visualize story images and experience story action in the body, activating a strong desire not only for sharing the story experience but also adding to it using speech and writing.

At each school, The Mime Company tailors programs to fit the specific learning needs of each grade level and classroom. Examples include:

- **The Alphabet in Action (Kindergarten):** Students explored actions relating to each letter of the alphabet, creating both a performance and a photograph book out of their alphabet actions (New Field School, Chicago).
- **Acting It Out: Motivating Writing through Physical Storytelling (1st Grade):** Students acted out story dramas based on classroom reading books, personal narratives, and original stories created in class. They explored alternate outcomes, added personal details, and followed each workshop with a new writing activity motivated by the performance experience (Seward Academy, Chicago).
- **Give-and-Take Writing (Grades 6-7):** Student writers and performers collaborated to develop stories one sentence at a time. As writers, students learned to use observation to develop stories logically by crafting each new sentence in response to performed details. As performers, students learned to listen carefully and interpret details of each sentence physically (Burroughs School, Chicago).
- **Novel Series (Grades 2-8):** Students adapted and performed scenes taken from novels in their reading curriculum (Literature and Writing Magnet Cluster Program Schools, Chicago).

### How much does it cost?

We design programs to fit your needs and budget. Use the examples below as a guide:

PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	FEE	INTENDED FOR...
<b>Duet Performance</b>	An intimate performance of original solo and duet work in mime featuring two Mime Company artists	\$450*	Small schools, schools with limited special events budgets
<b>Company Performance</b>	An engaging performance highlighting mime as an ensemble art form featuring four Mime Company artists	\$750*	Most elementary schools and high schools
<b>Workshops</b>	Hands-on experiences for classrooms led by 1-2 teaching artists	\$75-\$125 per hour	All grade levels (K-12)
<b>One-Day Residency</b>	One school-wide Company Performance followed by four hands-on workshops in selected classrooms	\$1,000*	Schools interested in deepening the performance experience with hands-on workshops
<b>Short or Long Term Residency</b>	One Company Performance followed by a series of workshops for targeted classrooms; can culminate in a student performance and include professional development for teachers	\$1,500* (five workshops for each of two classrooms-10 total)	Schools interested in extending the impact for selected classrooms or grade levels

\*Discounts apply for additional same-day performances



The Mime Company - 2250 West Farragut Ave, Chicago, IL 60625 | 773.989.7938

Eliot Monaco, Artistic Director | Amanda Brown, Board President

Website: [www.themimecompany.com](http://www.themimecompany.com) | Email: [info@themimecompany.com](mailto:info@themimecompany.com)