

Help Us Help Your Kids Put Magic in Their Lives

On September 28, 2010, The Wood and Strings Puppet Theatre is coming back to the Clayton Center. They were here last May, and they were so enchanting we thought the children of our area should have another chance to see something so beautiful and so entertaining. This performance should be appropriate for grades 3-6.

As you may remember from last year, the Clayton Center did not charge the \$5 admission to children who were on free or reduced lunch plans. That was possible in part by a grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission, but only in part; nearly half the tickets were free. Nevertheless, we will make the same offer again because we want every child in Blount County to have art experiences of the richest, most professional kind.

Why Puppets?

Children experience stories in a lot of very high tech ways now. First, there was television, then computers, now palmpilots. But when have they ever, or will they ever, see the art of story told in the art of puppetry. The puppet creations of Wood and Strings are works of arts in themselves, whether they are the shadow puppets of Indonesia, the magnificent Chinese dragon, or the marionettes of Japanese bunraku, the imaginations of children quickly accept the conventions of the story in a way that animation or oversized stuffed animals don't require.

Why Ananse ..early in the day?

Not many, not enough, of the artistic experiences of American children come from the rich traditions of Africa. Ananse does.

What's Next?

It's very easy. We couldn't make it easier. Call the box office at the Clayton Center (865-981-8590 Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.) Tell us the number of children you expect to bring, how many are eligible for the free tickets, and whether you want to attend the 9 a.m. performance or the 12:30 p.m. performance. On the day, of the play, bring us a check for the children you bring. We will set some seats aside to accommodate the variance of actual numbers of students. If you can use the form below. The deadline for reservations is



**ANANSE!
...early in
the day**

Ananse the Spider, trickster of Ashanti folklore, witnesses the early day when animals and life are new. Sharing comical adventures with dozens of other characters, he leaves his mischievous mark on life, or "so the story goes." Drawing inspiration from West African music, masks, costumes, and oral traditions, this production brings to the stage their vibrant scenic splendor and magic.

Order Form

School: _____ Teacher: _____

Grade: _____ Number of Students: _____

Number of students eligible for free admission: _____

Performance: 9 a.m. _____ 12:30 p.m. _____

\$5 x no. of paying students: _____

Number of teachers and chaperones (no charge): _____

Mail to: Box Office, Clayton Center for the Arts
502 East Lamar Alexander Parkway
Mryville, Tennessee 37804

