

**THEATRE
RESOURCE GUIDE**

Festival Live Radio Hour Presents:

Schabod Crane ^{and} *the Headless Horseman*



**Story by Washington Irving
Adaptation by Festival Theatre
Directed by Seth Kaltwasser**



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Using this Theatre Resource Guide

This theatre resource guide for *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman* is designed to be used with students before and after attending the Festival Theatre production. The guide includes information and activities that will increase student understanding of this and other theatrical performances. You may reproduce any and all of the following pages to distribute to students or parents.

Halloween, 1946 Page 3

This synopsis of the play familiarizes students with the main characters and events of the play.

The Radio Play Page 4

This page contains information on the early days of radio.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow Page 5

The information on this page explains the relationship of the play to the original story it was based on.

Staging the Story Page 6

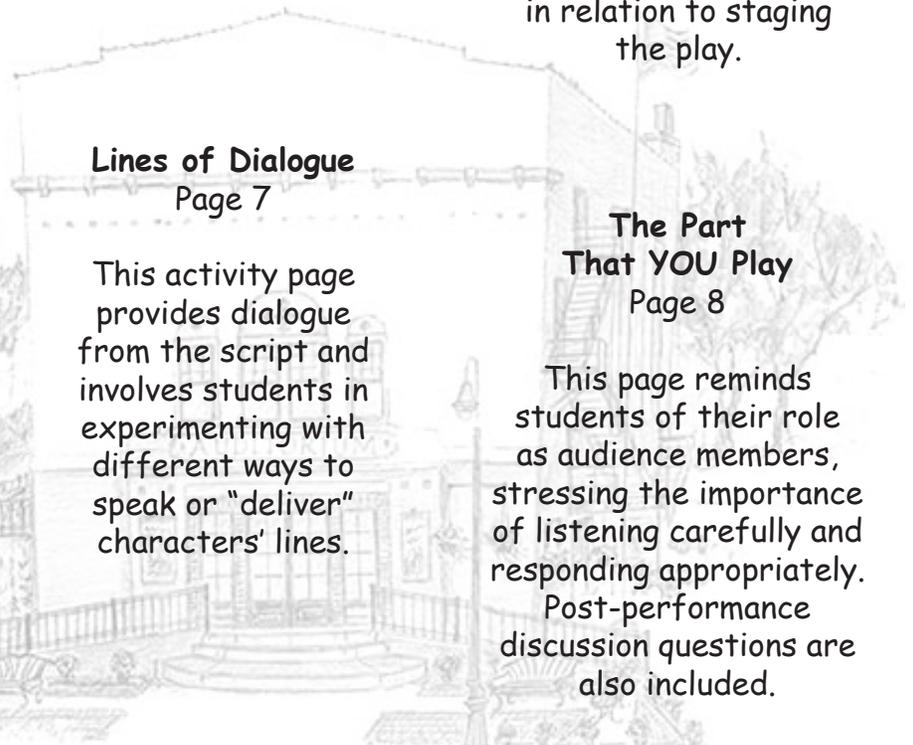
This page contains information about theatre in *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman* and encourages students to engage in creative problem-solving in relation to staging the play.

Lines of Dialogue Page 7

This activity page provides dialogue from the script and involves students in experimenting with different ways to speak or "deliver" characters' lines.

The Part That YOU Play Page 8

This page reminds students of their role as audience members, stressing the importance of listening carefully and responding appropriately. Post-performance discussion questions are also included.



HALLOWEEN, 1946

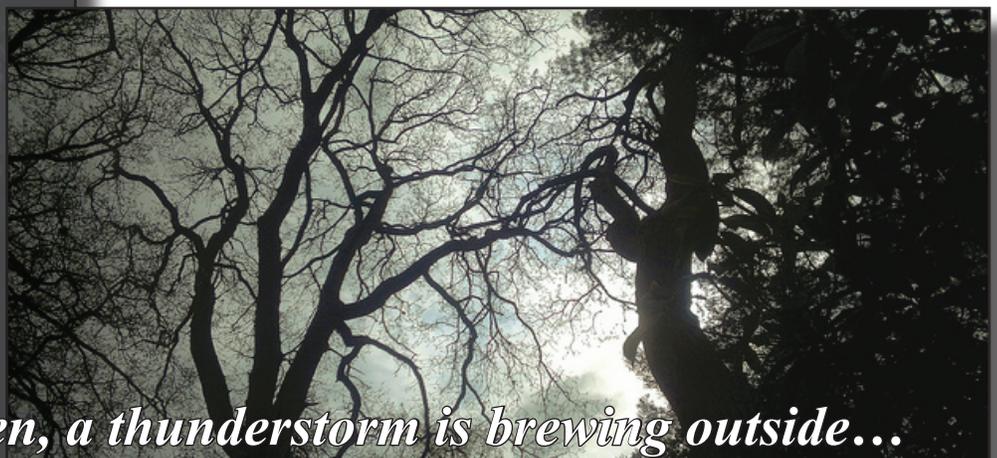


Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman takes place on Halloween night in 1946, when a group of children gather around their family radio to hear a live radio broadcast of Washington Irving's classic spooky story, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow." As the radio play is performed by actors on one side of the stage, the audience gets to see the children respond to the play and, ultimately, begin rewriting the story to fit their liking!



The kids include:

- Eve, the oldest, who already knows the famous tale and is excited to share the story of Ichabod's adventures with her younger siblings.
- Marie, who takes an immediate interest in Sleepy Hollow's female hero, Katrina Van Tassel.
- Benny, who proves to be an instant critic of Ichabod. Benny is more interested in the Sleepy Hollow's famous troublemaker, Brom Bones.
- Hope is the youngest of the family, but she is a great listener and a wise problem-solver.
- Fannie is Hope's new friend. You can always tell when Fannie gets spooked – her hiccups give her away! She says, "I get hiccups when I'm nervous!"



And while they listen, a thunderstorm is brewing outside...

4



THE RADIO PLAY



Before television, families would gather around their radio each night to hear the news and listen to installments of their favorite radio series. At home, the audience had to use their imaginations to see the different characters and imagine the different situations, kind of like you do when you read a book!

How would you tell a story without any images? The actors in a radio studio have to think creatively to make sound effects and play a variety of different characters. This helps the audiences at home to see the different adventures take place in their imagination.

- A foley artist is a person who uses various objects to reproduce everyday sounds for the radio or for film.

They will hold sheet metal up to a microphone to make a sound like thunder, or knock coconuts together to make a sound like horses running! A foley artist must be able to think creatively and listen carefully.



Sometimes actors would play different characters, by changing the tone and pitch of their voice. Young children were often played by old men and women - the audience at home didn't know, because they could only hear the actor's voice!

- How could you use your voice differently to play an old man or woman?



THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW

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The Storyline

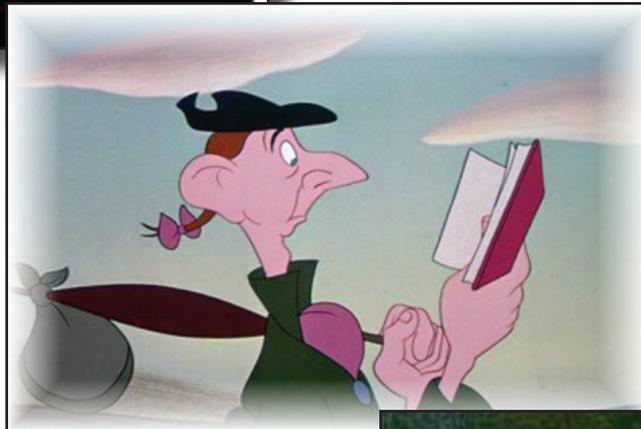
The Legend of Sleepy Hollow follows the story of Ichabod Crane, a schoolmaster who moves into the quiet village of Sleepy Hollow in the year 1790 to begin serving as schoolmaster. The nervous, faint-hearted Ichabod soon hears terrifying stories about the town's favorite legend: a Headless Horseman who rides around the town at night. Can you blame Ichabod Crane for being a little bit spooked?!



Shortly after moving into town, Ichabod falls in love with Katrina Van Tassel, but finds an opponent in Brom Bones, the town's well-known jokester, who also has his heart set on Katrina. During his time in Sleepy Hollow, Ichabod confronts Brom Bones and, in the story's final scene, meets the Headless Horseman in the woods!

History of the Legend

This exciting story is one of the earliest examples of popular American Literature. First published in 1820, Ichabod Crane's story is still read in schools today (almost 200 years later!) and has been adapted for the radio, as well as for film, stage, and television. Have you ever heard the story of Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman before? Which versions have you seen?



Upper left: The Headless Horseman

Left: Disney's Ichabod Crane

Below: Author Washington Irving

About Washington Irving

Washington Irving was one of the earliest American writers to be successful in Europe during his lifetime. Born in New York on April 3 of 1783 and named after our first president, Irving became a prolific writer of both fiction and non-fiction stories. A man of many talents, Irving later served as the United States' Ambassador to Spain.



6 STAGING THE STORY

When you attend a play, you agree to pretend. You agree to “suspend disbelief”, to pretend that the stage action and characters are real. To present a story on stage, actors and other theatre artists often rely on theatre customs. These customs, or conventions, are accepted ways of acting or doing something on stage. In *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman*, watch for the following theatre conventions:



Stylized movement & ensemble work.

One of the most famous scenes in *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* happens when the Headless Horseman chases Ichabod Crane through the woods in the middle of the night. Now, how do you show a race like that onstage, in a way that is still effective and exciting? In this play, the actors use their bodies in interesting and creative ways, so that they can make the Headless Horseman - and Gunpowder, Ichabod’s horse – come to life onstage.

Changes in lighting to show a change in setting.

In this play, you’ll be taken on a tour through many different places: a 1940’s radio studio, a living room, and the woods around the 18th century village of Sleepy Hollow. All of this will appear on one stage! To do this, the play’s director and lighting designer will use special theatrical lighting equipment to paint the scenery and help the audience know where to look.



Actors playing more than one character.

When you come to see this play, you will see ten actors on stage – but, this story has a total of 26 characters! The cast is able to accomplish this because sometimes the same actor will be used to play different characters; in this show, one actor in particular is responsible for playing six different characters! For this to work, each actor uses different voices and different body movements to help the audience see the specific personalities of each character.



When you attend the play, watch for Festival Theatre’s solutions to these stage problems.

LINES OF DIALOGUE

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Playwrights are people who write plays. They write lines of dialogue for the actors to speak. The dialogue gives information about the story and the characters.

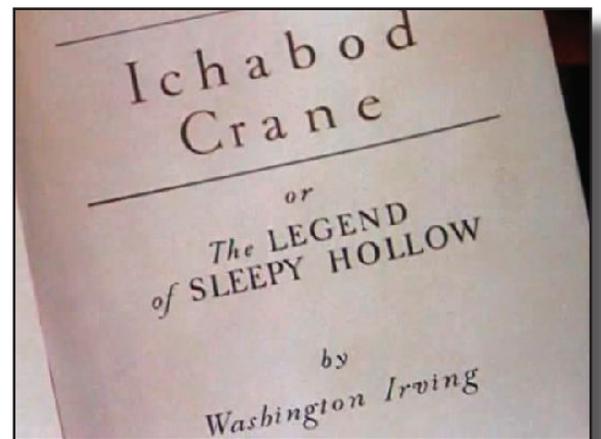


Read the lines of dialogue from *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman* printed here. What do they tell you about the story and characters?

Actors experiment with different ways to say or “deliver” their lines. Work with a partner. Try delivering these characters’ lines in different ways (boldly, fearfully, proudly, sadly, etc.)

Which line deliveries do you like best? Why?

When you attend *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman*, listen for these lines and notice how the actors deliver them.



Group One:

1

BENNY: I've heard enough of this story to know that Ichabod Crane is no superhero!

EVE: He's not a superhero; he's a brave knight!

Group Two:

2

HOPE: Just because you're afraid, doesn't mean you can't be the hero!

MARIE: You're absolutely right! What's courage without a little fear?

Group Three:

3

HOPE: What happened with the Headless Horseman? Does he still haunt Sleepy Hollow to this day?

FANNIE: Oh, I hope not! Please say it's not that!

Group Four:

4

HOPE: I think we need to look for clues. I think we need to go into the woods and see the facts firsthand.

FANNIE: What? What are you talking about? That sounds like a terrible idea!

Group Five:

5

MARIE: There's no way to know where that pumpkin came from!

HOPE: Yes, there is! All of these loose ends will fit together.

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THE PART THAT YOU PLAY

Theatre Etiquette

To prepare for presenting *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman*, the actors memorized their lines and practiced their movements. They worked with director Seth Kaltwasser who helped them move about the stage and play their parts well. The costume and set designers planned with the director and created a look that reflected a 1940's living room and radio studio. The stage manager is ready to make sure everyone on stage and backstage does the right thing at the right time. All Festival Theatre needs now is

YOU.

YOU have a part to play in *Ichabod Crane*.

You are the audience. Your part requires you to listen carefully and watch closely. It's okay to laugh or applaud if you enjoy the play, but remember that you and the actors are in the same room. Talking or whispering to friends during the performance might distract the actors.

Help them play their parts well by playing YOUR part well.

Reacting to the Performance

After the performance, share your experience of *Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman* with your class, family, and friends:

- What was the most memorable moment and why?
- Why do you think *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* has been so popular for so long? (Almost 200 years!!)
- What did the children learn over the course of this Halloween night?
- How did the cast work together to show the Horseman chasing Ichabod through the woods?
- What was it like watching the actors in the radio studio? What tools did they use when telling the *Sleepy Hollow* legend through the microphones?
- How were the actors and designers and the director able to tell this story on stage? What theatrical strategies and techniques were used in transforming this story from the page to the stage?

Resources

To learn more...

This is a great video to use as an introduction to understanding the mechanics of producing a radio play. It gets really interesting around the 2:30 mark.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZ43UC5tIOY>

Here is an old Halloween radio special from the classic series "Archie Andrews". Can you follow the story, even without images? Can you keep the different characters straight?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZOkgxLcFcI>

For information about Arts Education opportunities at Festival Theatre, visit www.festivaltheatre.org or call 715.483.3387.