



It's BLOOD and GUTS!

It's History!

It's GOOD vs EVIL!

It's the TRUE PATH to POWER!

**It's BEOWULF:
A TALE of COURAGE and HONOR!**



**Dare to Unleash
the Power within through Great Literature!**

Ages 8 and up

Exceptional Educational Experiences

Performed by award winning educators Donna Wissinger and Joy Myers

BOOK YOUR TALE NOW!

Booking information below

ARTZ OUT LOUD

donnawissinger.com • topformdrw@aol.com • Donna: 407-492-8876



Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor

Quick Guide Grades 3-8

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Beowulf is the oldest known writing in the English language! We tell it in Renaissance play format: full of fun and participation. The story was first told about 600 AD and written down in the mid 700s. The epic poem is based upon legends and historical characters from Denmark and Sweden. Beowulf was retold in many styles by minstrels and scops during celebrations and feasts. The epic poem is almost 3,200 lines of alliterative verse.

The story was told to inspire the hero in each of us

- ❖ A person decides to do their best
- ❖ He/she battles fears and develops self-confidence
- ❖ The person becomes a positive example to others
- ❖ The person completes a great task that helps others

Language Arts

Alliteration: 2 or more words in a phrase begin with the same consonant or vowel
Players of Pipes; Makers of Music; Performers of Plays

Homophone: 2 words sound the same, spelled differently, different meanings
Tail/tale; knight/night; their/there/they're

Kenning: Descriptive poetical expressions used instead of the simple name
Battle: Storm of Swords; Hero: Protector of Peace

Fun-filled suggestions for novice knights and ladies

- ❖ Select knights and fair chatelaines as line leaders and other helpers
- ❖ Go to the great Mead Hall for lunch
- ❖ Create personal crests that depict talents and goals

Warrior Workouts

- ❖ Create personal crests that depict talents and goals
- ❖ Find examples of alliterations & homophones
- ❖ Find or make up kennings (football star: Pigskin Playmaker)
- ❖ Discuss fictional and non-fictional heroes found in world cultures and literature

The Characters

Beowulf: Geat warrior

King Hrothgar: King of Denmark

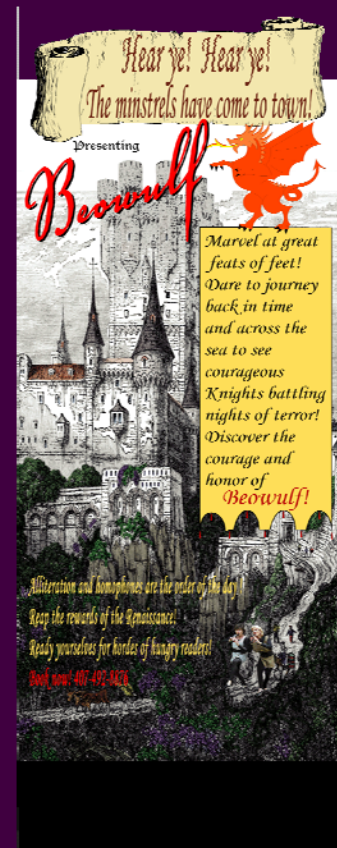
Heorot: The great mead hall of King Hrothgar

Unferth: A favorite among King Hrothgar's knights

Breca: A brave knight with whom Beowulf made a bet

Grendel: The terrible monster

Grendel's Mother: A monster more terrible than Grendel



The Tale of Beowulf ©1990 Donna Wissinger

The great warrior Beowulf learns that the King of Denmark, King Hrothgar, has a big problem. Every time he holds a feast (full of food, music and dancing, beautiful ladies and handsome knights), a terrible monster named Grendel comes up out of the swamp, carries off the handsome knights and beautiful ladies and eats them. Beowulf leads fourteen of his brave warriors across the sea to help the King. There he meets Unferth, the bravest of the King's knights, who challenges Beowulf's bravery and wisdom. After the feast which was held in the King's great hall Heorot, Beowulf lies in wait for Grendel who does come up out of the swamp to feast upon the warriors. Beowulf battles Grendel with his bare hands and rips Grendel's arm out of its socket. Grendel limps down to the swamp to die. Whereupon the King holds a grand feast (full of food, music and dancing, beautiful ladies and handsome knights). As a reward, Beowulf is taken to the Palace to sleep. Later that same night, up out of the swamp came a monster more fearsome than Grendel. It was Grendel's mother! She breaks through the doors of the great hall Heorot and kills the King's favorite knight. Upon learning that yet another monster has terrorized the Kingdom, Beowulf vows to kill Grendel's mother. He must go to the place she lives; he must go down to the most feared swamp of all. No one dares to go with him to confront the great monster. Although Beowulf is afraid, he dives into the swamp and for three days and nights he fights the monster. When all seems lost, he sees a sword in the stone walls of the deep watery cave, pulls it out, and slays Grendel's mother. The swamp turns red with blood and gore. Beowulf has prevailed. Whereupon the King holds a magnificent feast (full of food..) and honors Beowulf with princely treasures and great words of wisdom. The End.

Valuable Vocabulary:

Knight: Warrior sworn to uphold such virtues as courage & honor

Chatelaine: Lady of the house

Fair: Pleasing to the eye

Good morrow: Good morning

Minstrels: Traveling musicians, poets and actors (France & Italy)

Scops: Travels musicians, poets and actors known for recounting epic poems

Mead Hall: Place where knights dined

Tale: Story

Mail: Armor made of metal links

“WOW! Our middle school students loved Beowulf. A Tale of Courage and Honor. They learned about World History, culture, and language arts...I liked the focus on character values.”
Thomasville Cultural Center

“FABULOUS! The most worthwhile visiting artists we have had!”
Treasure Village Montessori



ARTZ OUT LOUD
Presents

Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor
2010-2011 Season in Review

Venues

Performing Arts Centers—300-1200 Seats

Thomasville Cultural Center, GA
St. Johns Performing Arts Center, FL
Appleton Museum of Art, FL
Central FL Community College, FL

School Auditoriums/Cafetoriums/Gymnasiums
FL; NC

Libraries

FL
Selected for Florida Library State Conference Showcase 2011

Outdoor Festivals/Summer Camps
FL

Audience Sizes

200-1000

Preferred Audience Size

400-800

Ages/Grade Levels

9 and up
Grades 3-12 Curriculum Focus
BOOKING INFORMATION BELOW

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ARTZ OUT LOUD

Reviews of Award Winning Educational Program

Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor

“To keep 600 Middle School students engaged you have to good! *Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor* kept our students laughing, participating and fully engaged. I loved it!”

~ Thomasville, GA Middle School 8th grade Teacher

“WOW! Our Middle School students loved *Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor*!

They learned about World History, culture, and language arts without even knowing it. What I personally liked was the focus on character values.”

~ Thomasville, GA Middle School Teacher

“*Beowulf*” was very ‘kid’ friendly. I really liked how different elements of the play were introduced and loved the way the performers engaged the students from the moment they walked into the auditorium. Excellent performance!”

~ Thomasville Cultural Center, GA

“Fabulous! We all enjoyed it immensely. This was such a wonderful opportunity for these students to experience the arts. Students particularly loved the interaction of the energetic performers. They literally brought the tale to life!”

~ Thomasville Cultural Center, GA

“Our students talked about the ‘cool’ assembly for days. *Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor* was high-energy and totally engaging. There were at least a dozen language arts and history concepts packed into the performance, but what I was most impressed with was that the artists never talked down to the students. While the performance brought laughter and smiles, they artists took their jobs as teacher/troubadours seriously. The audience was asked to rise up to the high bar set—and without fail, they did. There was so much laughter, our students were learning without even realizing it!”

~ Paterson Elementary, Orange Park, FL

“Donna and Joy shared their artistic abilities of storytelling and music in *Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor*. This program surely enriches audience’s lives. The comments from our library attendees were that ‘this was great!’; ‘I loved dressing up and being part of the play!’; This was a wonderful evening’. We look forward to a return engagement!”

~ Marion County Library, FL

“I loved it and my students loved it! This was a very creative production.”

~ Thomasville Arts Center, GA

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“This was the highlight of the year! Our students K-5 were completely mesmerized!”

~ Hunter’s Green Elementary, FL

“Beowulf was absolutely wonderful. The program introduced our rural audience to art, music, and history, as well as honor, integrity and ancestry. Donna and Joy radiate energy and enthusiasm that is contagious to everyone. We at the college are so impressed with the artists’ ability to teach in such a vibrant and interactive manner. Fabulous!”

~ Central FL Community College

“As a teacher of literature, it is my task to introduce Beowulf to my 10th grade students..a daunting task considering its archaic language and idealistic themes. Though Shamus Heaney’s translation has made my job easier, nothing has helped so much as the rendition of the epic poem that Joy Myers and Donna Wissinger did for my students. Their clever yet accurate interpretations of the story kept my students engaged and excited. Donna and Joy added humor and grammar instruction, audience participation and music! I recommend this program for those seeking to achieve *complete* learning.”

~ St. Johns Country Day School, Upper Level

“As part of our school’s study of the Renaissance and fair we invited Donna Wissinger and Joy Myers to help us out. They were contracted to perform Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor.

We thought their visit would be a great experience for our students but had no idea how much of an impact it would have. Two weeks after their visit our students are still talking about the experience, singing the songs, playing the recorder and dancing the dances.

Donna and Joy accomplished so much in the short time they were with us. Their energy, knowledge, love of children and music captivated students, parents and teachers. They know just how to relate to students of all ages and their humor and creativity engaged the children and made learning fun and exciting.

This was the most exciting and worthwhile visiting artist event we have had in our school and one that we will present again and again. The program was worth every penny and more. Donna and Joy are true professionals and we highly recommend their program.

Having them with us was an amazing experience and if we can only have one visiting artist program a year it will be definitely be Donna Wissinger and Joy Myers. Everyone should take advantage of this entertaining and educational experience! We have already booked Donna and Joy for next year, adding two more days to their visit.”

~ Treasure Village Montessori, FL

“Your presentation of “Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor” for our Middle School students was absolutely delightful. From the very beginning, you captured the interest of the audience, students, and teachers alike. Every word was clearly understood, and I loved the humor and contemporary references. As I mentioned to you, we have hosted several national touring theatrical groups throughout the years, but I think this is the BEST show we have ever had here at St. Johns.”

~ Brenda Scott, Performing Arts Coordinator, St. Johns Country Day School

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Artist Biographies

ARTZ OUT LOUD has toured since 2006 and has provided programming for more than 150,000 students in theaters and schools nationwide. Current ARTZ OUT LOUD programs were developed throughout 15-20 years of educational touring by Donna Wissinger and revised with the talents and expertise of principal artist/educator Joy Myers. Recipient of the prestigious Doris Leeper Award for Excellence in Arts Education, ARTZ OUT LOUD is on the rosters of FL State Touring Program; The Learning Arts; Southern Artist Registry, SC Arts Commission, and Arts Councils nationwide.

Flutist/Actor Donna Wissinger has been hailed as 'a flutist of rare gifts' by The New York Times. Acclaimed recitals include the mainstages of **Carnegie Hall** and the renowned **Glinka Capella**. Recital tours have included Europe, Asia and the USA, as well as the former Soviet Union. Audiences are captivated by her beautiful and communicative playing, her charismatic stage presence, and her obvious love and enthusiasm for her art. Donna has, with her golden flute, keynoted international conferences for such companies and associations as Starbucks, **ASCD**, IODA, McGill, MIT, and Wharton Universities, and numerous Reinvention Revolution and Excellence in Government Conferences.

Donna is the inaugural recipient of the prestigious **Doris Leeper Award for Excellence in Arts Education**. She has been a premier artist on the rosters of the Florida State Touring Program; The New York based Learning Arts; the Southern Artist Registry and numerous Arts Councils nationwide. Donna is a USPTA tennis professional and long distance runner. Her bicycle/flute performance tour of 2000 miles and 82 concerts from NYC to Miami was featured on the National Geographic Channel.

Pianist/Actor Joy Myers graduated from Jacksonville University summa cum laude with departmental honors and a dual major in music education and music performance. She has been pianist with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Jacksonville Lyric Opera Theater, Starlight Symphonette, Amadeus Trio of Jacksonville, and the Palm Court Society Orchestra. Joy plays accordion and keyboard with a professional Americana band based in Colorado.

Joy Myers has certification in Yamaha piano, Kindermusik, Suzuki violin, and Suzuki piano. The Girl Scouts honored Joy as Woman of the Year, World of Arts. Joy was the Performing Arts Director at St. Johns Country Day School where she also taught band, show choir, and director of plays and musicals. She is the founder of Concert on the Green, a 20-year old non-profit organization which brings the Jacksonville Symphony and award scholarships to students in her county.

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TECHNICAL RIDER

Beowulf: A Tale of Courage and Honor

STAGE AND TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- 18 x 15 space in which to work when no stage available
- A public address amplification system for audiences over 100
- Sound system for CD or IPOD—
- One operator or technician for cued CD or IPOD
- Two lavalieres (artists travel with their own as well)
- One standing or hand held microphone
- 1 follow spot and operator (optional)
- Sound technician to operate amplification if needed
- Light technician to operate stage and house lights
- Appropriate temperature on stage and backstage
- A minimum of two (2) hours of rehearsal and technical time in performance space prior to the performance.
- The Artists will supply a cue sheet for lights and sound upon arrival for tech rehearsal and performance when hall can support enhanced lighting.

DRESSING ROOMS—Mainstage/Multiple Performances

Private dressing room, washroom space with restrooms to be provided, as close to the immediate backstage area as is practicable. The Artists request that dressing rooms have some bottled water as well as some fresh fruit (bananas, apples)

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION—

When possible, 8 students to be pre-selected for participation in program. Artists work with students for 40 minutes prior to program start for participation in Medieval Sword Dance (Swords are wooden). Study Guides provided to presenter for school based programming.

BROADCASTING

No tape or video recording may be made without prior permission.

Accepted by: _____

For (Organization) _____

On this date: _____

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