EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Charleston Gaillard Center Presents
The Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences On Tour
Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume

3yrs-2nd
MEET THE AUTHOR

KWAME ALEXANDER

Award-winning author Kwame Alexander has written 35 books including *New York Times* bestsellers *The Crossover, Swing, The Undefeated*, and *Becoming Muhammad Ali*. He also won the Newbery Medal for his novel, *The Crossover*, which has become a Disney+ television series. He lives in London and enjoys playing softball with his middle school aged daughter, listening to audiobooks, and using Zoom to meet with schools and libraries across the world. He feels an important part of his job is “to change the world one word at a time.”

ABOUT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The Kennedy Center is America’s National Cultural Center in Washington, DC. It was created in 1958 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed bipartisan legislation to approve it. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy and his wife began a fundraising campaign for its construction. Shortly after President Kennedy’s assassination in 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson designated the National Cultural Center as a living memorial to President Kennedy, recognizing his dedication to advancing the American performing arts.

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ABOUT THE SHOW

New York Times best-selling author **KWAME ALEXANDER** brings two of his beloved children’s books—*Acoustic Rooster* and *Indigo Blume*—to the stage in a world premiere Kennedy Center commission. Alexander teams up with his writing partner **MARY RAND HESS** and long-time musical collaborator **RANDY PRESTON** to tell a story about being scared, being brave, and believing in oneself. With special guests like Duck Ellington and Ms. Dairy Parton—plus Preston appearing as Acoustic Rooster—this musical adaptation will have children (and families) dancing in their seats.

Dive into a book to keep the fun going: Kwame’s NEW picture book of the same name is based on our musical!

Adapted from the books by **Kwame Alexander**
By **Kwame Alexander** and **Mary Rand Hess**
Music by **Randy Preston**
Directed by **Lili-Anne Brown**

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On Tour
*Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume*

Photos by Jati Lindsay
Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Boogie Starring Indigo Bloom
Kwame Alexander
On the eve of singing at a community festival, a bout of stage fright threatens a little girl’s confidence. As Indigo Blume drifts off to sleep, she isn’t sure she’s brave enough to take the stage. But once she falls asleep, Indigo finds herself in a dream world with the characters of her favorite book, Acoustic Rooster and his Barnyard Band. The band’s members, including Miss Dairy Parton and Chickee Minaj, are rehearsing, and they invite Indigo to join the group. But when a storm destroys their barn, the animals are left with almost nothing. Can Indigo rally the band to work together and save their home? And will she find her voice in time for the festival?  

Acoustic Rooster and His Barnyard Band
Kwame Alexander
When a jazz-loving rooster sets his sights on winning a barnyard talent show, he realizes he can’t do it as a solo act. He’s up against the talents of Mules Davis’s cool duo and Ella Finchgerald's singing group. Colorful artwork from artist Tim Bowers ensures this story doesn’t miss a beat. A glossary of musical terms and instruments rounds out this perfect introduction to jazz for young readers. 

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EXPLORE // Watch

Interview with Kwame Alexander

“Barnyard Boogie” from Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume

“My City” from Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume

“You Are Amazing” from Acoustic Rooster’s Barnyard Boogie: Starring Indigo Blume

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EXPLORE // Classroom Workshops

Farm Rhymes and Yoga Grades PreK-K

In this workshop, students will practice rhyming through various farm themed rhymes. Students will also retell parts of the story through yoga.

Click Here for Workshop
Click Here for Yoga Cards

Music and Emotions Grades PreK-K

In this workshop, students will identify and portray different emotions through a musical theater game. Students will make connections to characters based on past experiences.

Click Here for Workshop

Speech Bubble Collages Grades K-1st

In this workshop, students will identify the author’s use of speech bubbles and character voice changes. Students will create an exaggerated fictional character and will write and design their own speech bubble.

Click Here for Workshop

Tone of Voice Grades 1st-2nd

In this workshop, students will identify the author’s purpose and will learn the different components in tone changes. Through theater games, students will practice reading phrases in different emotions.

Click Here for Workshop

Click Here for Acoustic Rooster Assessment
CONNECT // Science and Farm Unit

READ

**Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type**
Doreen Cronin
Farmer Brown has a problem. His cows like to type. All day long he hears:
*Click, clack, moo.*
*Click, clack, moo.*
*Click, clack, moo.*
But Farmer Brown's problems REALLY begin when his cows start leaving him notes! Come join the fun as a bunch of literate cows turn Farmer Brown's farm upside-down! ⁵

**Mrs. Wishy-Washy's Farm**
Joy Crowley
Uh-oh. Mrs. Wishy-Washy is at it again. Rubbing and scrubbing all the animals on the farm. But this time they aren't standing for it. Duck, Cow, and Pig are leaving mean old Mrs. Wishy-Washy for good! They run away to the big city. But they get lost, wander into a restaurant, and even stumble into a hardware store and get covered in paint! Where is Mrs. Wishy-Washy when they need her? Maybe her farm isn't so bad after all. ⁶

**The Little Red Hen**
Paul Galdone
When the Little Red Hen asks a cat, dog, and mouse for help planting some wheat, she gets no takers: "'Not I!' said the cat. 'Not I!' said the dog. 'Not I!' said the mouse." They won't water, cut, or grind the wheat . . . or help bake a cake with it, either. So, in the end, the Little Red Hen eats the cake all by herself as well! Paul Galdone's delightfully detailed ink and wash illustrations—packed with charming details—add plenty of sly humor to the well-loved story that not only offers a sage message, but also shows children what it takes to make a cake from the ground up! ⁷

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⁵ Doreen Cronin, *Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type*, illustrated by Betsy Lewin (New York: Simon Spotlight, 2010).
ACTIVITIES

Green Heart Project
https://greenheartsc.org/who-we-are/

MUSC’s Urban Farm
https://web.musc.edu/resources/health-and-wellness/ohp/urban-farm

Field Trip to the Farm:
EXPLORE // Children’s Poetry

READ

**Animal Poems**  
Valerie Worth  
Each of the exquisite 23 poems in this posthumous collection by Valerie Worth carefully distinguishes one animal from all other creatures and captures it in all of its wonderful singularity – from wasp to snake to wren. The way Worth perfectly illuminates the uniqueness of each animal in her precise and elegant free verse will delight both fans of her celebrated “small poems” and readers encountering her poetry for the first time.  

**Poems Aloud: Poems Are for Reading Out Loud!**  
Joseph Coelho  
Perfect for confident children and shy readers alike, this book teaches all sorts of clever ways to perform poetry. Children will learn 20 techniques for reading aloud by trying out 20 funny and thoughtful original poems by the much-loved and award-winning performance poet, Joseph Coelho.

**HUSH! A Thai Lullaby**  
Mingfong Ho  
In an endearing lullaby, a mother asks a lizard, a monkey, and a water buffalo to be quiet and not disturb her sleeping baby.

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ACTIVITIES

Poetry Activities for the Classroom
https://www.weareteachers.com/poetry-games-for-the-classroom/

Winter Poetry Teatime
https://www.hidethechocolate.com/winter-poetry-teatime/

Push Pin Poetry
https://laughterandliteracy.wordpress.com/2013/02/25/175/
BIBLIOGRAPHY


South Florida PBS. “Take a Field Trip to the Animal Farm.” May 5, 2016. YouTube video, 8:51. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgLZX0PFJL.


EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS

The Gaillard Center would like to thank the following educational partners in their ongoing support of our Education & Community program. This program is also supported, in part, by a grant from a private foundation.

Gaillard Center Partners

Institutional Support

The Charleston
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Presents
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