

THE RECYCLE SHOW with Richard Renner the Vodvill Clown

Educational Objectives:

Students will:

Become aware of the garbage produced by our society and what happens to it in the environment.

Learn to recognize renewable and nonrenewable resources

Explore connections between recyclable material and manufacturing resources.

Vocabulary:

Landfill: An area set aside for burying waste under layers of dirt

Leach: to pass a liquid through to carry off soluble components

Recycling: the collection and reprocessing of manufactured materials for reuse either in the same form or as part of a different product

Reducing: Using less of something, such as packaging

Reusing: to use something again and again until it is no longer useful

Re-buy: to buy products that are made from or packaged with renewable resources or recycled goods

Hazardous Waste: garbage that contains chemicals that could be dangerous pollutants if not disposed of properly

Bibliography

See R. E. Easterling, *Reuse of Disposables* (1983);

W. U. Chandler, *Materials Recycling* (1983);

C. Polprasert, *Organic Waste Recycling* (1989)

EPA Kids site - <http://www.epa.gov/region07/kids/welcome.htm>

Missouri Recycled Products - <http://www.mora.org/mobri-prod.html>

Biography:

Richard Renner, a native of Wichita, Kansas who now lives in the Kansas City area, has entertained audiences all over the country for the last 10 years. He combines his unique talents and experience to give audiences a good old-fashioned belly laugh.

Renner began performing for audiences after he graduated from Kansas University (KU) as an actor, and soon discovered that acting itself was a pretty rough road to follow. He began pursuing his love of performing seriously after his day job as a consumer consultant was cut by the federal government.

In 1982, Renner accompanied a friend to the School For Movement Theater in Philadelphia. He trained and studied under a Russian clown, an Italian Commedia D'el Arte teacher and an American Juggler. He also performed in the street in several cities nearby.

While he was at the school, Renner was invited by Steve Harris to join the Kansas City based "MIMEWOCK" company of performing artists. Renner stayed with the company for several years before venturing out on his own with his one-man show.

Throughout his career, Renner has continued to study under professionals in the field. He has attended Marcel Marceau's pantomime school in Michigan and spent three months in Mexico at an experimental mime theater school.

One of the reasons Renner ventured down the acting and clowning path was his love for laughter and silent movies. Some of Renner's favorite performer's include W.C. Fields, Harry Langdon, and Buster Keaton. Renner is quick to point out how few of the Vaudeville acts were successfully recorded on film and only survive through live performance. Renner combines the lessons learned from old masters and his modern training into another form of comedy. "It has been called New Vaudeville, the old stuff in a new century" Renner said.

Post Performance Activities:

1. Reconstruct a model of a landfill.

- Give each student a durable clear cup, a spoon, a baggie with two graham crackers, a baggie with three Oreos, and a baggie of green coconut.
- Allow students to crush the graham crackers and Oreos.
- Layer the ingredients from the bottom up.

Licorice pipes- represent monitoring wells Coconut, colored green- represents ground cover/grass Oreo crumbs- represent dirt cover Vanilla pudding with chocolate chips- represents garbage Graham cracker crumbs- represent gravel Fruit roll-ups- represent the plastic liner(cut in pieces first) Graham cracker crust- represents a clay liner Bottom of cup- represents solid ground

- Explain the purpose of each layer as you go along

2. Analyze the contents from a day's worth of kitchen garbage.

- Place a tablecloth on the floor and organize the students around its perimeter.
- Display the contents from the garbage can.
- Sort the trash and place it on the tablecloth in the appropriate spot.

3. Collect the garbage each student uses for a predetermined amount of time(two days is suggested).

- Provide each student with a plastic garbage bag.
- Instruct students to place all of the garbage they would throw away into the bag.

Discuss any guidelines you wish to impose. Consider asking them to carry the bag with them wherever they go.

- Provide scales to weigh the garbage.