

Rep Season, 2009-10

How Vulture Saved the Earth

A Yoruba poem adapted for the stage by Nefertiti Burton

In this ancient tale told by the Yoruba people of Nigeria, a young vulture sacrifices her own comfort and security to save the creatures of the earth.

This play is suitable for elementary schools. The play runs about 25 minutes and will be followed by a talk-back with the actors. Teachers should read the study guide in advance of the performance to become familiar with Yoruba vocabulary and some aspects of the culture.

The Seven Labors of Arlecchino

A folk tale adapted and directed by James Tompkins

Our hero Arlecchino has to earn money for himself and his mother just to stay alive. A farmer in a neighboring town hires him. But the unusual form of payment, Arlecchino's lack of experience and his innocence result in him losing the wages in a series of hilarious mishaps. On Arlecchino's last trip home he finally saves the day and earns more than he needs. Song, satire, modern references and slapstick—the stuff of Commedia whose roots go back to the comedies of ancient Greece—all combine in this old tale that recaptures traditions that are still alive in the works of Charlie Chaplin, The Marks Brothers, The Three Stooges and Eddie Murphy.

Each performance runs about thirty minute and is followed by a talkback with the actors.