

# SONGS OF THE SEASON

MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

## HOLIDAY DATES!

Based upon the Islamic lunar calendar, this holiday moves up 11 days each year:  
Eid al-Adha

December 13  
St. Lucia Day

December 16-24  
Los Posadas

December 20, 21, 22 or 23  
Winter Solstice

December 25  
Christmas

December 26-January 1  
Kwanzaa

January 1  
New Years

January 13  
Lohri Festival

January 21- February 20  
Chinese New Year

## ✧ About the Show ✧

Around the world show travels around winter seems to bring out the very best in the various holiday and family traditions that each culture celebrates. Often these very different holidays and festivals all seem to share the same traditional elements and purpose--to bring light and hope to the bleakest of times of the year. As our

show travels around the world the young audience will have an opportunity to experience the stories and songs from some of the following holidays: *Hannukah*, *Christmas*, *Kwanzaa*, *Los Posadas*, *Eid Al Adha*, *Solstice*, *Lohri Festival*, *Chinese New Years* and *New Years!*



## Holiday Spotlight: Santa Lucia Day

This festival of lights is celebrated on December 13th in Sweden, Norway and Swedish-speaking areas of Finland. The festival begins with a procession led by the elected St. Lucia--chosen to represent the town. The festival marks the beginning of the Christmas season in Scandinavia. It's traditions are meant to bring light and hope to the darkest time of the year. In the show, our actors sing the traditional song, *Sankta Lucia*. One tradition of the holiday is to have the eldest daughter serve coffee and baked goods to other members of the family.



## Holiday Spotlight: Chinese New Year

This 15 day festival is also known as Spring Festival. Traditionally New Year falls on the new moon between 21 January and 20th of February. The holiday is marked by all kinds of

traditions like: Cleaning the house out of ill-fortune, decorate the windows and doors with red paper cut-outs, light firecrackers and more.



Chinese Dragons represent China and are thought to bring good luck to the community. In parades and dances, the longer the dragon the more luck that will be bestowed upon it's citizens. In our show the actors are singing a Chinese New Year Song.



# Holiday Spotlights!

## CHRISTMAS

This Christian celebration translates to Christ's Mass and is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. Celebrants of this festival may decorate their homes with trees, lights, nativity scenes, garland and so much more. Gifts are often exchanged on

Christmas Day (December 25) or Christmas Eve (December 24). This holiday dates to around 354 AD. Santa Claus, caroling, the exchange of Christmas cards are all traditions from this holiday. There are many foods also linked to this festival including: Eggnog, Stollen, peppermint candy canes and more!



## EID AL-ADHA

This is the second of two Muslim holidays celebrated worldwide each year. This festival honors Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to God before the angel Gabriel. It's a time when people dress up in their finest clothing. As part of the festival an animal is sacrificed with 1/3 of the meat going to the family, 1/3 is given to friends and relatives and 1/3 to the needy. This holiday moves 11 days up each year!

## LOHRI

This popular Punjabi festival is celebrated every January 13th. It's a festival of to worship fire. Lohri festivals are marked by traditional songs and dances, lavish dinners and the day ends with prayers for a good harvest. Lohri is the main festival of the Punjab state in India. Fresh flowers, cards, chocolates and cakes are all exchanged!



## SOLSTICE

This holiday coincides with the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. It's also known as Yule. This holiday is marked by spending time with family and friends, feasting, singing, dancing and fires. It can be traced back to pagan Scandinavian and Germanic people and their 12-day midwinter holiday. It eventually was integrated into Christmas.

## KWANZAA

Founded in 1966, Kwanzaa is a week long celebration in the United States honoring African-American Culture and heritage. It celebrates 7 principles: Unity, Self-Determination, Work and Responsibility, Economics, Purpose, Creativity & Faith. It's celebrated by around 4.7 million Americans across the country!



# FUN HOLIDAY FACTS!

A Christmas Tree is also known as the Yule-Tree.

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In Ancient Rome, celebrating Winter Solstice meant that for one day, criminals were not punished.

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The Lori festival is celebrated in India & Pakistan.

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When celebrating Las Posadas in Mexico, people go around door to door pretending to find a place for Mary & Joseph to stay the night.

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The Hebrew sounds in the word Hanukkah cannot be duplicated by the english language.

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In the 18th Century, Christmas tree were decorated with candles.

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Kwanzaa is mainly celebrated in the United States.

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3 towns in the U.S. are named Santa Claus. They are in 3 different states: Georgia, Arizona, and Indiana.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chinese New Year is also called Spring Festival because it represents the start of Spring.

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St. Lucia is the patron saint of light.



## Classroom Discussions:

1. (Grades PreK-2) What is your favorite holiday and why?
2. (Grades K-2) What is the best gift you've ever received? The best gift you've ever given?
3. (Grades K-2) What holidays does your family celebrate every year? Do you celebrate anything at home? What are your family traditions?
4. (Grades 2-4) If you could create a brand new holiday, what would it be called? Why would it be celebrated? What date(s) would you celebrate it?
5. (Grades 3-5) What exactly is a tradition? What does a tradition have to do with holidays? Why do you think traditions are important to people and their families?
6. (Grades 3-5) Where do holidays come from?
7. (Grades 4-5) Every cultural seems to have holidays they celebrate. Why do you think holidays exist? Why are they important to different cultures?
8. (Grades 4-5) Did you learn about any new holidays in the play? Was there a holiday you learned about that you found interesting? Is there a holiday you wish you celebrated?

## Holiday Spotlight:

### LAS POSADAS!

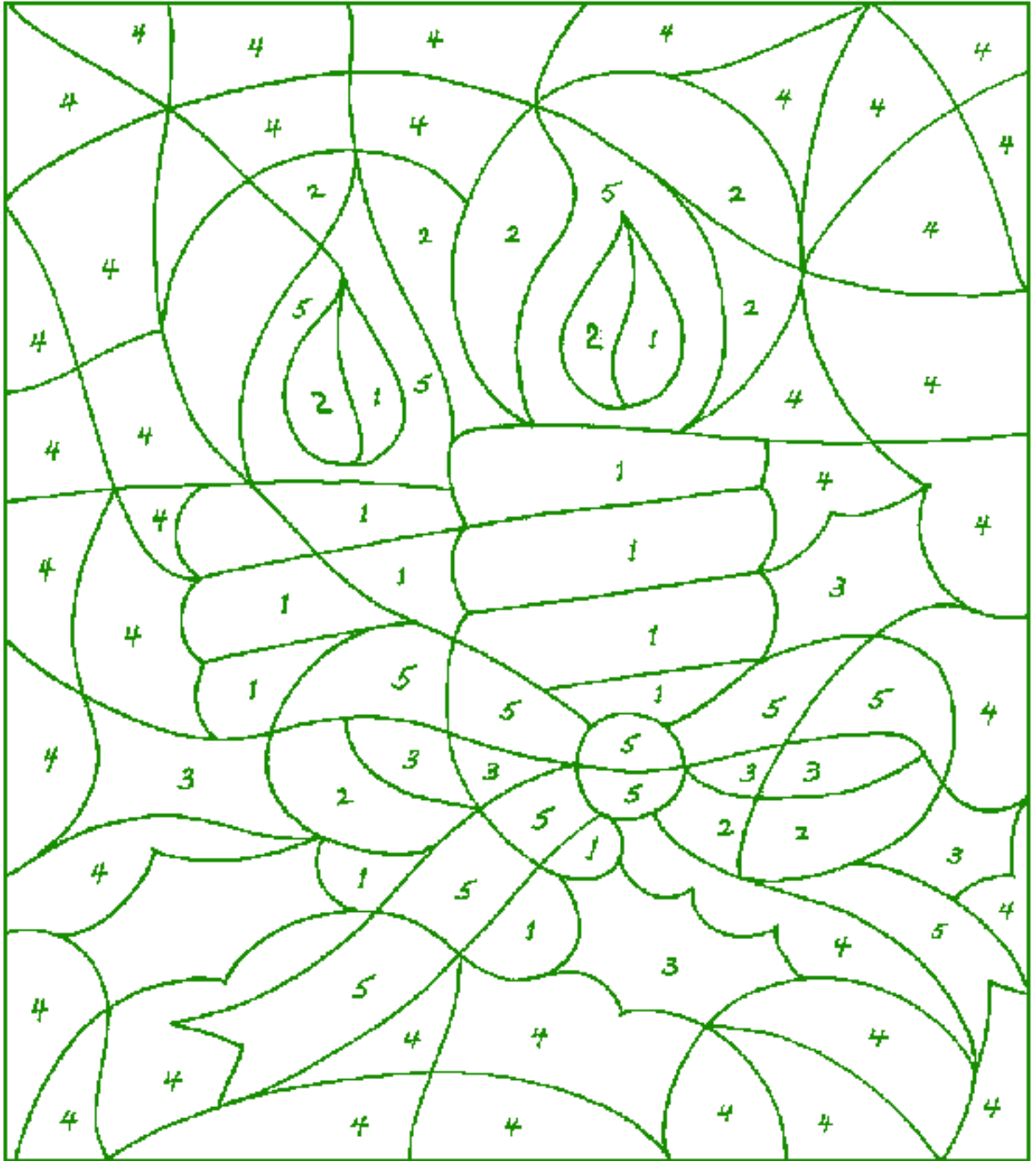
In Mexico from December 16th to December 24th, Mexican families celebrate a holiday called Las Posadas. Las Posadas means lodging or accommodation in Spanish.

During these 9 days, Mexican families participate in nightly Christmas recreation of the Holy Pilgrimage of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus on their way to Bethlehem.

The holiday lasts 9 days because there is one day dedicated to every month of pregnancy. What is your



**Color by Numbers St. Lucia's**



**1=Orange 2=Yellow 3=Green 4=Blue 5=Red**



## Write your own review!

Reviews are a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review:

*Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

## Before, During and After the Play...



### YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

**Where to start:** All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

**In School!** Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

**In Your Community!** Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

**Start Something!** If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

**At Home!** Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

**Try new things and do your best at them!** There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!



### BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
2. If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
3. The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
4. Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
5. If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
6. Have fun! Enjoy yourself!



### After seeing the Play...

**Write your own review of the play! A review is a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review.**

*What was your favorite part? Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!*

## FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost

light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named

Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by

many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever! In theatre, it's considered bad

luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a



**A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!**

...  
THEATRE VOCABULARY!

**Actor:** The people on-stage performing the play.

**Backdrop:** The background for the play.

**Props:** Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

**Downstage:** the area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.



**Upstage:** The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

**Director:** The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

# Everything about the

## Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?
2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.
3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.
4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.
5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.
6. We toured Moscow with performances of our Aesop's Fables.
7. We're based in Asheville, NC.

### ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to Moscow and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

**Costumes:** The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.



**Auditions:** How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

**Set Designer:** The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

### The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about? What did you like about being involved in a live performance?

### BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

### HOLIDAY SONGS: MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Created by Bright Star Touring Theatre-Lead Authorship carried out by David Ostergaard, All Rights Reserved. Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

[www.brightstartheatre.com](http://www.brightstartheatre.com)

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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