

CONNECTION

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Valentine Facts



Valentine's Day is celebrated annually on February 14th and is a holiday honoring Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr, who lived in the Roman Empire. It is a day for people to express their love and affection for one another, typically through the exchange of gifts, cards, and flowers.

Here are some interesting facts about Valentine's Day:

- Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.
- Lovebirds are actual birds. If you don't believe us, check out the "Staff Pets" page in this magazine.
- Saint Valentine is the saint of more than just lovers. Whoever St. Valentine was, he's got a wide purview in the afterlife. In addition to watching over love and happy marriages, he's also the patron saint of beekeepers, fainting, travelers, and people with epilepsy.
- In the Middle Ages, young men and women would draw names from a bowl to see who their Valentine would be. They would then wear the name pinned to their sleeve for one week, to show everyone their love for this random person.
- The oldest known Valentine still in existence today was a poem written in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt.
- Teachers are the number one recipient of Valentines.
- According to the Guinness World Records the largest Valentine's Day card collection contains over 950,000 cards.
- In Japan, Valentine's Day is a day when women give gifts, usually chocolate, to men. A month later, on White Day, men return the favor.



Happy Valentine's Day!



Did you know that candy hearts weren't available in 2019?

In 2018, candy heart manufacturer Necco declared bankruptcy, forcing the company to close its original plant and sell off its candy brands. Spangler Candy Company ended up acquiring the rights to Sweethearts, and after setting up production in a new plant, Sweethearts returned to shelves in 2020. They had some equipment problems, but luckily Spangler had worked out the kinks and Sweethearts were back!





CH&S February Birthdays



2/2 Jenet
2/17 Andrew M.
2/18 Linda



FEBRUARY 2023 NATIONAL DAYS

Black History Month
American Heart Month



by Jennifer

- 2/1 - National Serpent Day and **National Dark Chocolate Day**
- 2/2 - **Groundhog Day**
- 2/3 - **Feed the Birds Day**
- 2/4 - Thank a Mail Carrier Day
- 2/5 - **Super Bowl Sunday**
- 2/6 - **National Chopstick Day**
- 2/7 - National Send a Card to a Friend Day
- 2/9 - **National Bagel and Lox Day** and National Pizza Day
- 2/11 - Global Movie Day
- 2/14 - **Valentines Day**
- 2/17 - Random Acts of Kindness Day
- 2/20 - **Presidents Day - HOLIDAY**
- 2/21 - Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras
- 2/22 - Ash Wednesday
- 2/23 - National Banana Bread Day
- 2/25 - National Clam Chowder Day
- 2/27 - Retro Day
- 2/28 - National Floral Design Day



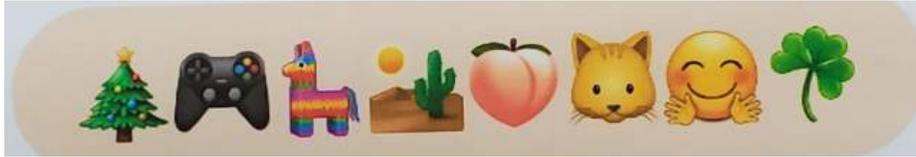
Emoji Stories

with Darnell

We had fun making up stories about a random string of emojis. Here is a bunch, enjoy!

A Lucky Guy

By Nino Gaetani



Under the Christmas tree was the game controller Nino wanted for Christmas! He was so happy! Nino went to visit his friend in the desert, who promised to have a piñata full of peaches. Nino loved his cat named Meow-Meow, and felt very lucky.

Fried Food for Dinner

by Connor Ritchie



Connor likes to say, "Stop to smell the roses." There was crab for dinner, but Connor said, "no thank you." He walked away and straight into a spider's web. Yuck! He saw some cherries, which he doesn't like either, so Connor was still hungry. There was a palm tree, and past that, a gondola, which he rode. He joined a game of spades with a guy who was wearing a kimono. Connor won a bunch of money which he used to buy fried food for dinner

A Mermaid's Tale

by Cat Berry



There was a man who looked all over the world for a beautiful mermaid named Cat. The man spoke to a wizard who had a spell for him, but he needed lemons. While searching for lemons, he only had bread to eat. Then the man found a small hut, where Cat was living! They opened an amusement park together, with a ferris wheel, and of course, a water slide. They won a contest for the best amusement park in the world!

More Emoji Stories

with Darnell

Camping Trip

by Aidan Boers



Aiden felt like a mushroom, not an onion that day, so he was happy he found mushrooms growing around the tent where he was camping. Aiden took his scooter there each weekend and he felt nice because he had just given his friend a sparkly diamond birthday present. Next, Aiden decided that he would learn to play the trumpet. He got special gloves so that he wouldn't smudge his shiny new trumpet and for luck he tossed some salt over his right shoulder. Aiden played his trumpet for a family of raccoons as he stood by his tent.

A Party

by Iris Linssen



Iris needed a dress for a New Year's Eve party, so she walked past a volcano and asked the Monkey of the Volcano for a pretty dress. In return, Iris gave him an apple and said, "please." Of course, her cat Sweetie Pie was her New Year's Eve date, and Iris brought some yummy maple treats, since the party was thrown by her Canadian friend.

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Staff Pets

To practice social skills, sometimes Cindy and Jonas survey staff members on a variety of topics. This survey asked the question, "Have you ever had a pet that was *not* a cat or a dog?"



- Jehann - A bunny
- Melissa - A rabbit and fish
- Harold - A turtle and a cockatoo that sang the Pee Wee Herman theme song ("Tequila") at 5 am, *every morning*.
- Chris - A ball python named Gallagher (he turned out to be a girl)
- Joe - A rat, bird, turtle and chickens.
- Russell - Hamsters
- Jennifer - A tarantula found in the wild (backyard), hermit crabs, hamsters, fish, and turtles.
- Rebecca - Hamsters, ducks, chickens, horses, a turtle, and goats.
- Chas - A parakeet (his favorite), a duck (who followed him to school one day), an iguana and goldfish. (His kids had rats, hamsters, and rabbits.)
- Carolyn - Two bearded dragons (one with four legs and one with three legs), bunnies, and a mouse.
- Zayde - Lovebirds
- Rickina - Silver dollar turtles



Happy Valentine's Day



B A F L O W E R S E
Z D R K H U G Q E V
Y U I X M M Q T V A
Q D E P O C A B S L
R W N X U L V M E E
O E D A O C L R S N
H P S C C K O D O T
K A O P F B V E R I
N H A I Q G E P E N
C T R A E H J F A E



LOVE	CUPID
CHOCOLATE	HUG
CANDY	FLOWERS
VALENTINE	HEART
FRIENDS	ROSES

FROM:

<https://creativitiesgalore.com/2016/02/free-valentines-day-word-search/>

Valentine Jokes

Q: What did the chef give to his wife on Valentine's Day?

A: A hug and a quiche.

Q: What did one blueberry say to the other on Valentine's Day?

A: "I love you berry much."

Chuck E. Cheese

by Joe



Chuck E. Cheese, which some of us may remember being called “Chuck E. Cheese’s”, is an American restaurant/arcade chain. The first Chuck E. Cheese location was opened in San Jose in 1977 under the name “Chuck E. Cheese’s Pizza Time Theater”. The chain’s old slogan “where a kid can be a kid” couldn’t be more true; from the selection of games, to the cuisine, to the dinner entertainment, it’s truly a place for youthful fun.

Bert is one of Chuck E. Cheese's biggest fans; we worked together to assemble this article, which is part of a larger knowledge class available at Community Homes & Services.

The Characters

One of Chuck E. Cheese’s early main attractions were its animatronic shows. These shows, which feature the characters from the Chuck E. Cheese universe singing, dancing, and generally having a good time, were a signature of the restaurant. The original animatronics used when the first location opened in 1977 were singing busts of the characters Crusty the Cat, Pasqually the Singing Chef, Jasper T. Jowls, The Warblettes, and Chuck himself. As time went on more characters were added to the show in the form of “cabaret” performances in other rooms of the restaurant. Below are some of our favorite Chuck E. Cheese characters:

Chuck E. Cheese

The original! He’s undergone several aesthetic changes in his 46 years: Chuck E. started life as a cigar smoking rat from New Jersey, then he transitioned into a friendlier skateboarding rat in the 90s, and finally he landed on the a rock and roll mouse we know today. He’s now the lead guitarist in Munch’s Make Believe Band.

Helen Henny

Modeled after the Australian singer Hellen Reddy, Hellen Henny is a singing chicken who’s been delighting the crowds at Chuck E. Cheese since the early 90s. She was originally designed as a Broadway diva-type, but she took on the look of a rock and roller when the rest of Munch’s Make Believe Band did.

Mr. Munch

Mr. Munch is a purple monster from Planet Purple. How did he get here? It’s unclear. What does he want? To rock! He leads Munch’s Make Believe Band, where he makes use of the microphone and the captive audience to express his feelings toward pizza (he likes it), and his plans after the show (eating pizza).

Food and Games at Chuck E. Cheese

Jasper T. Jowls

Nashville's own Jasper T. Jowls is a multi-instrumentalist and dog. Originally he played the banjo, but since 1990 he's been the lead guitarist for Munch's Make Believe Band. He also dabbles in bass.

Madame Oink

Little is known about Madame Oink's background. She made her debut in a 1978 showtape, and appeared in several more between then and 1983. She speaks with a French accent and winks to the crowd when somebody tells a joke.

Pasqually P. Pieplate

Who's cooking all the pizza at Chuck E. Cheese, anyway? Pasqually is. Even though he's got the big job running the pizza making operations at the restaurant, he still finds time to play drums in Munch's Make Believe Band. His name is an intentional misspelling of the name Pasquale.

The Food

Pizza. It's all about the pizza: "I chose pizza because of the wait time and the build schedule—very few components, and not too many ways to screw it up." said the company's founder Nolan Bushnell in 2013. But pizza isn't all Chuck E. Cheese has to offer. They now have deli sandwiches, buffalo wings, a salad bar, french fries, cheesy bread, birthday cakes, unicorn churros, giant cookies, Dippin' Dots, and by now, probably some other stuff.

The Games

Close your eyes and imagine the inside of a Chuck E. Cheese. What do you see? Bert and I see skee ball machines, basketball and football games, a ball pit, air hockey, whack-a-mole, and arcade games - all spewing unending streams of tickets. The games might be Chuck E. Cheese's ultimate draw. The cacophony, the flashing lights, the excitement of winning, the momentary despair after losing, all of these things give Chuck E. Cheese its distinct ambiance. It's a room filled with kids being kids.



What is Chuck E. Cheese's Middle Name?

Fun Facts

- Chuck E. Cheese's full name is Charles Entertainment Cheese.
- The founder of Chuck E. Cheese, Nolan Bushnell, also founded Atari.
- The original mascot was supposed to be a coyote, but a rat costume was purchased by accident. Bushnell decided to go with it, and suggested changing the first restaurant's name from "Coyote Pizza" to "Rick Rat's Pizza". The marketing team was not so sure, so they went with "Chuck E. Cheese" instead.
- Chuck was kept a rat until 2012, when somebody decided mice are a little more palatable in a restaurant setting.
- The restaurant now serves gluten-free pizza. Hey, that's something!



Meet New Instructor Rebecca



Let's welcome our new instructor! Rebecca was born in San Francisco and has two children, Angelo who is 11 years old and daughter Itzel (who prefers to be called "Kevin"), she is 5 years old.

Rebecca tells us that her favorite color is purple and she has many pets: Two horses (male) and one mare (female horse), three goats, a turtle, and a dog.

Rebecca enjoys spending time at the ranch in Martinez with her family. Rebecca says, "I am very happy and honored to be part of the CH&S family!"





Heart Health



There are several things you can do to maintain good heart health, especially during Heart Health Month:

1. **Eat a healthy, balanced diet** that is low in saturated and trans fats, cholesterol, salt, and added sugars.
2. **Exercise regularly.** According to the CDC, adults (18-64 years of age) should aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity. Yes, we realize that is over two hours, but it's a goal, something to strive for and occasionally achieve.
3. **Maintain a healthy weight.** Being overweight or obese increases your risk of heart disease.
4. **Don't smoke or use tobacco products.** Smoking is a major cause of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and causes one of every four deaths from CVD. Smoking can: Raise triglycerides (a type of fat in your blood), lower "good" cholesterol (HDL), and increase the buildup of plaque (fat, cholesterol, calcium, and other substances) in blood vessels.
5. **Limit your alcohol intake.**
6. **Manage stress.** Stress can raise your blood pressure and contribute to heart disease.
7. **Get enough sleep.** Lack of sleep has been linked to an increased risk of heart disease.
8. **Spend quality time with loved ones.** Check out Cat, Iris, and Nino toasting marshmallows (left), and practice self-care.



Class Highlights

by Jennifer



*We are aware that is not a football

In philosophy, Bruce posed the question: "If you weren't human, what would you be?" Bruce himself would choose to be a raptor. Zachary would be a velociraptor. Nino would be a dog, as would Devlin, who would specifically be his dog, Romeo Mike, who has it pretty good sleeping all day. Martha would be an owl. Connor and Andrew both chose birds. Cat would be a giraffe. Iris would be a cougar. Carolyn would be a unicorn, and Colleen would be a mermaid. Elsewhere in the sea, Pam would be a dolphin, James would be a jellyfish, and Darnell would be the ocean. Chas, after long and careful thought, would be God.

In Sports Talk, Chas and the sporty students got to talking about mascots, specifically who would win if the football game was played by the mascots! The NCAA Championship between actual bulldogs and horned toads, a unanimous victory went to the bulldogs.* (Turns out, we predicted the winner!)

Snakes in a class: In honor of National Serpent Day February 1st, we are putting together a knowledge class about snakes. There are over 3,000 species of snakes, ranging in all different sizes. The world's smallest snake, the Barbados thread snake, is smaller than a nightcrawler, just under 4", while the longest snake, the reticulated python, measures as long as 20 feet! The heaviest snake on record is the green anaconda, clocking in at a whopping 550 pounds!

Iris is our resident snake expert, having lived on a game preserve in Africa. As far as we know, Iris boasts the only PPP in CH&S history with snakes in it—her Positive Personal Profile contains black mambas, boomslangs and cobras, not to mention monkeys and crocodiles and hippos (oh my!)

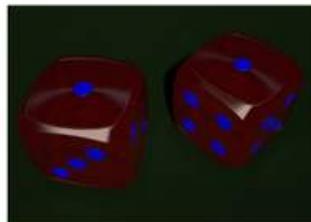
A funny snake saying, uttered by many a mom: If it was a snake, it would have bit you! Snake references: rolling snake eyes, snake oil salesman, plumbers snake, snakes and ladders.

New Literary Circle Book + Bagel Bookmarks!



Guess the Snake Movie Quotes:

1. "There's a snake in my boot!"
2. "Snakes... Why'd it have to be snakes?"
3. "I'm tired of these !@#\$\$%^ snakes on this !@#\$\$%^ plane!"



Class Highlights continued



I see two turtle doves

Half of Iris, Connor, Nino, Martha, and Andrew show off their snake chains.

Movie Quote Answers:

- 1) Toy Story
- 2) Indiana Jones Raiders of the Lost Ark
- 3) Snakes on a Plane

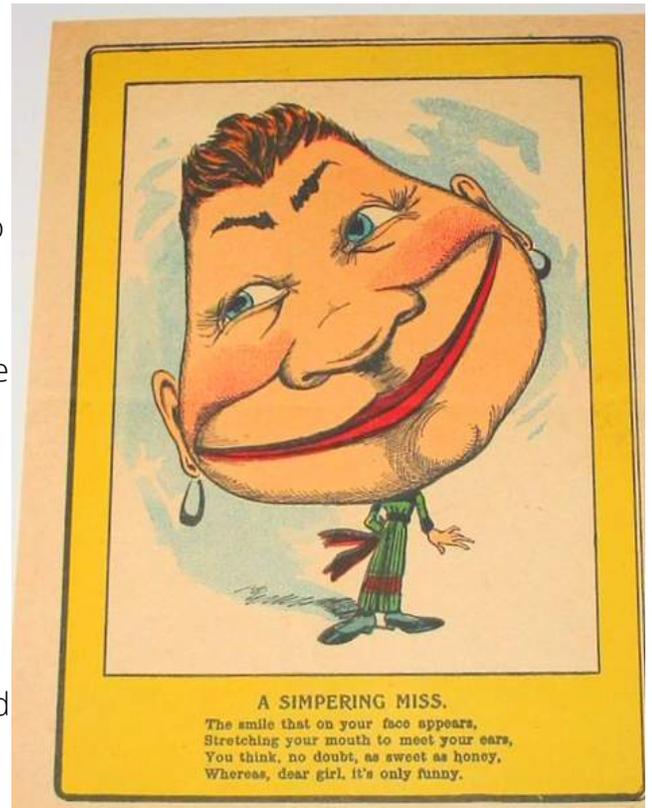


Vinegar Valentines

A lampoon of Valentine's Day cards, the unflattering Vinegar Valentines enjoyed a century of popularity beginning in the 1840s, during the Victorian era.

They were often sent anonymously, and were intended to mock the recipient. The cards usually featured sarcastic messages, and were often illustrated with cartoonish images. They were particularly popular in England and the United States.

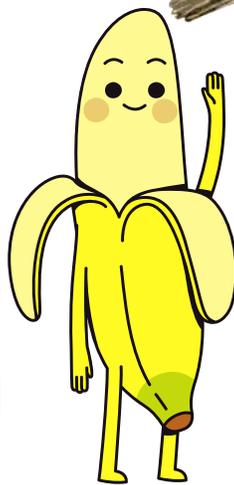
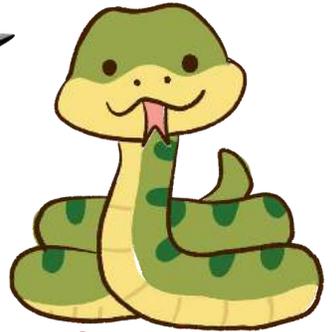
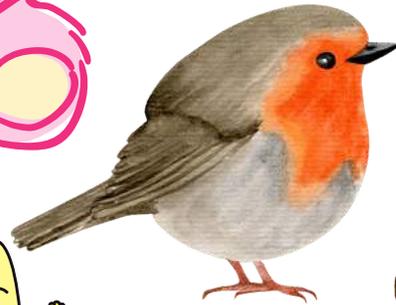
Vinegar Valentines often featured caricatures of men like the "Dude" or women like the "Floozy." One reason they rapidly became popular was because literacy rates were increasing at that time among the poor and working classes who rarely had much more than a penny to spend on such luxuries. The trend of sending these Vinegar Valentines died down by the early 20th century, thank goodness!



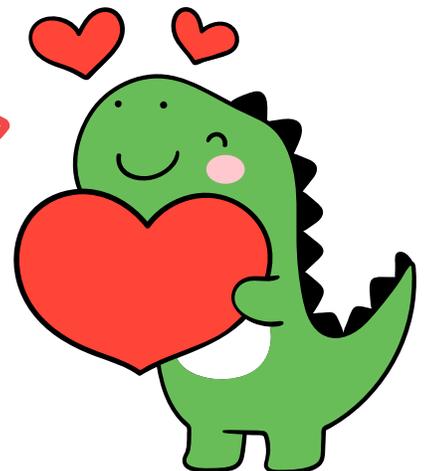
A SIMPERING MISS.

The smile that on your face appears,
Stretching your mouth to meet your ears,
You think, no doubt, as sweet as honey,
Whereas, dear girl, it's only funny.

Valentine Clip Art



love
HAPPY
Valentines
DAY



Andrew's Corner

The History Of Tom And Jerry

An original idea for Tom and Jerry was for them to be a dog and a fox before settling on a cat and a mouse. Tom is the cat and Jerry is the mouse. Tom and Jerry was originally called Jasper and Jinx. Tom and Jerry were named after a popular Christmas time cocktail which was itself named after two characters in the 1800s stage play called Tom and Jerry, or Life in London.



The creators of Tom and Jerry, William Hanna and Joseph Barbera, went on to create their own animation studio called Hanna-Barbera, which has created famous cartoons like Yogi Bear, Flintstones and Scooby Doo. The Tom and Jerry series has had 13 direct to video films, 2 theatrical films and 5 tv shows. Simon and Garfunkel billed themselves as Tom and Jerry when they first started out. Other cartoons that have followed Tom and Jerry's formula of an animal vs another animal are the Looney Tunes characters Wile E. Coyote and The Roadrunner, which is a coyote vs a roadrunner, and Sylvester and Tweety, which has a cat but instead of a mouse it is a bird. The Itchy and Scratchy Show on the Simpsons is a parody of Tom and Jerry.



:Mmzaa794. Photo taken near here
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The studio that originally distributed the Tom and Jerry cartoons was Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. A funny intro gag for the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer shorts has Tom replacing the studio's lion mascot's roar with his normal meowing. The bulldog characters Spike and Tyke have had their own spinoff short series which had only two shorts. Tom and Jerry have had crossovers with Jonny Quest, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Wizard of Oz, Sherlock Holmes and Robin Hood. Tom and Jerry have made special guest appearances in the MGM musical films Anchors Aweigh and Dangerous When Wet. I like Tom and Jerry because the jokes are really funny.

Bio: Andrew Newson is a student at Life College and is 23 years old. He likes comic books, video games, hiking, exploring new places with his mom.... and babies. He is an authority in all things Star Wars, Star Trek and great places to go in the Bay Area. He is currently learning Mandarin and loves to research and learn new things.

Fat Tuesday is February 21st



Mardi Gras, also known as "Fat Tuesday," is celebrated the day before Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent in the Christian calendar. The origins of Mardi Gras can be traced back to ancient Roman pagan celebrations, such as Saturnalia and Lupercalia, which were celebrated around the same time of year. In the Middle Ages, European Christians drank and chowed down before the start of the 40-day period of fasting and penitence that begins on Ash Wednesday which is why they call it "Fat Tuesday." Mardi Gras is generally associated with the city of New Orleans where it has been celebrated since the early 18th century.



New Class Alert!

by Jennifer

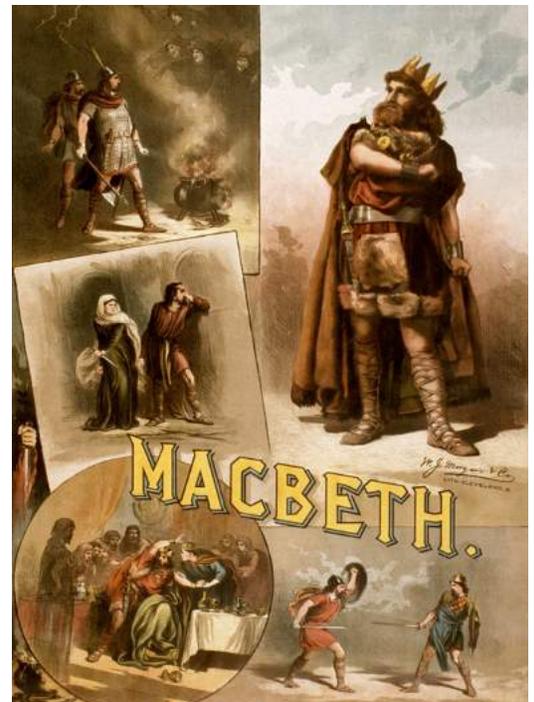
We have a new drama class on our schedules, and it's been fun exploring brand new subject matter. Because most topics can be a gateway to art projects, we crafted two fun and colorful crafts in the first sessions: a flipbook of drama definitions, and a stage direction directory, complete with red curtains and seats for the audience. (Here is Yvette in action, adding some sparkle to her curtains!)

Very Superstitious...

Did you know that theater folks are a very superstitious bunch? We learned about the many, many superstitions of the theater, and here are our faves.

Learn Those Lines: Sleeping with your script under your pillow is thought to help you memorize your lines. We're skeptics when it comes to learning by osmosis, but perhaps a future science class could confirm whether this works or not.

"The Scottish Play" Never say Macbeth inside a theater, it's bad luck for the entire production. If you absolutely must make mention of Macbeth, refer to it as "The Scottish Play". There are several theories about how this came about, but the one we liked the best comes from a particularly competitive time for live theater. The story goes that if a show wasn't doing well at the box office, and really raking in the money, it would be canceled early and another show, a proven money maker, would be brought in. Shakespeare's Macbeth, with its sword fights and juicy drama, was always a hit, and would often be the replacement play. So uttering the word "Macbeth" might jinx the production to fail, and "The Scottish Play" to take its place. There are several remedies if someone accidentally says Macbeth, most involving spitting over your shoulder, which, in times of Covid, we are hoping no one practices.



More Superstitions

“Break a Leg!” It’s bad luck to say “Good Luck!” to an actor before a performance. No one is actually hoping an actor breaks a leg during a performance—they really are wishing you well. Break a leg may have come from vaudeville days, when there were more actors than paying parts. A line would form behind the “leg line” in the wings, and those who didn’t make it past and onto the stage wouldn’t get paid. Break a leg might refer to breaking past the leg line, and getting a paying gig.



No whistling! Whistling backstage is supposed to be bad luck, and this one seems to have pretty practical origins. Back in the days before walkie talkies and in-ear comms, stage directors and backstage crew would often have signals for set changes, including whistles. So if someone was whistling a little ditty and a stagehand thought it was his cue to drop a big heavy backdrop, it might land right on top of someone by mistake. Other particularly practical superstitions we read about include no mirrors, real money or real jewelry on stage. Mirrors might reflect lighting in weird ways, or the audience might see themselves and be taken out of the mystique of the play. And the practice of not having real money or jewelry probably prevents prop table thievery.



Flower Power: It’s a nice gesture to present an actor with flowers after you’ve enjoyed their performance. But if you give them flowers before they’ve given that performance, you might jinx them to have a bad show. One macabre tradition is to give the director flowers from a graveyard after the final performance, to commemorate the “death” of the production. One theory about the origin of this tradition involves how broke theater folks tend to be—maybe swiping dead flowers from a cemetery was better than not bringing flowers at all, and the tradition stuck. These days, it’s frowned upon to grave rob, but an article we read suggested buying flowers well ahead of the final night of the show and allowing them to rot and dry naturally for that fresh-plucked-from-the-grave look.



Ghostly Goings On: It’s good luck to leave a “ghost light” on when the theater is empty at night. (Usually down stage, center, see Yvette’s stage directions, on the previous page) Theaters are prime locations for hauntings, and the living who love the theater pay their respect to the dead by keeping a light on. From a practical standpoint, keeping a light on at the edge of the stage makes a lot of sense to us! Another ghostly superstition is to leave a seat open for the theater spirits during every show. Again, this seems to be a nice gesture, the added benefit being, if they’re sitting in the audience enjoying the show, ghosts won’t be backstage or onstage causing any havoc. Win win!



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