



HAVANA HOP

a children's tale of culture and originality

written and performed by
paige hernandez

HAVANA HOP!

Written and performed by Paige Hernandez|| With Original music by Nick tha 1da
Developed by the Wolftrap Institute for Early learning through the Arts|| Ages 2-10



What if you were invited to dance for the President? You'd want it to be the best dance ever!

Come meet Yelia who visits her grandmother in Cuba to add a salsa flavor to her own hip-hop style!

The audience gets to dance along in this dynamic participation play where one actress creates three generations of lively women.

Journey with Yelia as she discovers the fun of her multi-cultural heritage!

Havana Hop was developed in 2008 after President Obama was inaugurated for his first term. It has since toured the country to various elementary schools in Texas, California, North Dakota, Washington DC, Virginia and Maryland. In the past, the performance is always paired with a one-week residency in early childhood classrooms.



ABOUT PAIGE

Paige is a multifaceted artist, who is known for her innovative fusion of poetry, hip hop, dance and education. She has performed on many stages throughout the country including Arena Stage, Folger Theatre, The Kennedy Center, Fulton Theatre, Manship Theatre, Cleveland Playhouse and many others. Her fans and supporters include the Obama children, U.S. Secretary of State, Timothy Geithner and the Huffington Post, who recently named her a "classroom hero". With her company B-FLY ENTERTAINMENT, Paige has toured her children's show *Havana Hop* and her one woman show, *Paige in Full: A B-girl's Visual Mixtape* throughout the country.

www.paigehernandez.com www.paigeinfull.com

"cultura y tradicion...it's the reason we're living" !- Yeila

INSPIRATION

"My inspiration as a performer comes from my multicultural background. It's important for me to acknowledge every aspect of my identity and not just one facet. Keeping this in mind, I created Havana Hop, a story that takes a young girl's passion and fuses it with culture and family history. I play different characters using props, music, dance and costumes. I hope that by the end of the performance, the audience will see that the differences that divide us can only make us more well rounded if we accept them. Anything is possible when you listen to your grandmother and keep an open mind!"- Paige Hernandez



PRAISE FOR HAVANA HOP

ENERGY

"The students can really relate to Paige and her infectious energy".- J. Johnson, TX

"The interaction is so much fun! I won't forget our trip to her Grandmother's house"! – T. Hoy VA

"The music is a blast! It was hard to keep the students from dancing"! J. Gladmoore, CA



IMPACT

"Wow. *Havana Hop* used theatre, dance, music, and visual arts all in a way that was age appropriate". – N. Diaz, CA

"Brava to Paige, who took her grandmother's illness and turned it into something inspirational and magical. The students sympathized with her story and were touched by her compassion". L. Knight, CA

"Paige's performance was one of the best I have ever seen! It was well worth it". – C. Alvarez, MD

CULTURE

"It was great to see a show for children that speaks to the many facets of women of color".

-K. Muldon, DC

"I love that everyone leaves this performance knowing how to salsa"!

-A. Kerry, ND

"My students remembered every detail of Paige's performance".

K. Kumar, DC

"*Havana Hop* was a true delight... one of the best school assemblies we've had in a long time".

-H. Dower, VA

CONNECTIONS FOR FAMILIES AND STUDENTS

Before the performance

There are several components of the story such as hip-hop movement, sign language, and key Spanish words. The audience will also take an imaginary journey to Cuba, where they can smell, hear, touch, and feel things that are authentic to the culture. A good story for the teacher to read beforehand is *Martina the Beautiful Cockroach* by Carmen Agra Deedy, which introduces Cuban morals, values, and families. The audience can also discuss their own families including different members' physical characteristics, favorite foods, and likes/dislikes.



After the Performance

As a follow-up, teachers or parents can ask:

- How many characters were there?
- What did you hear? Identify the different types of music.
- Costumes played a special role. How did each character wear the scarf? How did the scarf make each character look different?
- What do you think the red flower represents for Yeila?
- What would you do if you had to perform for the President?
- What could you incorporate from your family's history to enhance your performance?
- Have you ever disagreed with your mother or grandmother before? Did you learn something from that experience?
- What is something you have learned from your grandmother (or other family member)?
- What can you do to show your appreciation for them?
- Can you remember what each letter in CUBA represents?
- Do you think you can Salsa? Let's see it!
- Do you think you can hip hop? Let's see it!
- Can you combine both? Let's see it!
- What other types of dance can you do?
- What are other types of music that you listen to?

RESIDENCIES AND WORKSHOPS

Literacy and Dramatic Play Residency

Paige will visit your classroom with art experiences inspired by story books. Students will learn the best practices for dramatic play, singing and movement while making a story come to life. Each visit can be thirty to forty-five minutes. Paige will bring props, costumes and music.
Ages 3-6

Stem Residency

Using the arts, Paige will develop experiences to explore STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Math.) For example, students may dance to explore the life cycle, use dramatic play to show the properties of magnets, or sing songs to help with math timetables. Discuss with Paige what curriculum standard you would like to address and Paige will be sure to cover it in a way that is artistic and fun!
Ages 3-6

Family Workshop

Transform Havana Hop into a workshop that the entire family can enjoy. This hour-long experience will include interactive activities before and after the performance to maximize the experience. Activities include hip-hop and salsa dance off, creating a community mural and story time! This workshop works best when dinner or snack is included.
All ages, elementary school experience

SHOW DETAILS

Producer: B-FLY ENTERTAINMENT

Genre: Hip-Hop Theatre/storytelling/one-woman

Length: One Act

Running Time: 40 Minutes

Number of Cast/Crew: From 1- 2 persons
(One performer/one optional Stage Manager)

<http://bflyentertainment.com>

BOOKING

Simon Shaw

Shaw Entertainment Group

PO Box 688, Great Barrington, MA 01230

413.274.0038

simon@shawentertainment.com

