

### Ajanta- Indian Dances

- The performer demonstrated some dances with very upbeat music.
- She broke down some dances into smaller steps that kids practice and then do with the music.
- The performer is very upbeat and lively.
- The performer tells a story and breaks it up with dance instruction, dance moves with music, and question and answer with the participants.
- The performer shares some cultural artifacts like bowls and baskets.
- Encourages participation by attendees to dance along with her.
- These programs could benefit from an outdoor space and/or larger space.
- The performer also leads fitness classes.
- She can do 4-5 workshops in one day, at one location.
- The performer will work with libraries on individual pricing, and she aims to be flexible based on budgets available.

### Cartooning is Fun with Paul Merklein

- The performer does programs for children and teens and can also do programs for adults.
- He demonstrates how fast and easy cartooning is to do.
- One program available is “Read and Feed your Imagination” for families. He draws “famous” faces such as Harry Potter, superheroes, Bart Simpson, Dr Suess. He stresses that reading is important. In this program, he is the only one drawing.
- His other type of programs are interactive and creative workshops (participants draw along with him to themes such as Anime). There are several different workshops available to select from.
- Cartooning is not about perfection; it’s about having fun.
- The performer was interesting and captivating.

### Comedy YoYo Guy/Mark Hayward

- This performer is a former world yoyo champion.
- The performer showed several yoyo tricks. Several of his tricks incorporate winter/Wisconsin.
- The performer also does several tricks with two yoyos.
- He is also able to do stunts and tricks with tops.
- Performances can be done indoors or outdoors.
- Performances are 45-60 minutes in length.
- He can also combine a shorter show followed by a workshop (30 minutes for each portion). He brings along yoyos that kids can use during workshops (or kids can bring their own). He also has yoyos for sale.

### Dan Gogh's Magic & Art

- The performer ties libraries and reading into his presentation- these are where we can get ideas to widen our horizons.
- The performer invites the audience to participate through counting up/down together and by doing hand motions that correspond to his magic tricks.
- He will focus on the adventure theme for next summer: Dan Gogh's Magical Camp Adventure. He will do puppets, magic, rope magic, and more. (He showed pictures from his previous Camp shows that he's done.)
- He tells stories using ropes, which also includes magic tricks.
- The performer is comical and very personable. Some other libraries in the session recommended Dan's programs.
- Discounts available for multiple shows in one day.

### David Stokes- Frog Chorus

- The performer uses sign language in his programs.
- The performer does a lot of animals shows with turtles, snakes, and mice.
- He shows real turtle shells of various sizes during his programs. He talks about the components of the shells.

- The performer will also use puppets during his shows. He finds that puppets engage the kids quickly. He uses turtle and toad puppets.
- The performer shares a lot of information about toads and frogs- their similarities and differences.
- He likes to incorporate activities that allow kids to get up and move.
- The performer keeps his programs very hands-on.
- The performer offers a winter-specific program about hibernation and how some animals act differently in winter.

### Dazzling Dave- National Yo-Yo Master

- There are 16 yo-yo masters in the world. 12 in the US and only 1 (Dave) in the Midwest.
- Freestyle yo-yoing is for entertainment or competition and goes along to music.
- During his show, the performer teaches about yo-yos as well as stresses school and reading. He uses a spin-top to teach about basic physics as it pertains to yoyos.
- He offers a yoyo Workshop for 8 years old and older; about 20-25 kids total. He brings yoyos with him that need to be returned to him. He can also bring yoyos with him for sale, starting at \$10.
- He brings his own sound system. He can perform inside or outside.
- Off-String yoyo is a yoyo that is not attached to the string. He shares some of his specialty yoyos at library shows.

### Duke Otherwise

- This performer plays the guitar, dances, and sings.
- This performer writes most of his own songs that he uses in his shows.
- He intersperses tap-dancing into his shows.

## Fox and Branch

- Musicians who perform with banjo, violin, fiddle, and modified washboard.
- They have a folksy, bluegrass sound.
- They do not have a firm set list and tailor their songs to the audience.
- They write and perform some of their own songs.
- They can perform indoors or outdoors. This decision can be made at the last minute if it needs to be changed due to weather conditions.
- Discount pricing available for multiple shows in one day

## Getting Excited About Science

- The performer will demonstrate experiments using sound, water, hydrogen peroxide.
- The performer will demonstrate how materials can change among solid, liquid, and gas.
- The performer does an experiment with elephant toothpaste and talks about how it works and why it gives off heat.
- The performer does an experiment with a solid block of carbon dioxide (dry ice) and shows what happens when it meets cold metal or water. He creates bubbles and children can hold the bubbles wearing gloves.
- The performer can do shows inside or outside.
- His shows can be tailored to children, teens, or adults. He specializes in programs for special needs teenagers and has done many shows in high schools. He has a background in engineering.
- The performer does a lot with bubbles. He finishes the bubble portion by putting several children inside a bubble together.
- He offers workshops on electricity and physics.
- To support the adventure theme, he can incorporate elements on airplanes, hot air balloons, navigation, hovercrafts, and sextons.
- The performer can customize his show to each library's needs.

## Historic Voices

- The performer performed a living history of Laura Ingalls Wilder on Christmas Eve.
- The performer is very well-rehearsed and doesn't stumble at all or lose her train of thought. She uses a lot of expressions and movements to enhance her speaking.
- She usually portrays a female historical character. She also does historical lectures, out-of-character.
- She promotes her Laura Ingalls Wilder performances for summer 2024 and Wilder had many adventures.

## Juggler with the Yellow shoes

- This performer is a former librarian.
- The performer pulls objects out of a bag while the audience counts each one out loud. Then he juggles those objects.
- The performer made connections between juggling and reading- they are both skills that start small and improve with practice and time.
- The performer also does yoyo tricks in his shows.
- The performer also makes some balloon animals and does some skits with them.
- He also does some hat tricks.
- The performer ends his show by riding a unicycle.
- 10' x 12' space is suitable for his programs. He needs an electrical outlet but brings his own sound system as well as an introduction for staff to read.
- The performer also offers Juggling Workshops.
- The performer prefers inside programs or outside programs that have a sunshade.

## Mad Science of Milwaukee

- Up and Away Assembly Show- can be for 20-200 people; 50-60 minutes in length; very interactive; and fun and big science experiments.

- Smaller group hands-on Workshops- explore hypotheses and ask questions; each child gets to bring an experiment home with them; smaller workshop can accommodate up to 30 kids.
  - Living in Space workshop- talk about air and atmospheric pressure; discuss space suits; lack of oxygen in space.

### Magic Village Show

- The performer is a ventriloquist and magician.
- He has two shows available- his standard magic show and an anti-bullying show.
- The performer demonstrated several magic tricks with metal rings.
- The performer shared Jack and the Beanstalk story using his puppet, Charlie.
- He uses music, magic, and ventriloquism in his anti-bullying show. The show usually lasts about 50 minutes, and the audience participates. Charlie describes how he had previously been bullied and how he handled that to improve his situation.
- The anti-bullying show is for elementary kids, but he would be open to adapting it for older audiences (middle school).
- The performer can have programs indoors or outdoors although needs access to electricity for his sound system. His sound system also includes a microphone.

### The Mammoth Hunter

- This is an experiential archeology-based program.
- The performer discusses the process of taking artifacts and making them into replicas so they can be used and researched.
- The program focuses on Wisconsin's stone age history.
- The performer has museum-quality displays of artifacts, fossils, as well as replicas that participants can get up close to look at.
- The performer walks the audience through a woolly mammoth hunt.
- The performer goes through the development and use of fire.

- If outside space is available, the performer will demonstrate starting a fire and spear tosses. These can be done at inside shows also, but on a smaller scale.
- The program looks at the development of culture with beads, jewelry, paint, and music.
- Several musical instruments are available and will be demonstrated.
- The program is fast paced and about 45 minutes in length.
- The performer can do up to three programs at different libraries in one day if they are in near-proximity. The total trip mileage is divided among libraries (the libraries decide how to divide up this cost).

### Micah Sommersmith

- The performer plays the accordion.
- His songs are participatory with children yelling out answers to his prompts while he works some of those answers into his songs.
- The performer includes a message on visiting and using the library during his program.
- He teaches the audience a song in Spanish.
- Smaller squeezeboxes with buttons are concertina. The mechanisms are like an accordion, but they are played very differently.
- On an accordion, you get the same notes when you pull the instrument out or in.
- The performer can do outside programs. He brings the sound equipment that needs.

### Miller and Mike

- Miller and Mike are former clowns with Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus.
- The performers have silly antics and do a lot of hat tricks, plate spinning, and manipulation.
- The overall show is comedy juggling with lots of audience participation.

- They would plan to share some stories from their circus days as they were filled with lots of adventure, seeing new places, and meeting a variety of people.
- They also do yoyo tricks.

### Mischief & Magic

- They offer glitter tattoos, face paint, balloon animals, costume characters, magic, and juggling.
- They have a staff of 38 so they can fine-tune programs to bring a variety of activities to their programs.
- They have a collection of dinosaur teeth as well as fossils, shrunken heads.
- They have a live two-headed turtle and an albino turtle. Other animals include a chameleon.
- They offer workshops on balloon-making and face painting.
- They tend to do a lot of comedy magic shows at libraries. They also have some fire tricks and LED light tricks.
- They also climb in and out of giant balloons.
- Other librarians in this session have seen them before and recommend them.
- Magic Workshops are the most popular workshop for tween and teens. They get to take one magic trick home with them.
- These are very entertaining people.

### Mr. Pickles

- The performer has done over 2000 shows, has two books published in Spanish and English, and he has 8 original CDs.
- The performer started out by making and pointing out different letters our hand can make- w, v, e, m.
- The performer has over 5 hours of “entertainment value.”
- The performer plays the ukulele for sing-a-longs.
- The performer has a pocket trumpet that he also plays.



- He will read from his books during the programs. He incorporates the audience by having them tell him when to turn the page.
- The performer uses large illustrations and sings along to them as he pages through the signs.
- The performer encourages the kids to put their “thinking caps” on during his performance.
- He has 52 different songs on a thumb drive that he gives to each library to keep as part of his program.
- The performer uses a variety of whistles in his program.
- He has the children dance and clap along with one of his songs.
- Each kid takes home a “pickles buck” (a bookmark).
- Mr. Pickles can create new programs or elements in his programs that work for each library individually.
- The performer offers programs for children and teens.

#### Music & Laughter for Kids with David Landau

- The performer is the singer of “Icky Sticky Bubblegum”. He has many hand actions to mimic and go along with this song when he performs it.
- The performer has some original songs and does some known songs.
- Several of the performer’s songs are interactive and the children have motions and actions to perform at certain places in the songs.
- The performer plays guitar with his songs.

#### Randy Peterson

- This performer is a musician with a guitar.
- Many of his songs are call-and-response or have actions/activities for the audience to participate in.
- The performer has curated songs for next summer related to “adventure” although he can adjust that as desired for each library.
- The performer can perform inside or outside.

- The performer will switch out songs and adjust due to age of children that are in the audience.

### Rondini

- The performer does magic tricks (he showed tricks using ropes and a deck of cards).
- Bombastic Bubble Show will be available this summer. It includes bubbles and magic tricks (like making a volcano inside a bubble). During this show, he will share some information about bubbles- how they work, why they're round, etc. He will make a square bubble and he makes large bubbles that people can fit into.
- He has a live German lion head bunny that travels with him and is part of his show. The bunny's name is Baby Einstein.
- He offers magic shows, science shows, and bubble shows. The libraries can select which show(s) to do.

### Smarty Pants

- This is a comedy and magic show using big balloon animals and objects.
- The performer demonstrates and discusses how he makes balloons. He stresses that balloon-making takes practice.
- Throughout his program, he shares stories and tells them through balloons. He involved participants in the storytelling.
- The performer shared his show has many "surprises" for kids during his show.
- The show is about 45 minutes in length.
- He offers Balloon Workshops. Kids learn how to work with balloons and then make a hat.
- He can only perform indoors; he will not do outside shows.
- During his live show, he climbs into a 6-foot balloon.
- After each program, he leaves the balloons at the library so patrons can continue to see them.
- 2024 Show is "Big Balloon Adventure". It's still being developed.

### Snake Discovery- Snake, Rattle and Roll

- The two performers cover the different types of reptiles and talk about their differences and similarities.
- They discuss cold-blooded vs warm-blooded animals.
- They talk about how reptiles all have scales and the function of those scales as well as snake sheds.
- The performers share live reptiles during their programs- hog nose snake and a boa constrictor. (Participants can hold the snakes after the program).
- They usually bring one amphibian, one turtle, two local snakes, and two exotic snakes.
- Over 85 degrees, a program cannot be held outside. Outside at any time, regardless of temperature, would need some type of sunshade.
- Cold temperatures would not affect the animals if they were just being transported from car to building with a short walk.
- Several libraries in the session recommended this program as they've had good experiences with them in the past.

### Songs for All Seasons/David HB Drake

- This performer is a musician and folk singer.
- He performs for all ages.
- This performer uses a variety of instruments- guitar, concertina, dulcimer, banjo, and Native American flute.
- His 2024 program theme is "Read, Renew, Repeat."
- He does some multimedia shows with PowerPoint presentations.
- Additional shows available are one about the Great Lakes and one called Wiscon-Sing.

### Spoon Man

- Performer uses common, kitchen tablespoons.
- He started playing spoons at 9 years old.
- He can play spoons to any music.

- During his show, he starts with an older song and divides the audience into two groups for a mock competition.
- He includes a message about the importance of libraries and reading.
- During the program, he will walk the audience during one song and plays the spoons on different children's hands.
- He does BYOS Bring Your Own Spoons workshop for children over 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, teens, and adults. Workshops are about 45 minutes in length. He demonstrates two ways to hold the spoons and then he teaches 10 simpler rhythms and then put those rhythms to music. Up to 30 in a workshop is ideal.
- The program can be done inside or outside although he needs access to electricity for music.
- You can achieve different sounds by using different sized spoons or by using metal or wood spoons.

### Stuart Stotts: Singer & Storyteller

- The performer is a singer, storyteller, musician, and author.
- The performer does a lot of movement, laughter, sign language and other interactive elements.
- Many of his songs are call and response.
- The performer plays the guitar with his songs.
- Stuart Stotts has recorded some songs with Tom Pease.
- The performer has noticed that the average age of library audiences has been decreasing. Sometimes summer school classes with older children attend. He works to adjust the programs and the content based on each different audience.
- The performer has several original songs that support the "adventure" theme.
- He usually ends each show with a song he has that promotes libraries.
- He can do his programs indoors or outdoors but usually prefers indoor programs. He doesn't like to be performing in an area with a playground.
- He has a sound system that he brings with him to programs.

## Wendy and DB

- The performers play guitars and ukuleles.
- Some of their songs are call-and-response.
- Some of their songs have actions for the audience to do while listening.
- This duo has been Grammy-nominated.
- They are available for indoor or outdoor programs or virtual programs.
- They usually use puppets in their shows.