

# Kansas City Young Audiences

## Teacher Program Guide

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### Weather on the Move

Artist: Jane Gotch

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Contact KCYA for  
more information on  
this and other  
programs.

816-531-4022  
[www.kcya.org](http://www.kcya.org)

### Workshop Description

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Teaching Artist Jane Gotch shows students how to demonstrate the fundamentals of weather phenomena through the use of their bodies and movement. Focusing specifically on clouds in the troposphere, the lesson introduces cloud types and their associated altitudes directly to dance concepts of level, motif, and shape. Participants use movement skills to learn and communicate information about the structure of the atmosphere and objects in the sky.

Jane begins the program by using movement exercises designed to help the students become aware of their bodies and the shapes they can spontaneously create by following simple rules and patterns.

Jane next introduces the

concepts of clouds and the shapes they form at various altitudes in the troposphere. The participants use the movement skills they learned earlier to design these shapes and formations, which include stratus, cumulus, and cirrus clouds.

Jane concludes the workshop by having the students use imagination and control of their body movements to create a cloud dance that represents cloud formations found in the atmosphere.



### Educational Objectives and Standards

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Students will:

- Practice locomotor skills
- Demonstrate control of the body to create and hold a shape
- Create meaning and relationships with body shapes and placement

Dance:

- Understands dance as a way to create and communicate meaning

Science:

- Understands atmospheric processes and the water cycle

#### Special Points of Interest:

The amount of sunlight reaching the earth's surface is 6,000 times the amount of energy used by all human beings worldwide.

#### Special REQUIREMENTS:

20' x 30' open space

Please have the floor space cleared prior to the artist's arrival.

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# Artist Bio: Jane Gotch

Jane Gotch has been teaching movement to children since the age of 10. She has taught ballet, modern, tap, jazz, and creative movement to children of all ages locally and in Omaha, NE, Philadelphia, and the New York area.

She is also a certified trainer and pre-trainer of the **GYROTONIC®** and **GYROKINESIS®** system, which is an exercise and body rehabilitation system developed by a dancer which combines aspects of dance, tai

chi, yoga, martial arts, and swimming. She has taught this system around the world including New York, California, Israel, India, and now Kansas City.

She holds a BFA with honors in dance performance from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Jane's strength as a teacher is her ability, through movement, to ignite in her students, young and old, a confidence in themselves and their creativity which they can carry into all aspects of their life.



Jane Gotch

## Vocabulary

**Body Shapes:** an interesting and interrelated arrangement of body parts of one dancer; the visible makeup or molding of the body parts of a single dancer

**Cirrus:** a high-altitude cloud composed of narrow bands or patches of thin, generally white, fleecy parts

**Cumulus:** a dense, white, fluffy, flat-based cloud with a multiple rounded top and a well-defined outline, usually formed by the ascent of thermally unstable air masses

**Level:** one of the sub-elements of the movement element space. In

dance, there are three basic levels: high, middle, and low.

**Locomotor:** a way of moving from one place to another. Common locomotors include walking, running, galloping, skipping, hopping, jumping, and leaping.

**Space:** one of the elements of dance; the dancer moves in and through space

**Stratus:** a low-altitude cloud formation consisting of a horizontal layer of gray clouds

## Post-Workshop Activities

1. Explain to students that snowflakes are created by water vapors bumping into tiny dust particles which changes the vapor into an ice-crystal. Then play the snowflake game where students divide up into two groups: one are dust particles and the others are water vapors. Students should slowly and quietly connect to another dancer. Continue until the whole class has connected to form one large snowflake.
2. Students will examine, identify, and record stratus, cumulus, and cirrus cloud formations. Have a day where they can go outside and observe the different clouds. Have them draw, color in, and name the type of clouds they drew.
3. The ArtsEdge website provides a wealth of lesson plans for teachers to access, categorized by subject matter and grade level:

## List of Resources

### BOOKS

National Audubon Society Pocket Guide to Clouds and Storms

by David M., Dr. Ludlum, Ronald L. Holle, Richard A., Dr. Keen Knopf (April 25, 1995)  
ISBN: 067977999X

The Weather Wizard's Cloud Book: How You Can Forecast the Weather Accurately and Easily by Reading the Clouds

by Louis D., Sr. Rubin, Jim Duncan  
Workman Publishing; Flexi-Book edition  
(September 1, 1984) ISBN: 0912697105

First Steps in Teaching Creative Dance to Children by Mary Joyce

McGraw-Hill Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages; 3 edition (August 13, 1993)  
ISBN: 1559341629



<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/2176/>

<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/2177/>

[http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/2178](http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/content/2178/)