



JORDAN'S VENTURE - THE CHILDREN'S BILINGUAL THEATER



Ashley, Andy, and Jordan in *The Magical Piñata*

Jordan of Georgia is from a bilingual family that has a love for theater. For International Day at her school Jordan's mom gave her the idea of putting on a short play. Jordan thought this was a great idea, but she wanted to create something bigger that would have an even greater impact on her fellow classmates. To include other bilingual kids at school as well as those just learning Spanish, she came up with the idea of starting the Children's Bilingual Theater.

Jordan's venture has two very specific goals. First, it is committed to bridging language and cultural gaps within the community through theater and the arts. Second, it is dedicated to offering a diverse group of young people increased confidence and public speaking abilities in a bilingual setting. Children's Bilingual Theater expresses the value of communication and connection of young people by using the tools of theater. Each production is selected not only for the bilingual aspect but also to convey a positive message in a diverse setting.

This group is unique because it offers the community something totally new and is inclusive of the growing Hispanic population. This group creates the opportunity for families who are Spanish speaking to get involved in school event that has no language barrier. It also gives kids who are learning Spanish the chance to practice the language and learn about culture and theatre in an exciting and diverse setting.

HER IDEA

- Bring kids together that are learning Spanish, but do not have a place to practice it
- Allow Spanish speaking students the opportunity to participate and enjoy theater
- Bridge the gap between language and culture while increasing confidence, improving public speaking skills, and encouraging imagination and team-work

HER IMPACT

- CBT has had two plays with over 90 crew and cast members and over 1,000 attendees
- The English skills of the Spanish-speaking actors have improved tremendously
- CBT has spread to numerous other schools
- Some CBT actors have moved on to work with a small professional theater group in the area

“I HOPE TO help young people realize that there is a **WORLD beyond the length of our arms and when we roll up our sleeves and reach out, it's amazing what **WE CAN ACCOMPLISH**”**

