



# HANGAR THEATRE'S PROJECT 4

Now, in its sixteenth year, the Hangar Theatre's Project 4 is a partnership that brings Hangar Theatre teaching artists into every fourth grade classroom of the eight elementary schools in the Ithaca City School District as well as Newfield Elementary for five-week residencies that transform curriculum into original theatre with music.

The Hangar works with teachers to identify the educational goals for each project, as related to the NYS Learning Standards and fourth grade curriculum. Teachers also participate in staff development workshops with Hangar artists to learn more about integrating learning through the arts.

The program has grown over the years from a single classroom and is now district-wide in two school systems – one of the only district-wide arts/education programs in New York State. The ICSD has been honored with a Kennedy Center Award for being a model arts/education partner, and the Hangar is often called upon to demonstrate its residency plan as a model program within New York State. The goals of the Project Four program include:

- Helping teachers and students to meet the New York State Learning Standards in arts and non-arts subject areas;
- Complementing and enhancing staff development efforts in interdisciplinary teaching and technology;
- Developing assessment tools for measuring the arts;

- Fostering partnerships among the schools, artists, and cultural organizations in Ithaca.

## Some facts about the project:

- The content of the work may be in any subject area (Social Studies, Science, Math etc)
- Each fourth grade class is given up to 20 hours of classroom time with one theatre artist, and 8 hours with one musician.
- The teachers and artists work together to decide goals, scheduling within the five-week residency, as well as lesson planning.
- There is a performance at the end of the process, both within the school and at the Hangar Theatre, the nature of which is flexible and up to the teachers, artists, and students.
- The project is assessed and documented using methods jointly developed by the ICSD Development Department, and the Hangar. Both artists and teachers contribute to this assessment.