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# EXPLORING LATIN AMERICAN CULTURE THROUGH ANIMAL FOLKTALES

Workshop Leader: Felix Pitre For Teachers of Grades K-6 3 hours of instruction time

Maximum number of workshop participants: 30

In this workshop, teachers examine animal folktales as a way to learn about Latin American culture. Participants explore ways to help students enhance their understanding of human relationships, cultural similarities and differences, and develop their oral communication skills by telling folktales. Teachers examine how to choose appropriate folktales, help students bring the story to life using voice and body, and invite listeners' participation to enhance the story's effectiveness.

## Felix Pitre also offers the following services\* for:

#### Students

- Performances/Lecture-Demonstrations
- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/ Exhibit Attendance
- Other Workshops
- Residencies
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits
- Development of Online Resources

#### **Teachers**

- Workshops in Preparation for Performance/ Exhibit Attendance
- Written Guides to Performances/Exhibits

#### **Parents**

- PTA/PTO Presentations/Speeches
- Workshops for Parents
- Workshops for Parents with their Children

### Other

■ Workshops for Performers

\*Not all services have been designed or presented by the Kennedy Center.

FELIX PITRE, a Kennedy Center Teaching Artist, found his way there as a performer of bilingual programs. A Nuyorican, he credits his career to the life changing education he received at the original Performing Arts High School. Born in Cataño, a small village across the bay from San Juan, he arrived in New York City at the age of two, attended the public schools, and received his B.A. in theatre from Hofstra University. After working as an actor in theatre, film, and TV, he created a performance called *Stories and Songs of Latin America*, using his grandfather's stories and songs heard growing up in a mucho multicultural family. The demand for the program led to performances throughout the country, from the Kennedy Center and Smithsonian to classrooms, libraries, museums, and festivals. Two of his stories, *Juan Bobo and The Pig* and *Paco and The Witch*, became picture books and his signature program, *Stories and Songs of Latin America*, is now a CD. His workshop, *Exploring Latin American Culture Through Animal Folktales*, is a product of his experiences as a performer/educator and training in the Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program at the Kennedy Center.