

What to Expect at *Giants of Electrical Science* (And what will be expected of you)

You will soon have the opportunity to attend a performance of *Giants of Electrical Science*. The Educational Touring Theatre and the Adventure Science Center of Nashville created and produced this special program. The Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation is sponsoring the performance at your school.

Giants of Electrical Science is a live, theatre performance. A “live performance” is one in which the performers are actually right there with you, instead of being presented through some electronic media such as on TV or in a movie. In a “theatre performance,” the performers are not appearing as themselves, but are instead acting as different characters.

Giants is a special kind of theatre performance known as a mono-drama, or one-man show. All nine of the characters in the show will be played by the same actor. As you watch the show, notice how the actor has to change the way his voice sounds, and how he uses his body to become the different characters. Also see how different costume pieces are used to help you tell the characters apart.

Acting Insight

Actor Neil Spencer will be appearing in *Giants*. He has been performing at schools for over 35 years. Neil has also acted at theatres around the country, as well as for movies, TV, and radio.

The plot of *Giants* is quite simple: Four famous scientists, from throughout history, will try to win the title of “Giant of Electrical Science.”

Acting Insight

Sometimes Spencer will use different accents. Neil had never done an Italian accent before. To help prepare for the show, he listened to “Learn Italian” recordings.

Each scientist will demonstrate some of his most important electrical discoveries and inventions to convince you, the audience, that he should be awarded this honor. Students will be selected from the audience to help with some of these demonstrations. One student will even have the chance to play the part of Benjamin Franklin’s

son William!

Even if you don’t get the chance to appear on stage, you still will play a vital role in the success of *Giants of Electrical Science*. During a live performance, the actor is very aware of what is happening in the audience. If the audience is really paying attention, and focusing on the show, it gives the performer extra energy. This makes for a better performance. But, if people in the audience are talking, or being rude, this inappropriate behavior can distract the performer. If the actor is distracted, he is no longer concentrating on

Acting Insight

*Since **Giants** is a one-man show, the costume changes have to be very quick. The actor wears a base costume and then adds a few extra pieces for each character. The most elaborate change includes a wig, hat, glasses, and ruff. The simplest change is made by putting on a gold medal.*

the performance, and the show won’t be as good. If someone in the audience is behaving very badly, the entire show might have to stop until that person has been removed!

When you attend *Giants of Electrical Science* please practice good audience etiquette by listening carefully and responding appropriately. Not only will you enjoy the program more, but you will also help make the performance better for everyone else, too!