

# Program Guide

## KAHANA HULA

Hawaiian Dance



### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Kahana Hula's program of interactive dance, music, storytelling, chanting, and singing educates audiences on the history, language, and culture of Polynesia during an exciting, virtual journey through the islands of Hawai'i, New Zealand, and Samoa. Students will learn traditional songs and chants such as "Oli Aloha" and "Pearly Shells," along with the corresponding movements and contexts in Polynesian society. This is a fun, interactive program that shows audiences the beauty of Polynesia.

### VOCABULARY and CONCEPTS

**Aloha:** Although often used as a word of greeting, farewell, or salutations, aloha also used as: a term of mutual regard and affection, a way extending warmth and caring with no return obligation, the essence of relationships in which the individual is necessary for the collective, and to hear what is not said and see what cannot be seen while knowing the unknowable.

**Hula:** Referred to as, "The language of the heart and therefore the heartbeat of the Hawaiian people," by King David Kalakaua (1874-1891) of the Hawaiian Kingdom, this is perhaps the greatest way to describe the art form.



### OBJECTIVES

- To educate audiences about the history, languages, and culture of the Polynesian Islands through dance.
- To inspire students to learn cultural dances and preserve Polynesian history.
- To demonstrate traditional Hula dancing as an example of an ancient, vibrant, and dedicated culture.

### RESOURCES

Print:

*The Story of Hula*, by Carla Golembe

Web:

<http://www.huladancehq.com/>

<http://www.huapala.org/>

<http://www.hulapreservation.org/Default.asp?>



## PRE PROGRAM

- Have a short geography lesson on the Polynesian Islands. Discuss the physical geography, as well as the history and culture.
- Ask your students what they think of the stereotypical Hula dancer. Discuss, for example, gender stereotypes and costumes. Ask, what do your students expect to get out of the performance?

## POST PROGRAM

- How are your student's views of Hula dancing different now than it was before the performance?
- How do hand movements play in to Hula dancing, if they play in at all?
- What is the history behind Hula dancing?



## Program Choices:

Solo artist, Tiare Kahana; Duo- Tiare with male Samoan Fire Knife Dancer, Taki Aiolutepoa; Luau Show Production with additional male & female Polynesian dancers, live drummers & musicians also available.



## CURRICULAR LINKS

### Connecticut State Department of Education

#### Source: *The CT Framework – Dance*

- ✚ **Standard 1: Elements and Skills**  
*Students will demonstrate the following movement skills and explain the underlying principles: alignment, balance, initiation of movement, articulation of isolated body parts, weight shift, elevation and landing.*
- ✚ **Standard 3: Meaning**  
*Students will observe and explain how different accompaniment (such as sound, music, spoken text) can affect the meaning of a dance.*
- Standard 5: History and Culture**  
*Students will demonstrate an understanding of dance in various cultures and historical periods.*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Raised by Hawai'i native parents, Tiare Kahana studied the art of hula as a child and continues to study under notable Kumu Hula in order to perpetuate Hawaiian culture with authenticity and integrity.

Tiare began performing for schools in 2000, and has since developed the Kahana Hula Polynesian Cultural Arts Program to enlighten audiences about her art form. She insists that hula is not just a form of entertainment, but also a sacred art steeped in history and tradition.

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