Instructional Unit Title: Theatre History

Fundamental and Extended Pathway

The teacher may supply students with examples of each type of *commedia dell 'arte* character so that students can begin to understand the genre of the period. The teacher may share the aspects of the art form, such as lazzi, scenarios and mannerisms, so that students can readily identify these aspects through character analysis. The teacher may use additional texts, such as Johnstone's *Impro* or Rudlin's *Handbook,* so that students can identify key elements of the *commedia dell 'arte* genre.

The teacher may introduce and model effective presentation skills so that students can begin to understand how to illustrate their understandings of the genre. The teacher may model ways to make comparisons between *commedia dell* 'arte style and characters with modern counterparts, such as M*A*S*H* and *Friends*, so that students can begin to deconstruct each genre element.

The teacher may introduce early modern examples of *commedia dell 'arte*, such as the Marx Brothers, so that students can translate elements of *commedia* into contemporary theatrical works.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT: You have been hired by the artistic director of a community theatre, who stanchly believes in updating "old and tired" productions in inventive ways. He has hired you to direct a contemporary piece to be updated through a specific production concept that utilizes the influence of *commedia dell 'arte*. The artistic director expects you to come to a pitch meeting presentation ready to share your conceptual vision, to include: choosing a contemporary play or television show; giving an overview of the storyline; and giving examples of at least two characters from the play and how they emulate *commedia dell 'arte* style (e.g., through lazzi, gestures and mannerisms).

This unit was authored by a team of Colorado educators. The unit is intended to support teachers, schools, and districts as they make their own local decisions around the best instructional plans and practices for all students. To see the entire instructional unit sample with possible learning experiences, resources, differentiation, and assessments visit <u>http://www.cde.state.co.us/standardsandinstruction/instructionalunitsamples</u>.

Colorado Teacher-Authored Instructional Unit Sample Storyboard