



Love Is a Verb

MTC STUDY GUIDE

About the Show

Tati Nuzi & Friends presents Love Is A Verb is an interactive concert for young audiences that uses music, movement, and storytelling to explore how we show love through our actions. Inspired by multicultural proverbs and songs from around the world, the performance invites children to reflect on care for themselves, others, their communities, and the earth.



About the Artist

Inez Barlatier (Tati Nuzi) is a Miami-based performing artist, songwriter, and teaching artist dedicated to creating joyful, culturally rooted work for young audiences. After more than twenty years as a professional performer, she premiered her first children's production, *Ayiti: Stories & Songs from Haiti*, with support from Miami Theater Center, The Adrienne Arsht Center, Culture Shock Miami, and the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center. The production has since toured nationwide, reaching more than 200,000 children and families.

As Tati Nuzi & Friends, Inez creates interactive musical experiences inspired by multicultural traditions, proverbs, and rhythms from around the world, inviting children to sing, move, and discover how love, kindness, and community are expressed through action.



Teacher Survey

→ Please take a moment to complete this brief teacher survey - your feedback helps us secure grants that cover tickets and transportation.



Activity 1:

The Tree of You

Inspired by the song: *Roots, Branches, Leaves*

This activity helps students reflect on relationships and recognize that different people support and shape them in different ways. It builds social-emotional awareness and vocabulary for describing friendships.

1. Begin with a short whole-group discussion. Remind students that in the song, friends are compared to roots, branches, and leaves.
2. Guide students to think about what each part of a tree does:
 - Roots support and keep us grounded.
 - Branches help us grow and learn.
 - Leaves change, come and go, and move with the wind.
3. Ask students to reflect on something they have learned from a friend or someone they care about.
4. Have students draw themselves as a tree.
5. Invite them to add names of people in their lives onto different parts of the tree, based on how those people support or inspire them.
6. Close with optional sharing in pairs or small groups.

Extension

Create a class “forest” by displaying all student trees together and discussing how the classroom community is made stronger by everyone’s roots, branches, and leaves.

Activity 2:

You + I = We (Ubuntu Circle)

Inspired by the proverb: *Ubuntu – I am because you are*

This activity builds awareness of interdependence and community, helping students understand that everyday needs are met through the actions of many people.

1. Introduce the idea of *Ubuntu* and explain it in age-appropriate language: **we help each other, and we belong to one another.**
2. Ask students to think about one simple item they have/ use every day (fruit, a shirt, a book).
3. As a class, form a circle. Start with one student holding the object (real or imagined).
4. One by one, add students to the circle, naming the people involved in bringing that item to them (family member, store worker, farmer, truck driver, etc.).
5. Each time a student joins the circle, lead the group in saying: “I am because you are.”
6. Reflect together on how many people help us every day.

Extension

Have students draw or sequence pictures showing the journey of one everyday object from start to finish.

Activity 3:

Love Is a Verb – Action Mapping

This activity deepens students' understanding that love is shown through actions, not just words. It supports character education, empathy, and problem-solving.

1. Write the phrase "Love Is a Verb" on the board.
2. Ask students what a *verb* is, reinforcing that verbs are action words.
3. As a class, brainstorm actions that show love at school, at home, and in the community (helping, listening, sharing, caring for the earth).
4. Choose 3-4 common classroom or playground scenarios (someone feels left out, someone drops their supplies, the classroom is messy).
4. In small groups or as a whole class, guide students to act out or describe one loving action that could help in each situation.
6. Record student ideas on chart paper titled "Ways We Show Love."

Extension

Create a weekly classroom challenge where students practice one loving action and reflect on it together.

Florida State Standards

Social Studies

- **SS.1.CG.1.1:** Explain how individuals contribute to the community.
- **SS.2.CG.1.2:** Identify ways citizens work together to solve problems.

English Language Art

- **ELA.K.SL.2.1 / ELA.1.SL.2.1 / ELA.2.SL.2.1:** Listen and respond to information presented orally.
- **ELA.K.W.1.3 / ELA.1.W.1.3 / ELA.2.W.1.3:** Create drawings or written responses to express ideas.

Health Education

- **HE.K.B.4.1 / HE.1.B.4.1 / HE.2.B.4.1:** Practice behaviors that support healthy relationships.

Visual & Performing Arts

- **MU.K.C.1.1 / MU.1.C.1.1 / MU.2.C.1.1:** Describe how music communicates ideas and feelings.

Teacher Resources and Classroom Book Connections (Grades K–2)

The following books support the themes of *Love Is A Verb* and can be used before or after the performance to deepen discussion and reflection:

***Love Is* by Diane Adams (illustrated by Claire Keane)**

A gentle, poetic picture book that shows how love is expressed through everyday actions, making it a natural companion to the idea that love is something we *do*.

***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña & Christian Robinson**

A story about gratitude, community awareness, and seeing kindness in everyday life.





MTC Summer Camp Scholarship Program

Teachers – Help Us Discover Miami’s Next Young Artist!

MTC invites teachers to nominate students who would benefit from a transformative summer in the arts!

Who We’re Looking For:

Students **ages 7–14** who show creativity, enthusiasm, or potential, but may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend.

Campers explore:

- Playwriting & storytelling
- Singing & choreography
- Dance & improvisation
- Set & prop design
- Teamwork, creativity, and confidence

New! MTC Young Leaders Fellowship

For teens ages 15–18

A hands-on paid mentorship program that builds leadership, creative, and professional skills in musical theater production. Fellows assist with camp operations, rehearsals, and performances, gaining real-world experience in the arts!

Nominate a Student Today!

Your recommendation can open the door for a young person to shine this summer. Email info@mtcmiami.org for more information.

ABOUT THE CAMP:

- June 8 – August 7, 2026
- Hot lunch is provided daily
- Led by Camp Director Amy Siana and MTC’s professional teaching artists
- Each session ends with a live performance on MTC’s Main Stage!

CAMP SESSIONS:

Session One: June 8 – June 18

Session Two: June 22 – July 2

Session Three: July 13 – July 24

Session Four: July 27 – August 7

(scholarship recipients must attend at least three sessions of camp to qualify.)

MTC
miami theater center

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