

# Theatre company takes audience to ancient Greece

By Daniel Thompson  
Home staff writer

Pell City Library was transferred back in time Wednesday to ancient Greece when the Traveling Lantern Theatre Company presented *Greek Mythology*.

The performance was free to the public, and an audience filled with children from the Bridge Builders Boys and Girls Club of Pell City watched the actors attentively.

"I thought it was a great show for the kids to see," said Scott Alexander, unit director of Bridge Builders Boys and Girls Club of Pell City. "The kids were exposed to some Greek mythology, which some of them may have never seen before."

The performance was put on by Rosalynd Darling and Ross Glanc, a pair of performers with Traveling Lantern Theatre Company based in San Diego, Calif.

The story takes place around a storyteller named Homer, who is summoned by the gods to create a great story about a festival to worship Zeus. Throughout his quest to prepare his story, Homer meets a variety of characters, which allowed Darling and Glanc to tell the audience a variety of popular Greek myths, such as the tale of King Midas.

Darling and Glanc have been on tour for the past two weeks, and are making their way from New Mexico to Miami, Fla., stopping to perform at schools and other venues along the way.

"The style of our shows is built on the model of traveling actors from the Middle Ages to Elizabethan Times, who traveled from village to village putting on a variety of different shows," Darling said. "We are bringing theatre to some children who may have never seen a live performance before."

"We get a lot of questions about our acting experiences, because many kids are not used to seeing people acting out in



Rosalynd Darling takes an opportunity to explain to students the significance of Greek clothing.

Bob Crisp/Home staff photos

public," Darling said. "I was an educator before I was an actor, and I really think this exposes these kids to a great educational tool."

During the performance children from the audience were incorporated into the show by acting as either a prop, or a character from a Greek myth.

"I think a lot of times this type of exposure can be a hook for these kids to get their interests sparked," Alexander said. "You never know where it might take them. 'Anytime something like this gets a kid's attention it can open a lot of doors for them. I think it's wonderful the Library brings this type of program for the kids to enjoy.'"

So far, Darling and Glanc

have been performing exclusively in schools, but they said it was a nice change of venue.

"This was our first library," Glanc said. "It was a nice change of environment to be in a library, although I felt a little bad about being loud in the library. This is the first time I've ever made that much noise in a library and didn't get in trouble for it."

The library personnel said they understood the noise and weren't upset.

"I think it was great," Pell City librarian assistant Kelly Balkane said. "I think the kids learned a lot. This was different from anything we've ever done before, and I think it's a program we will continue to have in the future."



Ross Glanc, left, takes a bag of objects from an oracle played by Rosalynd Darling, during the performance of Greek Mythology.



Desmond Dawkings, 12, above, plays the part of King Midas. Ross Glanc, a performer with Traveling Lantern Theatre Company, helps him during his role.