

teatro  
**sea** & Manuel A. Morán

presentan/present

# La Cucarachita Martina

*Martina, The Little Roach*



A comical story based on a popular Cuban and Puerto Rican children's tale of a little roach, who in her journey of finding love, finds happiness and friendship.

## *A Teacher's Resource Guide*

# Fun Facts About Roaches

Yikes!

The biggest cockroach in the world is six inches long and has a one-foot wingspan! This big bug lives in South America.

Heads Up!

A roach can actually live for a whole week without its head. It eventually dies, because it no longer has a mouth to drink water. Creepy...

The Race Is On...

Can you outrun Ralph the Roach? On average, a roach can run up to three miles in an hour. That's a lot for such a little critter.

Bug Bandage?

Don't get rid of those crushed roaches under the fridge. The squashed buggies can be applied to a wound to relieve the pain.

Throw Out Those Nike's!

Cockroaches can skillfully climb walls thanks to little claws on their feet that help them defy gravity.

Wow! You Haven't Aged a Bit!

Did you know that roach fossils from 300 million years ago look almost exactly like present-day roaches!





# It's A Numbers Game!

**6** - The number of legs on a cockroach. That's a lot of shoes!

**18** - The number of knees on most cockroaches.

**40** - The number of minutes a cockroach can hold its breath.

**75** - The percentage of time that a roach spends resting.

**5,000** - The number of different roach species in the world.

**280 Million** - The number of years ago that cockroaches are thought to have originated. This era was called the Carboniferous Era.

# Synopsis

Martina is a little roach who dreams of finding the love of her life. One day, as she is sweeping her back yard, Martina finds a penny. She thinks about what she should buy with her new penny, and after some pondering\*, decides that she will get some makeup to make herself pretty.

Pleased with her appearance\*, Martina is visited by a number of potential\* suitors\*. Some of the friends she makes are Beto the cat, Kike the rooster, Lero the dog, and Mr. Perez the mouse.

Even though they are all in love with Martina, Kike, Beto and Lero cannot win Martina's love. Kike the Rooster was proud and aggressive\*, Beto the Cat was demanding and Lero the Dog scared poor little Martina with his size. But when Martina meets the sweet and humble Mr. Perez, she falls in love with him right away.



Mr. Perez and Martina become best friends right away and they get married in a great big celebration. All the little insects attended the party and Cucarachita Martina and little Mr. Perez lived happily ever after....oh, what a lovely day!!!

# La Cucarachita Martina is a Folk tale

*What is the difference between a folk tale and a fairy tale?*

“Fairy tale, a story, usually for children, about elves, hobgoblins, dragons, fairies, or other magical creatures.”<sup>1</sup>

“Folk tale, a tale or legend originating and traditional among a people or folk, esp. one forming part of an oral tradition.”<sup>2</sup>

1. *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*. New York, 1966. p.511.

2. *Ibid*, p.551.



## Different Versions of the tale:

- La Cucarachita Martina      Puerto Rico
- La Cucaracha Martina      Cuba
- La Cucaracha Martínez      Colombia
- La Cucarachita Mandinga      Panama

# Vocabulary



**Pondering:** (verb)  
Thinking, considering.  
Martina was **pondering** what to do with her new penny.

**Appearance:** (noun)  
Image, how someone looks.  
Martina wanted to improve her **appearance**.

**Potential:** (adjective)  
Possible, likely.  
Beto the dog was a **potential** husband for Martina.

**Suitor:** (noun)  
A person who is in love with another person, or in the case of our story, another animal.  
Some of Martina's **suitors** were the dog, the cat, the rooster and the mouse.

**Humble:** (adjective)  
A modest person, someone who is not arrogant.  
Mr. Perez was a **humble** mouse.

# Let's Make Some Music!

**Martina, the Little Roach** is the type of play called a “musical”. What that means is that a lot of what happens in the story is told through the use of musical sounds and singing.

In this particular play, the music is derived of two styles:

*Rock N' Roll* and Latin Sounds

If you think your parents don't know anything about cool music, think again! Rock music actually originated in the United States during the 1950's, but it has its roots in many, many other styles. Some of the musical traditions that influenced Rock N' Roll are:

*Gospel* **Blues** **Country** Folk *Electronic*

Bring out the bongos! Latin music has its roots in beats and rhythms from cultures from all over the world. Some of them are Native American, European, South American and African. Have you ever heard these types of Latin music?

Salsa Merengue Cumbia Bomba  
*Cha-Cha*



# Puppet Power!

What is a puppet? Puppets are objects that appear to be alive when manipulated by a human hand. There are many types of puppets, such as marionettes, hand puppets, rod puppets, and full-body puppets.



The type of puppets used in *Martina, the Little Roach* are called bunraku puppets. Bunraku puppetry has its origins in Japan.

In bunraku puppetry, the dolls are usually about half life-size, their eyes and eyebrows move, their mouths open in surprise and their arms gesture gracefully and realistically.

The manipulation of the bunraku puppets is done by two or three puppeteers. Each puppeteer manipulates a different part of the puppet, whether it be the arm, the head or the legs.

The narrator, which is traditionally called “joruri”, tells the story of the play by making the sounds that the character would make.

The “shamisen”, is the accompanist. He or she sits in full view of the audience and provides musical and verbal accompaniment.



## ***ABOUT***

The **Society of the Educational Arts, Inc. (SEA)**, NYC's Premier Bilingual Arts-in-Education Organization & Latino Theatre Company for Young Audiences, is dedicated to the empowerment and educational advancement of children and young adults. Since its inception in Puerto Rico in 1985, in NY in 1993, and now in Florida, **SEA** has created and produced a unique combination of educational theatre productions and art workshops / programs specifically designed to examine, challenge and create possible solutions for current educational, social, and community issues. .



SEA established its New York City operations in 1993, and has been expanding its array of programming ever since. SEA's unique integration of the performing arts and Arts-in-Education programs introduces and enriches cultural awareness and a sense of identity, especially in children. SEA is responsible for reviving the tradition of producing children's theatre in Spanish in NYC, as well as founding NY's Only Latino Children's Theatre - ***Teatro SEA @ The Clemente.***

Dr. Manuel A. Morán, Founder and CEO, leads a team of professional artists and administrators, all of whom are dedicated to serving the Latino community. This unwavering commitment of providing access and preserving Latino arts & culture has solidified SEA as a leading artistic/educational organization in New York, Puerto Rico and Florida



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