The National Theatre for Children!®

Teach. Entertain. Inspire.

LIGHTS ON FOR LOUIE

Rave reviews from the media

WEST TEXAS NEW

The National Theatre for Children's Michael Austin, as the Electr
possible electrical dangers Wednesday.

Elementary students get bug i

By CANDACE COOKSEY FULTON
Staff Writer

The audience was high energy and the stage drama was well grounded – a combination conducive to a little electricity educa tion.

Louie the Lightning Bug made his West Texas debut at Blackshear Elementary School Wednesday and will be performing with pal Nicki Neutron at area schools through the end of the month. Their goal is to "plug" children in to how to avoid danger ous situations involving electrical power or power lines.

Sponsored by West Texas Utilities, a sub

satiary of American Electr
Louie" is an improvisation
The National Theatre for Ch
sage sent in the fun-acted
this: "Play it safe around el
Of course, the folk of t
several basic lessons. Don't
cal outlets. Don't mix water
you see a fallen high wire,
ask the adult to call the el
Also, obey warning signs
near power plants.

The traveling Louie ma
will visit some 60 schoo
Louisiana, Oklahoma and
and. Performances are s

THE MAGIC OF ELECTRICITY

Character uses theater to teach kids about safety

By PALLAVI AGARWAL
Valley Morning Star

HARLINGEN — On Friday, James Bowie Elementary School fourth-grader Edward Sierra had a few laughs along with his lesson about how electricity is made and how to avoid getting shocked.

"You burn coal; it goes into a fan; then it goes into a magnet, which makes electricity," he rattled off.

To drive safety lessons home, American Electric Power brought Louie the Lightning Bug, a character from a live touring show that has taught students across the country the concepts and importance of electrical safety to the school.

For the 10-year-old, the warnings of Louie, pseudo reporter P.J. O'Shock and the evil Dastardini — man of a thousand disguises — were some that had been often repeated by his parents.

Those warnings included:

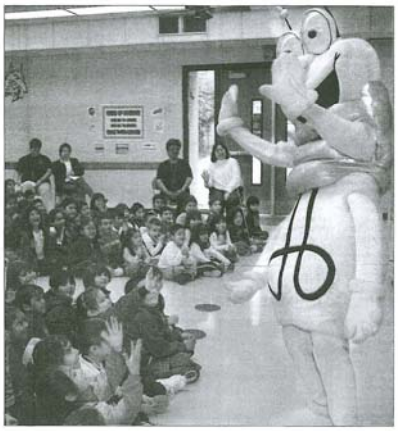
- Don't stick a fork in the outlet.
- Don't put a hair dryer in a sink or a bathtub.

But Friday, as P.J. and Santorini jumped and played around near a voltage danger sign, Sierra learned a new lesson in shock prevention.

"I learned not to go close to a danger sign," he said.

Performing in the 30-minute show were Ashley Oxford and Randy Barrett Topper, actors with Minnesota-based National Theatre for Children.

Oxford said that the duo would be spending 11 weeks touring Valley schools with four



STAR PHOTOS BY RIC VASQUEZ

LOUIE THE LIGHTNING BUG: Ashley Oxford and Randy Topper with the National Theatre for Children perform "The Further Adventures of Louie the Lightning Bug" for students at James Bowie Elementary School in Harlingen Friday afternoon. American Electric Power sponsored the event, which helps children learn about electrical safety. The program, which will be offered to local elementary schools over the next two years, includes informational pamphlets and teaching guides.

Play teaches children about electricity, safety

BY BRETT BENNETT
Northwest Arkansas Times

The Southwestern Electric Power Company is hoping "Lights on for Louie" will be a fun and informative play to teach children about electrical safety.

The touring production made a stop in Fayetteville on Wednesday with performances at Fayetteville Christian School and Holcomb Elementary School.

Chris Keveney and Laura Bontzone, actors from New York City, play such characters as Louie the Lightning Bug, Conductor Glen and Sparky the Sidekick in an interactive play designed to provide lessons on the dangers of electricity.

None of the topics cov-

See SAFETY, page A7

ANTHONY REYES Northwest Arkansas Times

The Evil Dragonfly, played by Chris Keveney, left, is frightened by Sparky the Wonderbug, played by Laura Bontzone, right, and her sidekick Colt Phillips. Phillips and Sparky worked to foil the Dragonfly's evil plans against electrical safety in a play sponsored by Southwestern Electric Power Company.

ENLIGHTENIN' BUG

Joel Martinez/The Monitor

A Bug In Her Ear: CPL's Louie the Lightening Bug talks to his sidekick Sparky the Wonder Bug, Marya Degenstein, in an electrical safety production put on by the National Theatre for Children for the students of Seguin Elementary in McAllen on Tuesday afternoon.

Since 1978, The National Theatre for Children has dedicated itself to teaching young students about important and timely issues on behalf of our clients. We are the largest in-school touring company in America and reach millions of children in major markets each year. Our tested and approved methodology combines attention-getting, educational live performances with classroom, internet and take-home activities. Give us a call, today!

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