Practicing Safe Science

As Doktor Kaboom says, “Science can hurt you, especially if I’m the one doing the science.” In working with electricity, he has to watch out for sparks, burns, and fires. Even an expert experimenter can face unexpected dangers, so Doktor Kaboom suits up even if there’s only the tiniest chance that it’ll be necessary—and you should, too. And remember, you should only experiment with electricity with the help of a responsible adult.

Do Try This at Home

After the performance, try these activities with your friends and family.

Bonzo Balloons
Use balloons to explore static electricity. You’ll need: a dry winter’s day, two balloons, two long pieces of string, and a piece of fur or wool clothing. Blow up and tie closed one balloon. Press it against the wall. Does it stick? Now quickly rub the balloon back and forth against the fur or wool. Try the wall again. What happens, and why? Next, blow up and tie closed a second balloon. Tie a piece of long string to each balloon. Rub both as before. Holding each by the string, try bringing them together. What happens? Why?

Heads Up for Electricity
Make a list of all the electricity you use in one day of your life. Include things around your home like lights (and don’t forget things that run on batteries!). Also include things outside your house like traffic lights. What would life be like if electricity hadn’t been discovered?

And remember...
being a good audience member isn’t rocket science—just stay seated and quiet, don’t eat, and remember to watch, listen, and clap.

Explore More!
Go to KC Connections on ARTSEdge
artsedge.kennedy-center.org/kc-connections

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Written and performed by David Epley
Grab your lab coats and safety goggles. This one-man science show can be electric!

The Electricity Tour

Doktor Kaboom: Live Wire!
One Man and the Power (and Fun!) of Electricity

Science is a blast, and nothing says scientific discovery quite like “kaboom.” Get ready for a hilarious hour of electrical entertainment with Doktor Kaboom. Although this may be a “one-man show,” Doktor Kaboom will ask for your help in this fun and funny exploration of electricity. Learn more here, and pay special attention to the bolded words, which you will hear on stage.

Electro-magnet-ificent!

Magnets (materials that can attract other items) have two opposite points—north and south magnetic poles—where the magnet’s force is the strongest. This creates a magnetic field that can create electricity. Neodymium (pronounced nee-oh-DIM-e-uhm) magnets are among the strongest available. Is it magic or... electromagnetic? Watch how Doktor Kaboom lights a lamp without touching it!

Know Your Electrical Measurements

You may hear Doktor Kaboom use these words as he performs his experiments:

- **amps**: the number of electrons moving in a circuit (a closed loop)
- **voltage**: the pressure pushing electrons along an electrical current
- **watt**: a unit for measuring electric power
- **frequency**: how fast sound or electromagnetic waves travel
- **resistance**: how much a conductor slows the passage of current

Get to Know a Scientist... or Two

**Michael Faraday**

You can thank this man and his endless curiosity if you enjoy riding in cars. He discovered how to generate electricity using magnetic effects and this became the first generator. From there, his experiments led to electric motors and many other devices we use every day.

**What's His Name? Doktor Kaboom!**

But his real name is David Epley, and he’s a comedian who loves science. When he performs, he plays the role of a scientist from Germany. To show that you agree with Doktor Kaboom, remember to say “ja” (“yah”), which is German for “yes.” David performs “improvisational comedy,” which means he “improvises” (changes) his jokes depending on what’s happening on stage.