

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CELEBRATING ITS 20TH SEASON – MCCALLUM THEATRE EDUCATION
ANNOUNCES 2017-2018 FIELD TRIP SERIES!**

PALM DESERT, CA – McCallum Theatre Education announces another impressive season of Field Trip Series performances. At no charge, local students and teachers have the opportunity to experience and engage with ten culturally diverse works in music, dance, and theatre between September 2017 and May 2018.

Featuring top artists from around the world, the series kicks off on Tuesday, **September 26th** with **The Martial Artists & Acrobats of Tianjin, People’s Republic of China – *China Soul***, one of China’s finest troupes of its kind. These talented artists show off their superior skills in acrobatics, circus acts, illusions, and martial arts! Accompanied by traditional Chinese music, performers take the stage in a spectacle of acrobatic stunts, feats of balance, juggling acts, contortion tricks, and martial arts that are guaranteed to dazzle and delight.

In **October**, three diverse and dynamic musical compositions make up the program when McCallum Theatre Education and The Desert Symphony co-present ***Painting Pictures with Music***. Under the direction of Gary Berkson, the Symphony will play *Prelude to Carmen* by George Bizet, Bedrich Smetana’s *The Moldau* and end with *Danzón No. 2*, a vividly colorful work by the contemporary Mexican composer Arturo Márquez.

November brings **Barak Ballet**, winner of our Choreography Festival’s Paid Engagement Award in 2016. Choreographer Melissa Barak brings her stellar company back to McCallum with an exciting program of contemporary ballet. An abstract ballet originally created when the Curiosity rover landed on Mars, Eos Chasma intrigues and impresses.

In **December**, we present **Tomáš Kubínek - *Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible***. Remember the first time you saw someone do a backward somersault while whistling, drinking a glass of water balanced on his forehead, and plucking the strings of a ukulele? Tomáš Kubínek manages to make this standard feat fresh and exciting, whirling above the McCallum Theatre stage, dangling from a bungee cord, looking like Mozart with bat wings!

Rolling into **January**, **Pacifico Dance Company** thrills audiences world-wide with its unique blend of modern and traditional dance. Founder and artistic director Adriana Astorga-Gainey and her large troupe of dancers seamlessly weave together elements of modern dance, ballet, and native dances of Mexico.

February holds performances by two distinctly different East Coast companies. First on the schedule, honoring Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday, we joyfully present a dance program by **KEIGWIN + COMPANY** that blends Artistic Director Larry Keigwin's electrifying movement with some of Bernstein's iconic scores. This exciting program reflects the company's refreshing vision of dance – bold movement with a theatrical sensibility of wit, style and heart.

Walnut Street Theatre presents **BASKERVILLE, A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**, full of intrigue and huge laughs. The male heirs of the Baskerville line are being murdered one by one and the renowned sleuth, Sherlock Holmes, along with his trusted sidekick, Dr. Watson, must work feverishly to crack the curse before it dooms the newest heir.

March brings the **Lezginka State Dance Company of Daghestan** to the McCallum stage, offering an extensive program of fiery, temperamental dances of the numerous peoples inhabiting this Mountain Country. Its entire choreographic and music works convey the noble endeavors of the Daghestan people that are treading the highroad of national development in the multinational family of the people of Russia.

In **April** is **Shh! We Have a Plan**. Follow the journey of some madcap characters each of whom has a plan – they all want to capture a beautiful bird perched high in a tree! Sounds simple, but the quest becomes an absurd obsession! Join us as we follow the characters' exploits, meet an elusive and magical little birdie and discover that perhaps freedom and kindness are more important than getting what you want at any cost!

The 2017-18 Field Trip Series comes to a close in **May** with **The Children of Willesden Lane**. Set in Vienna in 1938 and in London during the Blitzkrieg, The Children of Willesden Lane tells the true story of Lisa Jura, a young Jewish musician who is dreaming about her concert debut at the storied Musikverein concert hall. In this heart-stirring show, virtuoso Mona Golabek performs some of the world's most revered piano compositions as she shares her mother's riveting story of survival.

For a complete list of performances and full performance descriptions, please visit:
<http://www.mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/education/field-trips/performances>

The 2017-2018 Field Trip Series performance schedule:

The Martial Artists & Acrobats of Tianjin, People's Republic of China – *China Soul*
Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 9:30am & 11am
Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 9:30am & 11am
Recommended Grades: K – 12

The Desert Symphony - *Painting Pictures with Music*
Friday, October 20, 2017, 10am & 11:30am
Recommended Grades: K-12

Barak Ballet

Friday, October 20, 2017, 10am & 11:30am
Recommended Grades: K-12

Tomáš Kubínek - *Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible*

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 9:30am & 11:30am
Recommended Grades: K – 12

Pacifico Dance Company

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 9:30am & 11am
Recommended Grades: K – 12

KEIGWIN + COMPANY Celebrates Bernstein

Tuesday, February 6, 2018, 9:30am
Recommended Grades: 2 – 12

Walnut Street Theatre - *BASKERVILLE, A Sherlock Holmes Mystery*

Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 9:30am (120 minutes including a short pause)
Recommended Grades: 6 – 12

Lezginka State Dance Company of Daghestan

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 9:30am & 11am
Recommended Grades: K – 12

Cahoots NI - *Shh! We Have a Plan*

Monday, April 9, 2018, 11:30am
Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 9:30am & 11:30am
Recommended Grades: PreK – 5

Mona Golabek - *The Children of Willesden Lane*

Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 11am
Wednesday, May 9, 2018, 9:30am & 11am
Recommended Grades: 3 – 12

Registration begins August 15th, 2017. To reserve seats, teachers complete the FTS Attendance Form, available at:

[http://www.mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/education/field-trips.](http://www.mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/education/field-trips)

Completed forms need to be faxed or mailed to Michael Flannigan, McCallum Theatre Education, 73000 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260. Fax: (760) 776-6197. Seating is arranged on a first-come, first-served basis.

McCallum Theatre Education, formerly known as McCallum Theatre Institute and established in September 1997, is the education division of the McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts, offering a spectrum of arts education programs for the community, including free and subsidized activities for close to 40,000 schoolchildren and classroom teachers each year.

For information on opportunities to contribute to the Field Trip Series, please visit:
<http://www.mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/giving/field-trip-performance-sponsorship>

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