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A WORLD OF MUSIC, DANCE, THEATRE & PERFORMANCE

The Field Trip Series offers high quality performances in music, dance, and theatre to the youth of the region. The Series is based on the premise that the arts are important and necessary to the learning process and provide students with unique possibilities for growth and development. It is our hope that educators take advantage of the Institute's *Learning Links* and find ways to connect McCallum performance experiences with the core curriculum in ways that meaningfully support student learning.

Performances are offered at no cost to schools and students thanks to generous underwriting from individual donors, foundations and municipalities.

Funding for the Field Trip Series is provided in part by the Berger Foundation, City of Palm Desert, City of Rancho Mirage, City of Indian Wells, Newman's Own, and Palm Springs Friends of Philharmonic.

1

The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China

Monday, October 3, 2011, 9:30am & 11:30am

Recommended Grades: K-12



Direct from Beijing, The National Acrobats of The People's Republic of China bring an internationally renowned and award-winning troupe of performers on an exciting tour of the U.S. When we tell you that each individual acrobat in the company has trained intensively for a minimum of six years, you will find ample evidence of that rigor in the cavalcade of tumbling, handstands, balancing, juggling, and dancing in this riveting performance. Brightly costumed in colorful garb, these skillful artists use such everyday articles as chairs, tables, bowls, ladders, and bottles as props. Some are contortionists. Some drum while others dance. Some betray in their moves a strong connection to the martial arts. Among the most awe-inspiring acts is the plate spinning, in which performers balance plates on rods while doing tricks. They also dive. Flip through hoops. Juggle straw hats while perched upon each other's shoulders. Stack fifteen people on a bicycle. And more, more, more. You get the picture.

Visit www.cami.com/?webid=1928 for more information.

"Astonishing... a theatrical trip well worth taking."

— THE COURIER MAIL, AUSTRALIA

2

Snowflake LaJoye Productions

Friday, October 7, 2011, 9:30am & 11:30am

Recommended Grades: PreK–12



A popular favorite on our Field Trip Series in prior seasons, Gale LaJoye's tender masterpiece "Snowflake" makes a return visit. Having encountered him before, who can forget the gentle street-dweller whose interactions with the world's castoff items make us question just what we mean by homeless? LaJoye has performed this singular work all over the globe – quite a journey for the character based on a man who lived on the streets of his hometown, Marquette, Michigan. Part vaudeville, part Chaplin, part Marceau, this work elicits laughs even as it moves us. What is it that makes Snowflake seem so universal? Perhaps the fact he never says a word but speaks volumes with his body and his face. From the moment he hops over the fence that bounds the lot he calls home, he enchants us with his comic timing, physical grace, invention, and heart. Someone has tossed a forgotten doll his way. Will he succeed in cheering up the sad "little boy?" Watch him try – and discover the magic this work can affect.

Visit www.lajoye.com for more information.

3

Water Is Rising

Monday, October 17, 2011, 9:30am & 11:00am

Recommended Grades: PreK–12



From the smallest countries in the world – Kiribati, Tokelau, and Tuvalu – comes Water Is Rising, replete with thirty-six musicians and dancers. Situated not much above sea level, these tiny nations may become the first cultures to be submerged by rising sea levels. For their U. S. tour, the artists – elegant, exuberant, forceful – perform songs and dances that express what nature and their ancestral past mean to them. Rich harmonies, language both poetic and metaphor-laden (translated for us!), and movement of incomparable grace are just some of the ingredients. Dynamic rhythmic accompaniment comes courtesy of open hands against resonant wooden boxes. Dressed in finely woven pandanus leaves, palm fronds, shells, and flowers, these Polynesian and Micronesian performers move in jaw-dropping synchronization. Their shared spirit and intense energy – gathered on one stage – truly convey the legacy of their various traditions. Too, the use of projections provides images of life back home – village, church, family, ocean, and lagoon. The beauty and vitality of the performance – coupled with the group's evident joy in performing it – communicates a moving faith in the future despite the effects of global warming.

Visit www.wac.ucla.edu/cip/tour/water-rising for more information.

4

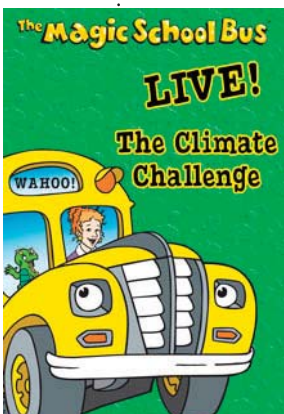
The Magic School Bus

Bay Area Children's Theatre

Monday, October 31, 2011, 9:30am & 11:30am

Tuesday, November 1, 2011, 9:30am & 11:30am

Recommended Grades: PreK–3



Seatbelts everyone! *The Magic School Bus* celebrates its twenty-fifth Anniversary with an all-new musical adventure. You know the books, of course. A hugely popular children's series written by Johanna Cole over a period of years, these entertaining books bring science concepts to light. Well, now the Bay Area Children's Theatre has mounted an all-singing, all-dancing, all-fun musical theater version of one of the more recent books – all about climate change. How current is that? Here's the dope: Ms. Frizzle's students are putting on a play about global warming, and they need some cold, hard facts. The Friz and her reptilian sidekick, Liz, know just where to find them! This is no ordinary field trip, as a hop on the Magic School Bus takes the class and the audience on a whirlwind tour. From the arctic to the equator, they see telltale signs of climate change and learn how conservation, recycling and alternative energy can make a difference. Ms Frizzle and her class are up for the climate challenge. Curriculum Connections abound. To wit: Science, Weather, Environmental Issues, Observation, Cooperation and Teamwork, Communication.

Visit www.bsoinc.com/family/artist.php?artist=msb for more information.

"Dazzling and amazing...Kubinek performs with grace and finesse, bestowing a beautiful gift for his audience."

— THEATRESCOPE, NEW YORK

5

Tomás Kubinek

Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 9:30am & 11:00am

Recommended Grades: 1–12



Gentle-spirited (and zany) Tomás Kubinek returns to the McCallum stage, his performances from prior seasons still fresh in our minds and hearts. Part daredevil, part Chaplinesque physical poet of the comedic, this trained acrobat makes us laugh until we cry. Of course we may feel like he belongs to us, but actually he tours the world. His run on Broadway sold out to rapturous audiences, earning the New York Times' plaudit: "absolutely expert and consistently charming." We concur! With the greatest of control he manages to get himself into some very strange positions – and then layers in some highly improbable feats. He balances, conjures, and clowns. Mines the absurd. Plumbs the profound. Draws on vaudeville, slapstick, circus, and physical theater, blending moments of poignancy with a razor sharp sense of timing. And we in the audience, far from passive observers, are brought into the act – or perhaps we should say the act comes out to us. Find out how – and fall under this artist's lovely spell.

Visit www.kubinek.com for more information.

6

Ballet Folklorico De Antioquia, Colombia

Tuesday, January 31, 2012, 9:30am & 11:00am

Recommended Grades: K–12



Energy and excitement. Color and precision. That's Ballet Folklorico De Antioquia from South America. These twenty dancers and nine musicians create their own unique performance style from the rich diversity of Latin culture in Colombia. Here are carnivals, rituals, and celebrations. Here, too, are physical theater, contemporary music, and today's dance moves. What a festive mix. "We mean to be the best cultural ambassadors of our country," they say – and are they! What part of the map have they not conquered – Asia, Europe, Mexico, South America? Now they've made it to our shores with this extravaganza of lights, music, and dance. Founded in the city of Medellin twenty years ago, this company intends to shine a light on the culture of that fabled land. Therefore, we encounter in short order festive and fiery traditional dances done in full, colorful regalia; dances whose figures invoke indigenous peoples and mythic creatures; and dances along more classical lines with all the rigor of ballet. *Viva!*

Visit www.bfda.org for more information.

7

Sylvester and The Magic Pebble Enchantment Theatre Company

Monday, February 27, 2012, 9:30am & 11:00am

Recommended Grades: PreK–3



Produced by the Enchantment Theatre Company, this musical tale draws upon the beloved children's story by the same name, written and illustrated by William Steig. (He also wrote *Shrek* – but you knew that.) In this musical version of that work, we meet Sylvester, a winsome donkey, who picks up a shiny red pebble. You will have guessed – as he is shortly to learn – that the pebble is magic. Over the course of the work, the pebble spins a heartwarming story that reveals to Sylvester the true importance of family and friends. The original book received the coveted Caldecott Medal for children's literature – and it has been engaging the imagination and captivating the hearts and souls of children for some time. In this theatrical production, Sylvester learns that magic works very well sometimes — he can turn the rain on and off! — but it can also work against him — when he transforms himself into a rock to escape a hungry lion. How will he escape from the rock? How will his loving family ever find him? Will he ever get home? Enchantment Theater Company, a groundbreaking producer of original theater for children, brings all its signature elements to bear – projected scenery, animation, masked actors, puppets, and dance. Original music, ranging from jazz to blues to classic rock, helps tell the story. Dancing squirrels, comic dogs, a trio of duck puppets and a marvelous dream sequence are just some of the highlights. Who will love Sylvester? Everyone from young children all the way up to their grandparents — anyone who believes in happy endings.

Visit www.bsoinc.com/family/artist.php?artist=sylvester for more information.

“Sophisticated and altogether winning take on an ancient Greek myth. The audience greeted it all with giggles, guffaws, cheers and applause”

– NEW YORK TIMES

8 Jason and the Argonauts Visible Fictions

Monday, April 2, 2012, 11:30am

Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 9:00am & 11:30am

Recommended Grades: 3-12



Back by popular demand, Visible Fictions brings its wildly imaginative version of the Jason myth to our stage for a third go-round. You know the story. Jason's uncle kills Jason's father and usurps the crown. Thinking to rid himself of Jason as well, he sends him on a life-threatening quest to fetch the Golden Fleece. In short order, the lad rustles up a dab crew of heroes to man his ship, led by the redoubtable Hercules. And all these characters are played by – two actors from Scotland. Well, they have a little help from a trunk full of kids' action figures. Wonderfully witty, wryly comic, broadly slapstick, the production nonetheless succeeds in creating a surprising degree of suspense. Credit the classically trained actors and their inventive director. How will the sailors slip past the lethal Clashing Rocks? How will they recover from the loss of two of their own? How will Jason succeed in wooing the sorceress Medea – or is it the other way around? And what will happen when Jason returns home and confronts his evil uncle? Utilizing hair-trigger timing, deft staging, and finely-tuned language amidst the minimalist trappings (a regular feature with this troupe), these artists take us on a journey of the imagination.

Visit www.visiblefictions.co.uk for more information

“A marvelous adventure... a world of wow and wonder.”

– BIRMINGHAM POST

9 Twinkle Twonkle Tall Stories of London

Monday, April 9, 2012, 11:30am

Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 9:30am & 11:30am

Recommended Grades: PreK-3



Suppose you could visit outer space just by extending your telescope and climbing out onto its end? Magically, that is just what Stella's little brother Ryan does (we hear some wishing on stars is involved). Thus is set in motion this charming adventure from England's celebrated children's theater company, Tall Stories. McCallum Theatre audiences will recall their *Room On the Broom* from last season. Designed for folks aged four and up, *Twinkle Twonkle* melds Mother Goose with intriguing science concepts like gravity and the Big Bang Theory. Yet the learning never feels labored. Songs abound – and the actors, skilled at creating characters kids can relate to, reach out to audiences interactively. Masters of their own unique brand of physical theater, Tall Stories tours the world from Broadway to Asia – to the far reaches of outer space where young Ryan and his sister find the constellations Great Bear and Little Bear have been joined by something that looks suspiciously like his teddy.

Visit www.tallstories.org.uk for more information.

Reservation Process

To reserve seats for a performance, you must use the FTS attendance form. Please make copies of this form and use one separate form per performance. To the extent possible, coordinate your attendance with other educators at your school site. Completed forms can be faxed, scanned and e-mailed, or mailed to the Theatre.

Seating is arranged on a first-come, first-served basis. We recommend that you make your reservations early as we cannot guarantee availability. It is also advised that you secure transportation prior to submitting attendance form. Teachers/schools are responsible for arranging and paying for transportation to and from the Theatre.

Upon receipt of your completed attendance form, we will e-mail a confirmation letter to the contact person at your school regarding the status of your request. If you do not receive an electronic confirmation within 30 days of submitting your attendance form(s), please contact the Theatre. Do not assume that forms have been received.

Please confirm your attendance and total number of people attending at least 7 days prior to each performance.

Tickets are not issued for FTS performances. Upon arrival at the Theatre, you will be seated by McCallum ushers.

We strongly suggest a review of theatre etiquette with students prior to performances. A helpful document is available on the McCallum Theatre Institute web site.

The Field Trip Series is subject to change at any time. Updates will be posted.



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