

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, August 15, 2024

## **McCallum Theatre Announces 2024-2025 Education Programming**

**Organization's Four Signature Education Initiatives  
Impact Lives of Nearly 40,000 Local Students,  
Educators, and Community Members Each Year**

**Schools May Begin Registering For The Field Trip  
Series Beginning This Tuesday, August 20**

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Palm Desert, CA – The McCallum Theatre today announces 2024-2025 Season programming connected to two of its long-running core initiatives, The Field Trip Series and The Aesthetic Education Program.

With The Field Trip Series, students and teachers from across the Coachella Valley, High Desert, and beyond are offered no-cost admission to attend performances at the McCallum Theatre, which has served as the cultural heart of the Desert region since its opening more than 36 years ago. This program is open to those from public, private, and home schools alike, providing an opportunity to befriend the performing arts and make powerful connections to the core curriculum.

Through The Aesthetic Education Program, the McCallum team hires, trains, and equips a corps of Teaching Artists to facilitate dynamic classroom workshops based upon selected Focus Works, encouraging students to think critically and creatively. As part of their studies, these students attend performances and/or exhibits explored with the teaching artist, experiencing the transformative power of the arts firsthand. This immersive experience profoundly enriches students' educational journeys by bridging classroom learning and the arts.

These two programs -- combined with the McCallum's two additional core educational initiatives, Palm Desert Choreography Festival and Open Call Talent Project -- touch the lives of nearly 40,000 local students, educators, and community members every year, and they uplift the quality of learning and the quality of life within the Coachella Valley, both today and in decades to come.

"When we began investing in education programs at the McCallum, we dedicated ourselves to providing access to incredible artistic experiences for local students, many of whom otherwise would not have an opportunity to attend a live performance in a professional arts venue," shares Kajsa Thuresson-Frary, McCallum's Vice President - Education. "I'm deeply grateful to the many partners who have supported our mission, and as we approach the three-decade milestone for our educational outreach and programming, I'm humbled to reflect upon the extraordinary impact our efforts have had on the region, with over one million participants and counting!"

Our Education initiatives require tremendous philanthropic support, and anyone can make a difference in the lives of thousands of children, teachers, and families! With a donation of \$5,000 or more, donors may underwrite the cost of Teaching Artists, Teacher Professional Development, and the professional productions and exhibits -- all crucial components of the McCallum's educational initiatives.

For information on opportunities to contribute to either The Field Trip Series or The Aesthetic Education Program, please contact Tom Head, Associate Vice President - Development, at (760) 346-6505, ext. 104 or [thead@mccallum-theatre.org](mailto:thead@mccallum-theatre.org).

## The Field Trip Series

The Field Trip Series for 2024-2025 will include two dozen performances from ten of the world's most exciting companies dedicated to educating and empowering youth by providing encounters with culturally diverse works of music, dance, and theatre.

The Series kicks off October 3-4 with four performances by Popovich Comedy Pet Theatre, which features over 30 furry or feathered cast members, world-class juggling, gymnastics, and balancing acts. Later that month, *Hotel Elsinore*, A Plant [UnLtd] & Susanna Hamnett production, brings real-life family members Susanna Hamnett, Joshua MacGregor, and Lily MacGregor to the McCallum stage, portraying three weary travelers who find themselves in a hotel room, grappling with an unexpected will and a production of *Hamlet* to rehearse before morning. This new play masterfully blends tragedy and humor, exploring the challenges of family, forgiveness, and Shakespeare.

In November, five-time GRAMMY®-nominated children's musician Justin Roberts and his band, The Not Ready For Naptime Players, bring the concert experience *The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade*, based on his children's book of the same name. Kids and adults alike will dance and groove to the tunes, which explore individuality, embrace uniqueness, and celebrate the joy of being yourself.

Two companies booked to perform as part of the McCallum's holiday lineup are also extending their local presence by also participating as part of The Field Trip Series. Mariachi Herencia de México, which presents their *A Mariachi Christmas* on December 8, are staying an additional day to give two Monday morning, December 9 performances of *Herederos*, an exhilarating, bilingual

musical voyage that pays homage to legendary artists and composers such as Juan Gabriel, Rocio Durcal, Frank Sinatra, Héctor Lavoe, and Cuco Sanchez, bridging cultures and uniting audiences through the universal language of music. Two days later, Hawaiian-born ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro will give two morning performances of *Peace, Love, Ukulele!*, a special concert infused with the spirit of the season, in advance of his scheduled evening performance of *Jake's Holiday in Hawaii*.

A new year, a new ZooZoo! On January 13-14, Imago Theatre returns to the McCallum with their delightful fusion of Cirque Du Soleil-evoking acrobatics and Mummenschanz-like mime. The show, a madcap revue blending illusion, comedy, and sheer fun, has ignited imaginations and inspired audiences nationwide.

In March, Ballet Hispánico will stick around after its one-night-only public performance on Monday, March 17 to present two shows of *Performance for Young People* on Tuesday morning, March 18. The power of dance transcends boundaries and celebrates the richness of Hispanic heritage in this dynamic performance featuring a series of captivating excerpts from Ballet Hispánico's repertoire, each introduced by one of the company members who will share the history and inspiration behind the works.

April will kick off with a visit from Jazzreach. On Tuesday, April 1, *Con Alma Y Fuego* (With Soul and Fire) features sizzling live music by New York's Metta Quintet, captivating video projections, and live narration, capturing the enticing origins and evolution of Latin jazz, and highlighting the music of artists such as Machito, Dizzy Gillespie, Tito Puente, Antonio Carlos Jobim, and Irakere. On Wednesday, April 2, they will give two performances of *Yes Indeed!*, an engaging, interactive program designed to instill a greater appreciation, awareness and understanding of the great American BLUES tradition.

Closing out The Field Trip Series in May, GRAMMY®-winning The Okee Dokee Brothers will encourage creativity and a deeper connection to our communities and environment. Childhood friends Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing are adventurers at heart, and their passion for the outdoors is the driving force behind their Americana Folk music, which inspires audiences of all ages to explore and appreciate the natural world.

### **How To Participate:**

For a complete list of performances and full performance descriptions, please visit [www.McCallumTheatre.org/FieldTripSeries](http://www.McCallumTheatre.org/FieldTripSeries). Student group organizers may request tickets for any Series performance by selecting a desired show and then clicking on "Request Tickets" to submit their details and preferences.

For information about how to participate in The Field Trip Series, please contact Felipe M. Sanchez, Education Program Coordinator, at (760) 346-6505, ext. 143 or [fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org](mailto:fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org).

### **The Field Trip Series performance schedule:**

#### **Popovich Comedy Pet Theater**

Thursday, October 3, 2024 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Friday, October 4, 2024 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: K - 12*

**Hotel Elsinore****A Plant [UnLtd] & Susanna Hamnett Production**

Thursday, October 24, 2024 - 10:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: 8 - 12*

**The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade****Justin Roberts & The Not Ready For Naptime Players**

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*Recommended Grades: PreK - 5*

**Herederos****Mariachi Herencia de México**

Monday, December 9, 2024 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: 2 - 12*

**Peace, Love, Ukulele!****Jake Shimabukuro**

Wednesday, December 11, 2024 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: K - 12*

**ZooZoo****Imago Theatre**

Monday, January 13, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*Recommended Grades: PreK - 12*

**Ballet Hispánico: Performance for Young People**

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*Recommended Grades: 2 - 12*

**Con Alma Y Fuego****Jazzreach**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 - 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: 5 - 12*

**Yes Indeed!****Celebrating the Great American Blues Tradition****Jazzreach**

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: 5 - 12*

**The Okee Dokee Brothers**

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Thursday, May 22, 2025, 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*Recommended Grades: K - 5*

# The Aesthetic Education Program

With workshops and performances that stimulate critical thinking, creative problem-solving, communication, collaboration, connection, and curiosity, the McCallum Theatre's Aesthetic Education Program has stimulated inquiry-based learning in the Arts within every school district in our Valley. Last year, 274 classrooms in 29 schools across the Valley—6783 students—participated. This year, McCallum's teaching artists are already scheduled for nearly 1,800 inquiry-driven workshops, engaging students in meaningful and eye-opening experiences with the arts.

Each year, we identify a group of focus works, dynamic works of art that will challenge students to notice deeply, formulate and ask questions, and to make connections to their own lives, to what's going on in their classroom, and to the world at large.

Focus works for 2024-2025 include performances by *TAIKOPROJECT*, David Gonzalez, Mona Golabek, Dan + Claudia Zanes, Terrapin Puppet Theater, and Le Petit Théâtre de Sherbrooke & La [parenthèse] / Christophe Garcia.

The Aesthetic Education Program kicks off in June each year with a powerful Summer Institute for Educators and nurtures curiosity and deep engagement with dance, theater, music, and visual arts through an inquiry-driven approach. It ignites students' imaginations, enhances arts literacy, and promotes social and emotional learning and higher-order thinking skills.

### **How To Participate:**

For more information about The Aesthetic Education Program, please visit [www.McCallumTheatre.org/aesthetic-education](http://www.McCallumTheatre.org/aesthetic-education).

To learn about how your school may participate in The Aesthetic Education Program, please contact Felipe M. Sanchez, Education Program Manager, at (760) 346-6505, ext. 143 or [fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org](mailto:fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org).

### **The Aesthetic Education Program performance schedule:**

#### **Benzaiten - TAIKOPROJECT**

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: PreK - 12*

#### **The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures**

**David Gonzalez with Daniel Kelly, Piano**

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*Recommended Grades: PreK - 3*

#### **The Children of Willesden Lane**

**Mona Golabek**

Tuesday, February 4, 2025 - 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Wednesday, February 5, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades: 3 - 12*

#### **Let Love Be Your Guide**

**Dan + Claudia Zanes with Tyree Austin**

Monday, March 3, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Tuesday, March 4, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM

*Recommended Grades K - 12*

**The Paper Escaper**

**Terrapin Puppet Theatre**

Touring To Schools: Monday, April 7, 2025 - Friday, April 11, 2025

*Recommended Grades K - 12*

**The Problem With Pink**

**Le Petit Théâtre de Sherbrooke and La [Parenthèse] / Christophe Garcia**

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Wednesday, May 7, 2025 - 9:30 AM

Thursday, May 8, 2025 - 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

*Recommended Grades: 3 - 12*

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*The McCallum Theatre Box Office, phone center, and website, are the **only** authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the Theatre. Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites, are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.*



**McCallum Theatre**

Box Office: (760) 340-2787 | Admin: (760) 345-6505  
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