



2024-25 Focus Works

Explore, Create, Discover!

THE AESTHETIC
EDUCATION PROGRAM



*Dance, Music,
Theatre, Visual Arts*

INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE ARTS

Welcome to a New Year of Learning in the Arts!

We look forward to welcoming you and your students to the Theatre in the 2024-25 school year and we're really excited about this year's focus works —dynamic works of art that will challenge your students to notice deeply, formulate and ask questions and make connections to their own lives, to what's going on in the classroom, and to the larger world.



Be **BOLD** in your choices and see what you'll discover alongside your students on this year's journey through the arts!



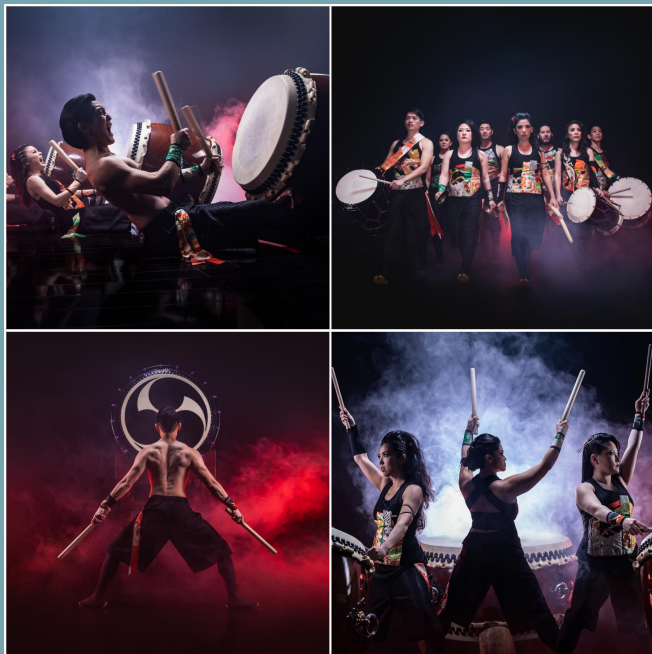
INSTRUCTIONS (READ CAREFULLY):

1. Take inventory of your focus work options in slides 4-9 for your two McCallum units of study. Discuss options with your school team, and especially those who attended the Summer Institute.
2. Please give each focus work a number. Number them in order of preference from 1 to 6. Note that we have limited capacity per focus work, but will do our very best to accommodate each school partner's top choices.
3. Carefully look at what focus works your students explored last year (if applicable), think about what could be a good build for them this year based on THEIR previous experience, and consider possible connections to the core curriculum. Please pay attention to our age recommendations.
4. Please understand that a minimum of 4 and no more than 15 classrooms at one school can explore the same work of art in the same time period. As a school, you have to make choices.
5. The McCallum school coordinator needs to fill out the Focus Work Selection Form (or multiple forms) to communicate your school's choices prior to the deadline on June 28, 2024.

Thank you for your partnership!



Recommended for TK/Kinder and up (60 minutes)



Benzaiten

TAIKOPROJECT

TAIKOPROJECT isn't your typical taiko group; they present a dynamic contemporary mix of taiko, music, storytelling, and choreography. Inspired by Benzaiten, the Japanese goddess of everything that flows, this performance seamlessly weaves percussive power and strength with graceful elements. Experience the thunderous resonance of authentic taiko drums alongside the delicate tones of bamboo flutes and the ethereal sounds of the koto. And of course, be prepared for their awe-inspiring centerpiece: a 350-pound mother drum that will quite literally make the earth tremble beneath your feet!

"This ain't your mama's taiko,
but it may be your hip,
younger cousin's."

– LA Weekly

Tuesday & Wednesday, October 15-16
9:30 & 11 am

Recommended for TK/Kinder-3rd Grade (45 minutes)



"David Gonzalez speaks with courageous humanity and brilliant creativity – his poetry and stories uplift the spirit and inspire wonder."

– Deepak Chopra

The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures

DAVID GONZALEZ WITH DANIEL KELLY, PIANO

Buckle up for a magical journey! Adapted from Seymour Leichman's enchanting tale *The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures*, we meet Luca, son of the famed jester Bustelo. Yet Luca's talent transcends expectations; his singing conjures breathtaking visions, unveiling the profound truths of the world and its inhabitants. Get ready to be carried off by this captivating story and a tapestry of music woven from the works of Villa-Lobos, Piazzolla, Bach, and Beethoven, alongside original compositions by Daniel Kelly. This experience promises to captivate, stir emotions, and ignite inspiration.

Tuesday, December 10
9:30 & 11 am

Recommended for 3rd Grade and up (60 minutes)

The Children of Willesden Lane

MONA GOLABEK

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. When new ordinances are issued under the Nazi regime, everything changes for Lisa, except her love of music and the pursuit of her dream. In this heart-stirring storytelling performance, virtuoso Mona Golabek performs some of the world's most revered piano compositions as she shares her mother's riveting story of survival. Infused with hope and brimming with the life-affirming power of music, this performance is based on the book *The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival* by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen.



“A stirring case of art preserving life...Golabek sitting down at the Steinway piano is enough to make your mouth fall open with a certain wonder at the way of the world.”

– Chicago Tribune

Tuesday & Wednesday, February 4-5
9:30 & 11 am

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up (60 minutes)

Let Love Be Your Guide

DAN + CLAUDIA ZANES WITH TYREE AUSTIN



"The family-music genre's most outspoken and eloquent advocate."

Magazine

– Time

Grammy award-winning musician Dan Zanes and Haitian-American music therapist and jazz vocalist Claudia Zanes have been collaborating musically since their first meeting in 2016. Their distinctive all-ages electric folk sound is now enriched by the addition of jazz singer Tyree Austin. With electric guitar, three voices, percussion, flute, and trombone, their music intertwines the sounds of early rock and roll, jazz vocals, gospel, Haitian folk, sea shanties, and summer camp sing-alongs. This eclectic mix is delivered with enthusiasm and an open invitation for people of all ages to join in the fun. In what could be described as a relaxed yet subtly educational party atmosphere, these Smithsonian Folkways recording artists create music that bursts with creativity and radiates a joyful optimism about life's greatest possibilities.

Monday & Wednesday, March 3 & 5
9:30 & 11 am

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up (45 minutes)

The Paper Escaper

TERRAPIN PUPPET THEATRE

In the monochromatic world of *The Paper Escaper*, Benny, a plucky puppet protagonist, emerges from an Illustrator's colorful pop-up book. Eager to explore beyond their page, Benny faces a challenge: the Illustrator wants them to stay put. As Benny evades glue and tape traps in a whimsical cat-and-mouse game, a fiery threat looms. Alone, Benny can't fight it all. This nonverbal work combines striking visuals, brilliant puppetry, and dynamic original music to convey themes of determination, friendship, and individuality. Terrapin, from Tasmania, Australia, brings this vibrant production on its first North American tour in time for the 2024-25 school year. Inspired by a deep connection to the most imaginative and fantastic of artforms, an experience with Terrapin reminds us all that our ability to create something extraordinary is always with us, wherever we are.



"Tasmania's Terrapin Puppet Theatre makes theater quite unlike any other company."

- Daily Review

Monday-Friday, April 7-11
Touring to Schools (to be scheduled with school)

Recommended for 3rd Grade and up (60 minutes)

The Problem With Pink

LE PETIT THÉÂTRE DE SHERBROOKE AND
LA [PARENTHÈSE] / CHRISTOPHE GARCIA

The problem with pink is that it's everywhere! So if pink is just for girls, things might get complicated. Playing happily on their private pink carpet, each day is full of fun for friends Alix, Sasha, Lou and Noa. From afar, the outside world seeps into their games. A plane flies overhead? They grow long, long wings. It starts raining? No problem: they splash in the puddles, instantly waterproof. But everything changes when they get terrible news from the outside: the color pink is for girls. Suddenly, the perception of others becomes a major preoccupation, muddling their imaginations in the process. Fear of judgment and mistrust take hold. If pink is only for girls, how will this change the way they live and play together? Four performers use dance, theater, and striking visuals to explore friendship, identity, and belonging. This exhilarating dance drama gives children a space to reflect on stereotypes and imagine the future with boldness, brightness and freedom.



"One of this year's Imagine Festivals' more
crucial and well-executed performances"

- Corr Blimey, UK.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, May 6, 7 & 8
9:30 & 11:30am

McCallum Theatre Education's Aesthetic Education Program 2024-2025

Arts, Inquiry & Imagination!



Workshops and performances that stimulate critical thinking, creative problem-solving, communication, collaboration, connection and curiosity!

Questions? Contact Kajsa Thuresson-Frary, kajsatf@mccallum-theatre.org, 760.776.6160

