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**MCCALLUM THEATRE ANNOUNCES  
2025-2026 EDUCATION PROGRAMMING**

**ORGANIZATION'S FOUR SIGNATURE EDUCATION INITIATIVES IMPACT THE  
LIVES OF NEARLY 40,000 LOCAL STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS EACH YEAR**

**SCHOOLS MAY BEGIN REGISTERING FOR THE FIELD TRIP SERIES  
BEGINNING MONDAY, AUGUST 18**

For images see [HERE](#).

**Palm Desert, CA** (August 12, 2025) – **The McCallum Theatre** (73000 Fred Waring Dr, Palm Desert, CA), today announces 2025-2026 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 37 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 explored with the teaching artist, experiencing the transformative power of the arts first hand. 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-Frery**, 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 **Thomas Head**, Vice President - Development, at (760) 776-6164 or [thead@mccallum-theatre.org](mailto:thead@mccallum-theatre.org).

## THE FIELD TRIP SERIES

The Field Trip Series for 2025-2026 will include 22 performances dedicated to educating and empowering youth by providing encounters with culturally diverse works of music, dance, and theatre.

The Series kicks off October 9-10 with four performances of ***Tilt! A Circus Thrill Ride*** by **Cirque Mechanics**, that blends acrobatics, mechanical wonders, a bit of clowning around and storytelling rooted in the American industrial spirit, offering a realistic take on the modern circus. Their previous production, *Zephyr: A Whirlwind of Circus*, was a standout hit on McCallum's 2023 Field Trip Series.

Later that month, ***Gotta Be Me!*** by **23 Skidoo & the Secret Agency** will deliver an energetic, all-ages hip-hop experience blending golden age rap, soul, funk, reggae, and storytelling. With GRAMMY®-winning music, dazzling dancers, and powerful vocals, the show keeps kids engaged and adults inspired. Their message celebrates individuality and the vibrant journey of growing up.

October will close out with ***Spacetime - The Universe Story and Our Place In It***, featuring astrophysicist **Luke Keller**, award-winning poet and storyteller **David Gonzalez**, and innovative guitarist-composer **Álvaro Domene** — will captivate students and educators with their interdisciplinary performance that brings science to life through stunning real astronomical visuals, compelling storytelling, and live music. This immersive show aligns with science, language arts, arts, and environmental studies curricula, making it an ideal field trip for fifth grade, middle and high school students.

In January, ***The Peking Acrobats*** will amaze student audiences with their incredible Chinese acrobatics. Their performances blend ancient Chinese music with modern special effects, creating a vibrant and festive experience reminiscent of a Chinese Carnival.

February will kick off with ***Let Love Be Your Guide*** by **Dan + Claudia Zanes** with **Tyree Austin** who will present a social music celebration, offering a front row seat to a front porch dream. Their highly interactive concerts blend 12-string guitar, flute, trombone, saxophone, beatboxing, and percussion to uplift vocal harmonies. Featuring songs from their Smithsonian Folkways records and Dan Zanes and Friends classics, these performances invite everyone to sing, dance, and have a good time.

On February 18th, **Jazz at Lincoln Center** returns to the Series, featuring ***Great American Crooners - What is Jazz?*** At this education-centered performance, students will step into the golden age of jazz with rising stars **Benny Benack III**, **Robbie Lee**, and **Shenel Johns** as they introduce students to the heart and soul of

America's music. Featuring the smooth sounds of iconic crooners like Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett, this special performance blends unforgettable classics with the rich history of jazz. More than just a concert, this program explores jazz's roots in New Orleans, its evolution through swing and bebop, and its power to bring people together through rhythm, improvisation, and storytelling.

Spring performances will feature two co-productions by **Children's Theatre of Charlotte** and **Experiential Theater Company**: On April 17th, *The Invisible Boy* will tell the story of Brian, a boy who feels invisible until a new student, Justin, arrives. With creativity, they form a friendship that unleashes Brian's lively personality and imagination. This musical, filled with fun songs and heartfelt humor, shows how a simple act of kindness can change everything.

On May 19th, *Grimmz Fairy Tales*, the hip-hop, fable, story dance-pop sensation tells the story of Jay and Will who've come back home to the city where they grew up to give a concert. They're known not just for their sounds, but for the stories their music tells through, off-the-chart theatrical effects. They'll be performing some of their greatest hits including Snow White and the Seven Shawties, Down with Rapunzel, Hansel & Gretel: Lost in the Streets, and their featured first Grammy-winning song, Cinderella Remix!

Closing out The Field Trip Series in May, Latin GRAMMY®-nominee, **Sonia de los Santos**, will inspire student audiences with *Esperanza - Songs of Hope*. Her performances are filled with joy as she shares her favorite things—migrating birds, friendship, chocolate, and stories from her childhood in Mexico and her dream of moving to New York. Her vibrant songs blend Latin American rhythms like huapango, cumbia, salsa, and festejo with North American folk traditions. Born in Monterrey, Mexico, Sonia has been delighting audiences in Spanish and English since 2007, when she joined the Grammy Award®-winning group **Dan Zanes and Friends**. As a solo artist, she has released three family music albums: *Mi Viaje: De Nuevo León to the New York Island*, *¡Alegría!*, and *Esperanza*. Recognized by Billboard as one of the top Latin children's music artists, has performed at prestigious venues and festivals including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Austin City Limits, Lollapalooza, The Getty Museum, The National Gallery of Art, and The Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

#### 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**, Manager - Education Programs, at (760) 776-6196 or [fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org](mailto:fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org).

#### THE FIELD TRIP SERIES PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

*Tilt: A Circus Thrill Ride* by Cirque Mechanics  
Thursday October 9, 2025 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Friday, October 10, 2025 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Recommended grades: K-12<sup>th</sup>

*Gotta Be Me!* by 23 Skidoo & the Secret Agency  
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM

Recommended grades: K-8th

*Spacetime —The Universe Story and Our Place In It*  
Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM  
Recommended grades: 5th-12th

*The Peking Acrobats*  
Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Recommended grades: K-12th

*Let Love Be Your Guide* by Dan + Claudia Zanes with Tyree Austin  
Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 10 AM  
Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Recommended grades: K-5th

*Jazz at Lincoln Center - Great American Crooners – What Is Jazz?*  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM  
Recommended grades: 4th-12th

*The Invisible Boy*  
Co-Produced by Children's Theatre of Charlotte & Experiential Theater Company  
Friday, April 17, 2026 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Recommended grades: K-5th

*Grimmz Fairy Tales*  
Co-Produced by Children's Theatre of Charlotte & Experiential Theater Company  
Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 10 AM & 12:00 Noon  
Recommended grades: 2nd-8th

*Esperanza - Songs of Hope* by Sonia De Los Santos  
Friday, May 22, 2026 at 10 AM & 11:30 AM  
Recommended grades: K-5th

#### 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, 257 classrooms in 28 schools across the Valley—6,439 students—participated. This year, McCallum's teaching artists are 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 and performances for 2025-2026 include ***Bright Stars*** by Inez Barlatier and Justin Roberts, ***The Planets*** by Backhausdance, ***ZooZoo*** by Imago Theatre, ***The Frog Bride*** by David Gonzalez, and ***Parsons Dance***—a season full of wonder, discovery, and creative exploration.

#### 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, Manager - Education Programs, at (760) 776-6196  
or [fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org](mailto:fsanchez@mccallum-theatre.org).

THE AESTHETIC EDUCATION PROGRAM PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:

*Bright Stars*

Inez Barlatier & Justin Roberts

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up

*The Planets*

Backhausdance

Touring to Schools:

Wednesday-Friday, December 3-5, 2025

Monday-Tuesday, December 8-9, 2025

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up

*ZooZoo*

Imago Theatre

Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up

*The Frog Bride*

David Gonzalez with Daniel Kelly, Piano & Elise Parker, Violin

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Recommended for 2nd Grade and up

*Parsons Dance*

Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM & 11:30 AM

Recommended for 2nd Grade and up

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