



THE AESTHETIC
EDUCATION PROGRAM

Arts, Inquiry & Imagination!

2025-26 Focus Works



Dance, Music, Theatre!

INQUIRY-BASED LEARNING IN THE ARTS

Welcome to a New Year of Learning in the Arts!

We're thrilled to welcome you and your students back to the Theatre for the 2025-26 school year! And we're excited about our focus works which promise to inspire your students to wonder, ask curious questions, and draw connections between the art they experience, their classroom learning and personal lives, and the world around them.

We encourage you to be adventurous in your approach to selecting focus works – lean into the unexpected, explore new perspectives, and see what discoveries unfold as you and your students journey through the arts together. Let's make this a year of bold ideas and transformative experiences!



INSTRUCTIONS (READ CAREFULLY):

1. Take inventory of your focus work options in slides 4-8 for your two McCallum units of study. Discuss options with your school team.
2. Please give each focus work a number. Number them in order of preference from 1 to 5. 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 27, 2025. You'll find the link on the last slide.



Thank you for your partnership!



Bright Stars



Recommended for TK/Kinder and up (60 minutes)

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

INEZ BARLATIER & JUSTIN ROBERTS

Experience the magic of music in this new collaboration as singer/songwriters Inez Barlatier and Justin Roberts share songs that inspire and uplift. Inez Barlatier, a Miami native, is a multifaceted performer of Ayisyen (Haitian) descent. Her ancestral and resonant voice brings forth the deeply rooted musical traditions of her family with a youthful vibrancy that is ecstatic and infectious. Five-time Grammy® nominated children's musician Justin Roberts has been praised by the New York Times for his "remarkable ability to see through a child's eyes..." and is known for writing meaningful songs that acknowledge kids' emotional depth while still letting the fun shine through. Together, Inez and Justin, who are joined on stage by a stellar band, blend their rich cultural backgrounds and talents to create a musical journey that invites everyone to celebrate the beauty of our shared humanity.

*"We are all bright stars, just stand next to me.
The closer we are, the brighter we will be."*

The Planets

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up (45 minutes)

Wed-Fri, December 3-5

Mon-Tue, December 8-9

Touring to Schools



BACKHAUSDANCE

Backhausdance performs *The Planets* set to Gustav Holst's famous musical movement suite by the same name. With fluidity and strength, the dancers powerfully traverse the musical landscapes of Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune. Steeped in choreographer Jennifer Backhaus' detailed and meticulously sculpted style and imbued with her refined yet playful sense of whimsy, *The Planets* delivers a dramatic combination of classical music and contemporary dance that will make the solar system come alive in exciting and unexpected ways.

This performance will tour to schools and will be performed in the round, with audience members sitting on all four sides of the performance space. Performance date and time will be scheduled in dialogue with the school.

“The dancers seemed to grow before our eyes.”

— Laura Bleiberg, Los Angeles Times

ZooZoo

Recommended for TK/Kinder and up (60 minutes)

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



IMAGO THEATRE

ZooZoo, a visually rich, non-verbal performance, delights with a cast of quirky animal and human characters brought to life through imaginative movement, mime, and comedy. The result is wonder, awe and lots of laughs! Imago's internationally acclaimed creators, Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad, have been called alchemists, magicians, theatrical animators, and physical comedians. Described as Cirque Du Soleil-evoking acrobatics mixed with Mummenschanz-like mime, Imago's shows are set in a unique yet accessible French-influenced avant-garde playground. Building on the acclaim of their beloved production *FROGZ*, Imago's *ZooZoo* has enchanted audiences worldwide since its international debut in 2009.

"... thrilling... hysterical... a supremely theatrical spectacle... completely immersing... the most purely gratifying moments of theater I have seen!"

Recommended for 2nd Grade and up (55 minutes)

Tuesday, March 3, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday, March 4, 9:30 AM

The Frog Bride

DAVID GONZALEZ

WITH DANIEL KELLY, PIANO & ELISE PARKER, VIOLIN

When a King sends his three sons to find their brides, two return with fair ladies. The last returns with... A FROG?! *The Frog Bride*, a hip adaptation of a classic Russian tale, powerfully engages the imagination and delivers a call for self-assurance, courage and forgiveness. Two outstanding musicians – Elise Parker and Daniel Kelly – weave one of Sergei Prokofiev's classical compositions with an original jazz-funk score as storyteller David Gonzalez masterfully spins this tale, embodying all the characters against a backdrop of stunning live video projection and moving images by painter Wassily Kandinsky. Filled with comic sparkle, *The Frog Bride* is a "ribbiting" coming-of-age story.



"With speech, sound, mime, dance and above all, inspired imagination, Mr. Gonzalez has the gift of creating magical worlds and drawing his audience into them. A palpable delight."

– The New York Times

Parsons Dance

Recommended for 2nd Grade and up (55 minutes)

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



PARSONS DANCE

Parsons Dance is a contemporary American dance company, internationally renowned for its energized, athletic ensemble work. Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, the company's mission is to bring life-affirming performances and joy to audiences worldwide and, through education and outreach programs, to sustain an appreciation for dance. They embrace the power of a diverse and inclusive company to enhance awareness and empathy, engage with audiences of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, lift up individuals and bring people together. They envision a more positive, creative, and welcoming world because of their art. Choreographies on this program include: Nacimiento, The Rare Walk, and The Road.

"The arts are a powerful tool for self-expression and communication. My goal is to provide opportunities for more people to experience the wonders of dance."

— David Parsons



McCallum Theatre's Aesthetic Education Program | 2025-2026

Arts, Inquiry & Imagination!

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

Use this link to submit your focus work choices:

<https://forms.gle/rt8qPKheaGJJ4Ssy5>

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

