

michigan state university
whartoncenter
for performing arts

2009-2010

arts

in education
SCHOOL SERIES



Dear Educator,

No doubt about it—we are in precarious times. Few of us are unaffected by the economy and our nation's collective sense of anxiety. Consequently, there is no better time to embrace the performing arts than now. While all of our *ACT ONE School Series* performances are carefully screened for their curricular relevance, the arts have always offered a sense of hope and possibility. We can all use a healthy dose of that right now. So for 2009–2010 we have a great lineup of shows for you and your students that teach, inspire and encourage reflection.

For 2009–2010 we are thrilled to offer you an *ACT ONE* season that beautifully integrates theatre, dance and music with science, literature, mythology, history and a global multiculturalism. Ovid's tragic tale of Orpheus and his perilous journey comes alive at the hands of an internationally renowned storyteller and a world-class musician. The antics of those mischievous farm animals hit the stage in *CLICK, CLACK, MOO!* Hungry for more? In a lively musical about nutrition, Jack Sprat is desperate to help his wife Gloria change her eating habits before it's too late. There is a great Civil War story and that crazy Italian tale about runaway pasta! There are also stories from around the world told by a master performer who engages the audience with beautifully handcrafted masks. Dancers from India will mesmerize your students with their culture while a great American dance company transports your students through American history of the 20th century. *Jazz Kats* is back with an all-new show about the blues that will encourage you and your students to celebrate life while learning about this uniquely American form of music.

We look forward to sharing that with you and your students this season!

See you at Wharton Center!

Bert Goldstein
Director, MSU Federal Credit Union
Institute for Arts and Creativity
Wharton Center for Performing Arts





“Art bids us touch and taste and hear and see the world from every abstract.”

—William Butler Yeats

2009–2010 *Act One School Series*

Important Dates

After May 20th

Reservation order forms with deposits are accepted by mail or fax, and are held on a first come, first served basis.

June

Seating of orders begins and continues throughout the summer months. Be sure to include summer contact information on the order form indicating where you can be reached for questions regarding your order.

Week of August 24th

Performance confirmations and account summaries (invoices) are sent to schools.

September 11th

Final group seat numbers, reservation changes to orders, and scholarship requests are due.

Week of September 28th

Revised performance confirmations and account summaries (invoices) with balance due are sent to schools.

October 15th (Postmark date)

Payment in full is due for discounted \$6.00 seats. See Reservation and Payment Procedures for due dates on orders received after October 15th.

Generously Sponsored By

An anonymous donor and Wharton Center Inner Circle with additional support provided by



Special thanks to the corporate sponsors, donors and volunteers who contribute so generously to Wharton Center's Arts in Education programs.

All performances are subject to change.





Jazz Kats—Jazz For Kids: “There’s Blues In There”

Co-produced by Wharton Center for Performing Arts and the MSU College of Music

Friday, October 23, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. • Pasant Theatre • Grades 4–8

In a wonderfully invigorating concert, the amazing Jazz Kats are primed to bring you a blues concert for all ages. You will hear why Rock and Roll, R&B, and Hip Hop were all influenced by the blues and why the blues are the bedrock of American music. *There’s Blues In There* is sure to be uplifting, thought-provoking, and great fun for music fans of all ages. As the great blues guitarist Brownie McGhee once said: “*The blues is life!*”

Curriculum connections: Current Affairs, Geography, Language Arts, Multicultural, Music, Social Studies, U.S. History

Run time approximately one hour.

Street Beat—Dance Through The Decades

Performed by River North Chicago Dance Company

**Thursday, October 29, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. • Cobb Great Hall
Grades 3–8**

River North Chicago Dance Company hand jives and hustles through history with its lively and informative program *Street Beat—Dance Through the Decades*. *Street Beat* teaches students about the historical and social conditions of the 20th century and how they influenced dance. Each decade from the Roaring '20s to the Groovy '70s to the Hip-Hoppin' '90s is introduced with a narrative that comments on major events, historical figures, popular music, and fashion. The dancers bring each decade to life with dance performances in true-to-times fashions—flapper dresses, poodle skirts, polyester and all. *Street Beat* concludes with the dancers engaging the audience in a question and answer session about history, dance, and the dancers themselves.

*This performance is also affiliated with a Kennedy Center Partners in Education Professional Development workshop for educators. Check the appropriate box on the order form to receive more information.

Curriculum connections: Current Affairs, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Social Studies, U.S. History
Run time approximately one hour.

Peter and the Wolf

Produced by award-winning Child’s Play Theatre Company of Tempe, Arizona

**Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. • Pasant Theatre
Grades K–4**

The duck, the bird, and the cat join Peter and his grandfather to outsmart a wily wolf in this familiar cautionary tale, set to music both classical and contemporary. Prokofiev’s musical themes for each of the characters are the colorful ribbons that tie the show together.

Adapted by Allison Gregory, an acclaimed playwright for both young and adult audiences, this show gives a fresh new look to a traditional Russian folktale. For this project she collaborated with California composer Hummie Mann who produced a lively score elaborating on themes from Prokofiev’s original work. Child’s Play’s founding artistic director David Saar directs this brand new touring production of *Peter and the Wolf*. An old favorite with a brand new look, it’s a charming musical introduction to theatre for the youngest of audiences.

Curriculum connections: Folk Tales, Language Arts, Literature, Multicultural Studies, Music, Performing Arts, Reading

Run time approximately one hour.



Click, Clack, Moo

Performed by Theatreworks USA, the same artistic team who brought you *If You Give A Pig A Pancake*

Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4, 2009 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
Pasant Theatre • Grades Pre-K through 2

"Cows that type? Hens on strike! Whoever heard of such a thing!" Farmer Brown cries. When his granddaughter Jenny comes for a visit, Farmer Brown declared the farm a "tech-free zone." He confiscates her laptop in the cold barn along with the shivering cows who use her computer to type messages requesting blankets.

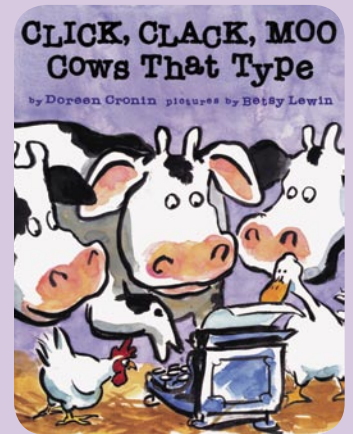
"No way," replies Farmer Brown. "No blankets!"

So the cows go on strike and the chickens join them in solidarity. No blankets: no milk, no eggs!

Will Farmer Brown give in to the animals' demands? Will Jenny get her computer back? Find out in a hilariously "mooooo-ving" new musical about negotiation and compromise, based on the Caldecott Honor Book by Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin. Book by Billy Aronson; lyrics by Kevin Del Aquila; music by Brad Alexander.

Curriculum connections: Communications, Life Skills, Literature, Performing Arts, Reading

Run time approximately one hour.



MytholoJazz

Featuring master storyteller David Gonzalez with jazz piano virtuoso Daniel Kelly

Friday, January 22, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. • Pasant Theatre • Grades 6–12

MytholoJazz adds a musical twist to Greek myth as David Gonzalez conjures a jazz-infused journey into the underworld, accompanied by the hard-hitting original compositions of jazz piano virtuoso Daniel Kelly. Loss, struggle, redemption, and artistic courage run through this production as Orpheus scats, swings and serenades his way through a gauntlet of ordeals in search of his beloved Eurydice. The antidote to Orpheus is "*Three Whiskers of the Lion*," a poignant Korean story of a stepmother's difficult, but rewarding journey in building a new family. Peppered with sassy street vernacular and modern-day references, Gonzalez makes this ancient story come vividly to life for contemporary youngsters.

"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."—*New York Times*

*This performance is also affiliated with a Kennedy Center Partners in Education Professional Development workshop for educators. Check the appropriate box on the order form to receive more information.

Curriculum connections: Language Arts, Multicultural Studies, Music, Myths, Storytelling

Run time approximately one hour.



The Jack Sprat Low Fat World Tour

Presented by the MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity in collaboration with the MSU Department of Theatre.

Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Friday, January 29, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. • Pasant Theatre • Grades K–5

Jack Sprat can eat no fat. His wife, Gloria, can eat no lean. Concerned about his wife's poor eating habits and the effects on her health, Jack enlists the help of MC Hubbard, a hip and musical "everyman" to help rid Gloria's cupboard of junk food. He then takes her on a whirlwind tour of the grocery store, where Gloria learns a world of knowledge about good living through nutritious food choices.

In addition to great songs, dancing and a good deal of humor, the show features lots of audience participation, ranging from students pretending to be antibodies fighting disease, expressing their feelings about vegetables on the "Okra Winfrey Show," and even dancing a Vitamin C conga! Music and lyrics by John Forster; book by Michael Mark.

Curriculum connections: Health and Nutrition, Life Skills, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science

Run time approximately one hour.





Jazz Kats—Jazz For Kids: “Let Freedom Ring”

Co-produced by Wharton Center for Performing Arts and the MSU College of Music

Friday, February 5, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. • Pasant Theatre • Grades 4–8

Let Freedom Ring features compositions by jazz artists who participated in the civil rights movement and shows how these works were tied to specific historic events. By telling the stories behind events such as *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s most famous speech, “I Have A Dream,” listeners discover how music can be used to send cultural and political messages of both protest and celebration. The concert is presented in memory of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the triumph celebration of Barack Obama, our first African-American president, and features the music of artists such as Dave Brubeck, Charles Mingus, and Duke Ellington.

Curriculum connections: Current Affairs, Geography, Language Arts, Multicultural, Music, Social Studies, U.S. History
Run time approximately one hour.

Four Score and Seven Years Ago

Produced by Arts Power National Touring Theatre

Monday, March 1, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. • Pasant Theatre • Grades 3–8

To young Lemuel, who has escaped slavery in Georgia, life in Gettysburg is everything he had dreamed it would be. His ideas about the North and the South, as well as what it means to be a free man, are challenged, however, when he unexpectedly befriends Jacob, a young Confederate soldier.

The two men may be of different races and on different sides of the Civil War, but they have much to teach each other about bravery and loyalty in Arts Power’s exciting and suspenseful musical theatre presentation.

Curriculum connections: Communications, Language Arts, Multicultural Studies, Performing Arts, U.S. History
Run time approximately one hour.



Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

**Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (Grades 6–12)
and 12:30 p.m. (Grades 1–5) • Pasant Theatre**

The internationally acclaimed Nrityagram Dance Ensemble from Southern India invites viewers to enchanted worlds of magic and spirituality with the mesmerizing flow of Odissi, the oldest of India’s classical dance forms. A brilliant ensemble of highly trained dancers in stunningly beautiful regalia will transport your students to Asia giving them an unforgettably engaging and educational experience. The program will include an introduction to the world of Odissi, a demonstration of the language of the dance, an opportunity for interaction with the company and of course the dances themselves.

“Astonishing!”—*The New York Times*

“A bold and bright spirit...courageous...cutting edge...a winner!”—*The Washington Post*

Curriculum connections: Language Arts, Multicultural Studies, Performing Arts, World Studies
Run time approximately one hour.



Tomie dePaola’s *Strega Nona*

Produced by Maximum Entertainment in association with Active Arts Theater for Young Audiences

**Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. • Pasant Theatre
Grades Pre-K through 3**

Based on the children’s books by Tomie dePaola, *Strega Nona* is the magical tale of a friendly magical witch—with a funny name—who strives to cure the ills of her tiny Italian town of Calabria. The baker has bunions (“as big as an onion”), his daughter wishes for witchery, and the local single ladies are always unlucky in love.

The town faces real problems when a local lug named Big Anthony sneaks a peek at Strega Nona’s magic book and uses its magical ways for selfish means. When Anthony fools with the magic pasta pot, and can’t figure out how to turn it off, pasta threatens to engulf the whole town—unless Strega Nona can save the day.

With an energetic and tuneful score by Broadway composer/musician Aron Accurso, this fantastical tale teaches that witches can be good, and that you can’t judge a pot by its pasta!

Curriculum connections: Folk Tales, Literature, Multicultural Studies, Performing Arts, Reading, Storytelling
Run time approximately one hour.



Gems: The World's Wisdom Stories

Conceived and performed by Doug Berky

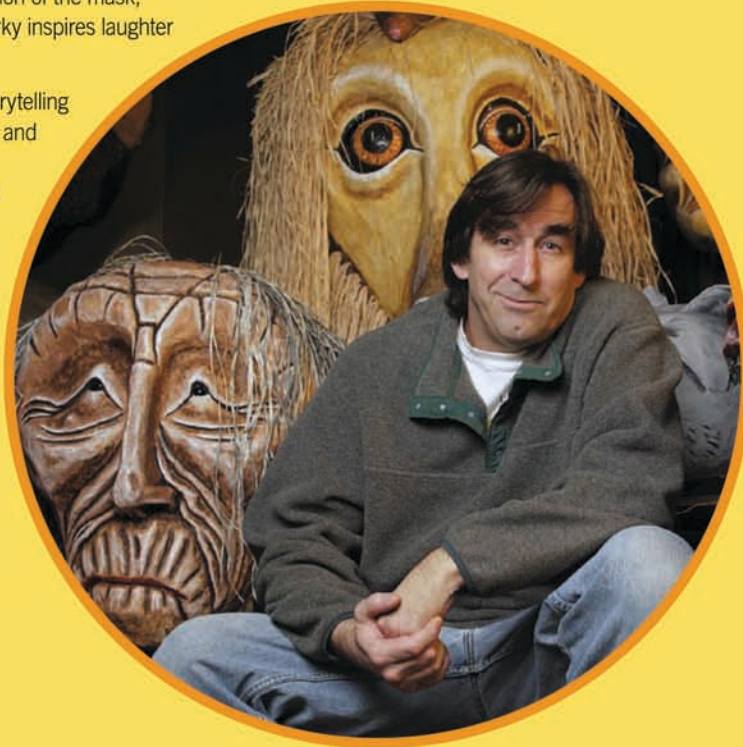
Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 9:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. • Pasant Theatre
Grades K-5

Doug Berky presents classic theatre arts in performances that transcend age, race and culture. Using the illusion of the mime, the antics of the clown, the transformation of the mask, the suspense of a good story, and the excitement of improvisation, Berky inspires laughter and reflection.

His newest performance, *Gems: The World's Wisdom Stories*, uses storytelling styles from many cultures including masks, mime, inventive costumes and puppetry to introduce students to a collection of wisdom stories from around the world, such as "Aeosop's Fables" from Greece, the "Jataka Tales" from India, and stories of Hans Christian Andersen from Denmark. Also included in the performance are stories from lesser known collections of folklore and mythology from Asian, African, the Middle Eastern, and Native American peoples. It is through story that people around the world have passed on knowledge and wisdom to their children.

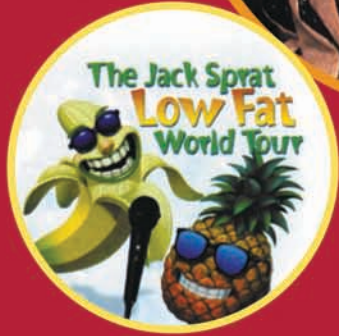
Curriculum connections: Communications, Folk Tales, Multicultural Studies, Myths, Performing Arts, Reading, Storytelling

Run time approximately one hour.



At A Glance Curriculum Connections	Current Affairs	Communications	Folk Tales	Geography	Health and Nutrition	Language Arts	Life Skills	Literature	Multicultural	Music	Myths	Performing Arts	Physical Education	Reading	Science	Social Studies	Storytelling	U.S. History	World Studies
<i>Jazz Kats—Jazz For Kids: There's Blues In There</i>	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓						✓		✓	
<i>Street Beat—Dance Through the Decades</i>	✓											✓	✓			✓		✓	
<i>Peter and the Wolf</i>			✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓					
<i>Click, Clack, Moo</i>		✓					✓	✓				✓		✓		✓			
<i>MytholoJazz</i>						✓			✓	✓	✓						✓		
<i>Jack Sprat Low Fat World Tour</i>					✓		✓					✓	✓		✓				
<i>Jazz Kats—Jazz For Kids: Let Freedom Ring</i>	✓			✓		✓			✓	✓						✓		✓	
<i>Four Score and Seven Years Ago</i>		✓				✓			✓			✓						✓	
<i>Nrityagram Dance Ensemble</i>						✓			✓			✓							✓
Tomie DePaola's <i>Strega Nona</i>			✓					✓	✓			✓		✓			✓		
<i>Gems: The World's Wisdom Stories</i>		✓	✓						✓		✓	✓		✓			✓		

For a Kennedy Center Partners In Education Professional Development Series brochure, contact Laurie Briseño at 517-353-1982 or laurie.briseño@whartoncenter.com.



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