2019-2020
APPLAUSE SERIES GUIDE:
PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO THE CIVIC CENTER
GRADES: 3-12
Dear Teachers,

Thank you for investing in a performance experience for your students during your busy school year. We welcome you to our 24th year of presenting theater for young audiences at school matinees. We hope it will be our best season yet! This section of the Applause Series Guide materials is meant to help make your visit to the theater as easy as possible. You’ll find information about Des Moines Performing Arts, directions about how to get to the theater (and where to park a bus), as well as a one-sheet for students that outline theater expectations. We hope you’ll find these pieces useful!

We have also created additional teaching materials to help deepen your experience, provide contextual information about the art form and performers on stage and to get students to engage in inquiry around the topics raised in the work. Check out the show specific guide for that information.

Thank you for your commitment both to your students and to providing them opportunities to experience the arts. We are so happy you are coming to visit us.

See you at the theater,
Des Moines Performing Arts Education Team

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

SUPPORT FOR DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND THE APPLAUSE SERIES IS PROVIDED BY:

Arts Midwest • Bradford and Sally Austin • BNIM • Bravo Greater Des Moines • Clive Community Foundation • Dallas County Foundation • Ernest & Florence Sargent Family Foundation • Hy-Vee, Inc. • Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs • John Deere • Judith A. Lindquist Scholarship Fund • Maytag Family Foundation • Richard and Deborah McConnell • McKee, Voorhees and Sease, PLC • Meredith Corporation Foundation • MidAmerican Energy Foundation • Nationwide • Polk County Board of Supervisors • Prairie Meadows • Principal • U.S. Bank • Wells Fargo & Co. • West Bancorporation Foundation • Windsor Charitable Foundation and more than 300 individual donors.
DES MOINES
PERFORMING ARTS

BY THE NUMBERS

300,000
More than 300,000 guests attend performances and events in our four venues each year.

75,000
DMPA education programs serve more than 75,000 Iowans annually.

700,000
More than half a million students and teachers have attended school-time performances as part of the Applause Series since its launch in 1996.

DMPA is central Iowa’s premier not-for-profit performing arts organization.

Guests experience a wide variety of art forms and cultural activities, with presentations ranging from Broadway, comedy, professional dance, to family programming.

DMPA is more than the Civic Center!
You can find us at the following spaces:

- Civic Center, 2744 seats
- Stoner Theater, 200 seats
- Temple Theater, 299 seats
- Cowles Commons (outdoor plaza)
**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**
Each year, more than 50,000 students and teachers attend an Applause Series performance. The actual cost per person is $8, but thanks to the caring contributions of donors, schools pay just $1 per ticket. By removing the financial barriers to participation, donors introduce a whole new generation to the power of arts in action. That means stronger schools and communities now and in the future.

**BEYOND THE STAGE**
For many Applause Series performances, we offer the opportunity for schools to go deeper by exploring an art form or theme that connects with what is seen on stage. Invite a professional teaching artist into the classroom or visit another cultural destination in Des Moines to help students make more meaning of a piece of theater.

**TICKET TO IMAGINATION**
The Applause Series annually delivers 60 age-appropriate performances for pre-school to high school students. The impact stretches far beyond the Des Moines metro, reaching schools in over 35 Iowa counties. The theater becomes the classroom. One-hour matinees energize students to imagine new ways of creative expression, cultural diversity and even career opportunities.

**BRINGING ARTS EDUCATION TO LIFE**
The Applause Series is a flagship education program of Des Moines Performing Arts. Since its launch in 1996, more than a half million students and teachers have attended school-time performances as part of the series. You are joining us for the 24th season of school performances!
Double-check that all students, teachers, and chaperones were included in your ticket order. Request an adjustment if your numbers have increased. We want to make sure we have enough seats for you!

Tickets are not issued. Bring a copy of your invoice, which will serve as your group’s “ticket”.

Schedule arrival for 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. This allows time to park, cross streets, find your seats, and go to the restroom.

Let drivers know that Applause performances are approximately 60 minutes, unless otherwise noted.

Remind chaperones that children under the age of three are not permitted in the theater for Applause Series events.

An usher will greet you at the door and ask for your school name.

Adults will be asked to show proper identification (such as school IDs or visitor badges as applicable) at the door.

Each group will be assigned a specific location in the theater based on various factors. An usher will escort you to your section.

Your school may be seated in multiple rows. Adults should position themselves throughout the group.

Allow ushers to seat your entire group before rearranging student seats or taking groups to the restroom. This helps us seat efficiently and better start the show on time.

The Des Moines Civic Center is located at 221 WALNUT STREET, DES MOINES, IOWA

DIRECTIONS FROM I-235: take Exit 8A (Downtown Exits) and the ramp toward 3rd Street and 2nd Avenue. Turn onto 3rd Street and head south.

Police officers stationed at the corner of 3rd & Locust Streets will direct buses to reserved street parking near the Civic Center.

Buses are not allowed to drop groups off in front of the theater. Contact us in advance if there is a special circumstance.

Buses remain parked for the duration of the show. Drivers must be available to move the bus immediately following the performance.

Personal vehicles are responsible for securing their own parking on a nearby street or in a downtown parking ramp.

We are happy to help!

Please contact us at: education@dmpa.org 515.246.2355
ATTENDING A LIVE PERFORMANCE IS A UNIQUE AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITY!
UNLIKE THE PASSIVE EXPERIENCE OF WATCHING A MOVIE, AUDIENCE MEMBERS
PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN EVERY LIVE PERFORMANCE.

YOUR ROLE AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER
Artists on stage are very aware of the mood and level of engagement of the audience.
As such, each performance calls for a different response from audience members.

THINGS TO REMEMBER
Do not bring food, drinks or chewing gum into the theater.
Turn off and put away cell phones and other electronics before the performance begins.
Do not text or take photos or video during the show.
Respect the theater. Keep your feet off of the seat backs and cushions.
When the house lights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please stop talking at this time.
Use the restroom before the performance or wait until the end.
Remember that this is a special experience. The artists are creating something just for you. Appropriate responses such as laughing and applauding are appreciated.
Pay attention to the artists — they will let you know what is appropriate.
Open your eyes, ears, mind, and heart to the entire experience.
Enjoy yourself.

DID YOU KNOW?
The theater is designed to magnify sound. Even whispers can be heard!

As you experience the performance, consider the following questions:

What kind of live performance is this?
• musical
• dance
• concert

What is the mood of the performance?
Is the subject matter serious or lighthearted?

What is the mood of the artists?
Are they happy and smiling or somber and reserved?

Are the artists encouraging the audience to clap to the music, move to the beat, or participate in some other way?

Are there natural breaks in the performance where applause seems appropriate?