2019-2020
APPLAUSE SERIES GUIDE:
PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO THE CIVIC CENTER
GRADeS: PRE-K - 3
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.
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)
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.

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.

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!

A recipe for learning that reaches new levels of possibility — for students and teachers.

Take thousands of Iowa students out of their classrooms, place them in a theater, sprinkle the stage with world-class performers, AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

A recipe for learning that reaches new levels of possibility — for students and teachers.

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.

BRINGING ARTS EDUCATION TO LIFE
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FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

WE WANT YOUR FIELD TRIP TO BE SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL!

Please read below for important tips and details to ensure a great day.

GET ORGANIZED

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.

DIRECTIONS/PARKING

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.

ARRIVAL/SEATING

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.

IN THE THEATER

Adults are asked to handle any disruptive behavior in their group. If the behavior persists, an usher may request your group to exit the theater.

Please wait for your group to be dismissed by DMPA staff prior to exiting the theater.

QUESTIONS?

We are happy to help!

Please contact us at:
education@dmpa.org
515.246.2355
GOING TO THE THEATER

WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME YOU TO A PERFORMANCE!

It is so fun and special to see a show with real people and music instead of watching on a screen. It is different than watching a movie at home because at the theater the audience has an important job to do to make the performance the best!

THEATER ETIQUETTE

Do not bring food, drinks or chewing gum into the theater.

Remind the grown-ups with you to turn off and put away cell phones and other electronics that might light up or make noise before the performance begins.

Respect the theater. Each seat holds many people each year and can’t handle lots of bouncing up and down! Keep your feet on the floor (not on the chair in front of you) and your bottom in the chair.

When the house lights dim, the performance is about to begin. Time to zip your lips and turn your listening ears on.

You can remind people near to you with a quiet shh if they are being noisy - but be careful not to make an even bigger disruption.

Use the restroom before the performance or wait until the end. If it is an emergency, quietly tell one of the grown-ups near to you and they will help you safely leave the theater.

If you are separated from your group or have an emergency, find a person who has black pants and a gold name-tag to help you! They are the ushers and can use their radio to make sure you get back to the right spot.

Have a fun time!

DID YOU KNOW?

THEATER IS DESIGNED TO MAGNIFY SOUND.
(even whispers can be heard!)
HOW TO BE AN AUDIENCE MEMBER

When people are on stage performing they can hear and see the audience. The audience has the job of making sure the artists know that you are paying attention and enjoying the performance. Sometimes the right thing is to clap and shout out. Sometimes the best way to show you are having a good time is by sitting quietly with your hands in your lap.

YOUR JOB AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER

As you experience the performance, ask yourself the following questions:

- What kind of show is this? A musical or concert? A dance performance or a play?
- What are the people around you doing? Are your grown-ups watching the stage quietly or stomping to the beat or dancing?
- What are the performers asking the audience to do? Do they want people to clap along & get up? Or do you think they need quiet to concentrate on their hard work?
- What is the mood of the artists? Are they happy & smiling or wearing serious faces?
- How do you know when to clap? Is the audience waiting until the very end or is there a break in the performance where others are clapping too?

HOW WILL YOU GET TO THE THEATER?