ARTS IN CONTEXT FROM THE STAGE TO THE CLASSROOM

X



2018–2019 EDITION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	3
An Act of God	4
Leslie Odom Jr	5
The Capitol Steps	6
Chinese Warriors of Peking	7
Sedition	8
Ballet Folklórico de México	9
Mariinsky Orchestra1	0
Spamalot1	1
Gabriela Montero1	2

WELCOME

A letter from the creator of this resource

This resource was designed to aid students and instructors to better define curricular links in our programming and to connect those ideas to the classroom. The Lied Center, housed on a college campus, takes seriously its educational obligation to give UNL students the opportunity to enhance their scholarship through the arts. As a student, I believe the Lied Center has contributed extensively to my well-roundedness, not only as a musician, but as an engaged citizen and lifelong learner.

With this resource, we hope to create informed audience members, recognizing that preexisting knowledge directly and positively augments the performance experience. Likewise, we acknowledge the importance of engaging in post performance reflections with peers, and we encourage classroom instructors to facilitate conversations in that regard. Interpretations of art are endless. Cultivating a diversity and openness of thoughts is practice. And it is exactly this kind of practice we hope to inspire and encourage.

The arts play a crucial role in the wellbeing of humanity. They give us an outlet for expression, a pathway to beauty and a chance to construct a deeper sense of self. With arts programs across the country threatened, many educators are seeking new spaces in which the arts can heighten broad areas of academic inquiry, while simultaneously contributing to the well-roundedness of their students. This guide was built for that very reason.

The education arm of the Lied Center is committed to active learning outside of the classroom. As a student, I feel extremely fortunate to have access to a world-class performing arts center on my campus, and beyond that, I am grateful for the opportunities given to me from various Lied Center performances and engagements.

The 2018-2019 Season at the Lied Center for Performing Arts is almost here, and I am beyond thrilled to offer this resource to instructors, students and scholars of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. With this resource, we invite you to extend your learning beyond the walls of the classroom and into the Lied Center. We look forward to seeing you at a performance!

Cooper Creal

Education Programs Intern Lied Center for Performing Arts Vocal Performance Major Glenn Korff School of Music 2020

Erin Poor

Director of Education and Community Engagement at the Lied Center erin.poor@unl.edu (402) 472-3215

AN ACT OF GOD

SEPT. 26–OCT. 14, 2018 (NEBRASKA REP)

The one with the first and last word on everything has finally arrived to set the record straight. After many millennia, and in just 90 minutes, God (assisted by devoted angels), answers some of the deepest questions that have plagued mankind since Creation. An Act of God is a hilarious and refreshing story that pleases the masses.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting Anthropology Classics & Religious Studies Communication Studies Costume Design Dance English History Medieval & Renaissance Studies Music Philosophy Political Science Psychology Sociology Technical Theatre Theatre Voice

- Read more about what to expect from this *New York Times* <u>review</u> of the show.
- Learn more about the process of turning a series of tweets into a book, then into a Broadway musical on their <u>website</u>.



AN EVENING WITH LESLIE ODOM JR. FRIDAY, OCT. 5, 2018 **v** 7:30 PM

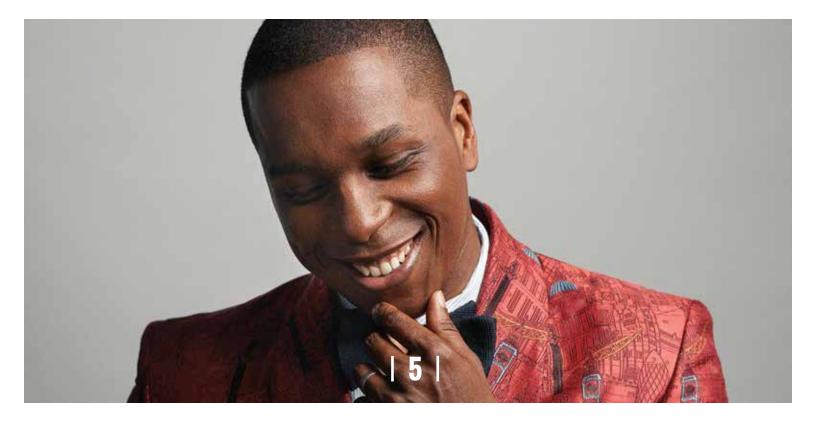
Singer, actor and storyteller Leslie Odom Jr., is best known for his portrayal of Aaron Burr in the original Broadway cast of Hamilton, which won him the 2016 Tony Award[®] for Best Leading Actor. Currently a concert singer, Leslie Odom Jr. is equally at home singing jazz, musical theatre and popular music. Blessed with a rich and smooth voice, Odom makes his Lied Center debut featuring songs from his jazz albums and, of course, Hamilton.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting African & African-American Studies Anthropology Communication Studies Composition Dance English Entrepreneurship Ethnic Studies Filmmaking and New Media History lazz Studies Leadership Music Music Technology Musical Theatre Piano Sociology Voice

- Learn how Leslie Odom Jr. came to be Aaron Burr in Hamilton in this article.
- Read about his inspirations, his perseverance and his setbacks in this interview.
- Read about failure and taking risks in Leslie's self authored book, Failing Up.Dig deeper into *Hamilton* in this <u>scholarly article</u>.



THE CAPITOL STEPS FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 2018 **v** 7:30 PM

For more than 30 years, the Capitol Steps have been reaching across the aisle to put politics and scandal to music in bipartisan spoofery. Armed with a never-ending supply of fresh material from our elected officials, the Capitol Steps continue to put the 'mock' in democracy, with their latest production Orange is the New Barack.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting Advertisement Anthropology Communication Studies Composition Economics English History Journalism Law Marketing Management Music **Political Science** Psychology Public Relations Sociology Theatre Voice

- Read more about the Capitol Steps in this article.
- Listen to the Capitol Steps on NPR's All Songs Considered.



CHINESE WARRIORS OF PEKING

SUNDAY, OCT. 21, 2018 **V** 4:00PM

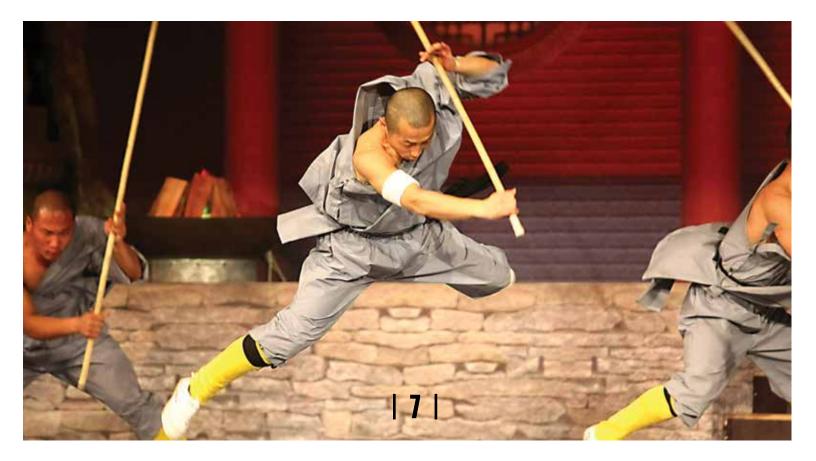
This artistic and breathtaking production features ancient martial arts disciplines competing in the Chinese capital of Peking during the Ming Dynasty. The Chinese Warriors of Peking brings history to life, as it accurately portrays the gradual transformation of martial arts in practice to martial arts as performance through remarkable acrobatics and live stage combat.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting Anthropology Asian Studies **Classics & Religious Studies** Communication Studies Cultural Anthropology Dance Design & Technical Theatre Ethnic Studies Geography History International Studies Medieval & Renaissance Studies Modern Languages & Literatures Philosophy Psychology **Religious Studies** Sociology Theatre

- Works of art and essays from the Ming Dynasty at <u>The Met</u>.
- CNN's guide to Martial Arts in China.
- Ancient China: A <u>History</u> of the Ming and Qing dynasties.



SEDITION

Produced by Angels Theatre Company SUNDAY, OCT. 21, 2018 ▼ 4:00 PM

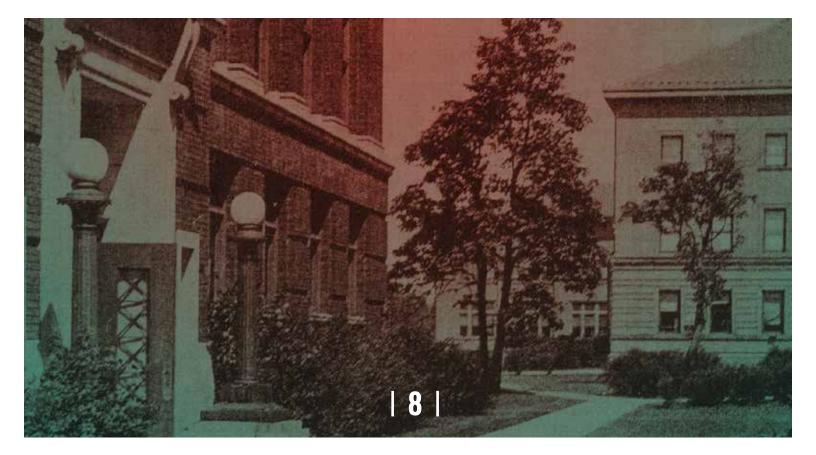
Sedition is a play that examines a specific moment in the history of the University of Nebraska when tensions arose between faculty and administration surrounding the topic of free speech. Written by the grandson of a professor dismissed from the University for verbalizing his lack of support for the U.S. involvement in WWI, this brilliant play reflects on the past while simultaneously resonating with our present.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting Anthropology Center for Great Plains Studies **Classics & Religious Studies** Communication Studies Criminal Justice Educational Administration English Ethnic Studies Geography History Iournalism Law Modern Languages & Literatures Philosophy Political Science Psychology Sociology Theatre

- *This American Life*'s <u>episode</u> regarding free speech on UNL's campus.
- <u>Article</u> from the University's archives regarding the Loyalty Trials.
- Gain historical context by exploring this <u>document</u> about the Espionage Act of 1917.



BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO

TUESDAY, OCT. 30, 2018 **V** 7:30 PM

Classically trained Mexican ballerina Amalia Hernandez yearned to find a way to showcase her Mexican heritage through dance. After traveling through Mexico and learning the traditional indigenous dances of native tribes, she decided to weave her classical training with her newfound love of indigenous dance by creating her new company: Ballet Folklórico de México. It is now one of the most celebrated folk ensembles in the world, combining dance, music and breathtaking costumes.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting Anthropology Communication Studies Cultural Anthropology Dance Design (Textiles, Merchandising, & Fashion Design) Design & Technical Theatre Ethnic Studies Geography History International Studies Latino & Latin American Studies Modern Languages & Literatures Music Philosophy Psychology Sociology Theatre

- Read more about the accurate cultural history of the performance in this <u>review</u> by *The New York Times*.
- Discover the ambition and the creativity that created the company in this <u>article</u> about the dance pioneer and founder of Ballet Folklórico, Amalia Hernandez.
- Learn more about the history of dance in this <u>dissertation</u>.



MARIINSKY Orchestra

SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 2018 **7**:00 PM

One of the world's top 15 symphony orchestras, the Mariinsky Orchestra with renowned conductor Valery Gergiev, performs its first-ever Lied Center concert. Highlights for this grand concert include: Mahler's triumphant Symphony No. 5, Debussy's Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun and Rachmaninov's Paganini Variations with piano soloist Denis Matsuev.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Communication Studies Cultural Anthropology Design & Technical Theatre English European Studies History International Studies Modern Languages & Literatures Music Philosophy Psychology Sociology Theatre

- Learn more about the centuries-long history of Mariinsky by visiting their <u>website</u>.
- Experience the music before the show by reading these program notes.
- Read more about the history of the Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun <u>here</u>.
- Discover the life of Mahler here.



SPAMALOT NOVEMBER 2-3, 2018

The Tony Award[®]-winning Best Musical, Monty Python's Spamalot, begins its search for the Holy Grail in the fall of 2018. This outrageous musical comedy is lovingly ripped off from the film classic Monty Python and the Holy Grail with a book by Eric Idle and music and lyrics by the GRAMMY[®] Award-winning team of Mr. Idle and John Du Prez. Spamalot tells the tale of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on their quest for the Holy Grail. Flying cows, killer rabbits, taunting Frenchmen and showstopping musical numbers are just a few reasons why Spamalot is one-of-a-kind!

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Acting Anthropology Classics & Religious Studies Communication Studies Costume Design Dance English History Medieval & Renaissance Studies Music Philosophy Political Science Psychology Sociology Technical Theatre Theatre Voice

- Learn more about what to expect at the show by reading this *New York Times* review.
- Hear from members of the original Broadway cast talk about how they began their journey with *Spamalot* in this <u>NPR interview</u>.



GABRIELA MONTERO, PIANO

TUESDAY, NOV. 13, 2018 🔻 7:30 PM

World-renowned Venezuelan pianist and activist Gabriela Montero has garnered critical acclaim for her visionary interpretations. At the age of 15 months, Montero was given a toy piano to play with in her crib, and following she quickly began to pluck out the notes of the Venezuelan national anthem. Now celebrated for her improvisations, Montero is known for taking suggestions from the audience, effectively creating an intimate and meaningful performance for all.

CONNECT

This performance intersects meaningfully with courses in these programs/departments:

Anthropology Chicano Studies **Communication Studies** Composition English Design and Technical Theatre History International Studies lazz Studies Modern Languages and Literatures Music Music Technology Piano **Political Science** Sociology Voice Women's and Gender Studies

- Listen to some of Montero's legendary improvisations in this <u>NPR interview</u>.
- Learn more about her advocacy in this <u>CNN article</u>.

