

# LIED CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS STUDENT MATINEES & TEACHER WORKSHOPS

# 2020 2021



RHAPSODY IN BLACK



CHIEF STANDING BEAR'S JOURNEY TO STATUARY HALL

A KIDS PLAY ABOUT RACISM

# a kids play about™ racism

## ALL VIRTUAL - ALL FREE

The Lied Center's mission is to educate, inspire and entertain the people of Nebraska through the performing arts.



## STUDENT MATINEES

# **DINO-LIGHT BY LIGHTWIRE THEATER**

**DATES:** MARCH 25 – JUNE 30 2021

**FORMAT:** Virtual Video Format – register to be emailed the link/access to the performance

In this original story a famous scientist with magical powers brings a friendly dinosaur to life. Wandering away from home, the dinosaur discovers a wonderful world full of creatures that light up the darkness and help him find the true meaning of love. This glow-in-the-dark adventure is visually pleasing and has been praised for its blend of puppetry, technology, and dance by audiences all over the world. DINO-LIGHT (formerly Darwin the Dinosaur), was the recipient of the prestigious Jim Henson Foundation Grant and is the first feature-length theatrical production created and performed by Ian Carney and Corbin Popp (a Lincoln, Nebraska native).

**Grade Level:** PreK - 4

**Curriculum Connections:** Social Studies, English, Music, Theater, Puppetry, Social Emotional

# RHAPSODY IN BLACK BY LELAND GANTT

**DATES:** FEBRUARY 15 – JUNE 30 2021,

**FORMAT:** Virtual Video Format – register to be emailed the link/access to the performance

When is the last time you and your students had a thoughtful conversation about racism? Writer/actor Leland Gantt challenges young people to start important conversations about racism in America in this one-man show about his personal experiences growing up in the ghettos of McKeesport, PA. Rhapsody in Black offers a deeply personal and unique look into Gantt's thoughts and emotional processes, presenting a hopeful message that helps audiences explore the impact that history and current events have on our choices. How Leland manages to cope with the various psychological effects of consistently being marked "The Other" is recounted in remarkable and exquisitely moving detail, and guaranteed to leave lasting a impression. LeLeland Gantt is on a personal mission to understand and eventually transcend racism in America.

**Grade Level:** 8 - 12

**Curriculum Connections:** Physical Education/Health, Social Studies/History, Theater, Social Emotional



**STUDENT MATINEES**

## STUDENT MATINEES



# THE PUPPETS, SONGS AND STORY OF AJJIAAK ON TURTLE ISLAND BY IBEX PUPPETRY/HEATHER HENSON

**DATES:** MARCH 15 – JUNE 30 2021

**FORMAT:** Virtual Video Format – register to be emailed the link/access to the performance

Ajijaak on Turtle Island is a story about Ajijaak, a young whooping crane. Separated from her family in a Tar Sands fire caused by the monstrous creature, Mishibizhiw, Ajijaak must make her first migration from Wood Buffalo, Canada down to the Gulf Coast. As Ajijaak travels, she encounters many animals as well as communities of people from Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Lakota, and Cherokee Nations, living in balance with their environments. Eventually Ajijaak finds her own voice and a family, through many interconnections with peoples and creatures along the way. Heather Henson and Ty Defoe collaborated with regional storytellers, choreographers, poets, indigenous tradition bearers, and ecologists to weave this insightful story that enhances our connection to the earth and sky through puppetry.

This presentation includes an interview with puppeteer Heather Henson and others, as well as a short 20-25 minute video segment of the Ajijaak performance featuring Cranes and other puppets. The Nebraska premier performance of Ajijaak on Turtle Island will be a highlight of the 2021/2022 Lied Center Season!

**Grade Level:** 2 - 12

**Curriculum Connections:** Science, Social Studies/History, Indigenous Knowledge, Puppetry, Music, Theater

# A KIDS PLAY ABOUT RACISM

**DATES:** FEBRUARY 15 - MAY 28 2021

**FORMAT:** Virtual Video Format – register to be emailed the link/access to the performance

A Kids Play about Racism teaches children what racism is, how to know it when they see and experience it, and ideas for what they can do about it. Considered a sensitive topic for many, forty-two performing arts theaters across the United States, lead by the producing team of Bay Area Children's Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, and Alliance Theatre in Atlanta came together to present this virtual premiere of A Kids Play about Racism, a theatrical adaptation of Jelani Memory's A Kids Book About Racism.

Adapted and directed by award-winning director and TYA artist Khalia Davis, A Kids Play about Racism is brought to life by an entirely Black and BIPOC cast and creative team from across the United States. A Kids Play about Racism utilizes theater to offer young children and families the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about race.

**Grade Level:** PreK - 5

**Curriculum Connections:** Theater, Literacy, Social Studies, Social Emotional Learning  
(Self Awareness, Social Awareness)

# a kids play about™ racism

**STUDENT MATINEES**

## STUDENT MATINEES



# CHIEF STANDING BEAR'S JOURNEY TO STATUARY HALL BY NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

**DATES:** FEBRUARY 15 – JUNE 30 2021,  
includes post-show discussion

**FORMAT:** Virtual Video Format – register to be emailed the  
link/access to the performance

This documentary recounts the story of Ponca Chief Standing Bear and the 1879 trailblazing human rights court case that led to his designation as a Nebraska hero. In 1877 Chief Standing Bear and the Ponca Tribe were forced to leave their Nebraska homeland for Indian Territory - now Oklahoma. This forced removal led to many members of the tribe perishing, including Chief Standing Bear's son. Determined to honor his son's wish to be buried in his homeland, Chief Standing Bear and 30 Poncas walked over 500 miles back to their Nebraska home. In *Standing Bear v. Crook*, Chief Standing Bear sued for and won freedom for himself and his traveling companions, from U.S. Army custody. This was the first time an indigenous person spoke before a U.S. federal court, and it also established, for the first time, that Native Americans are people with civil rights. This film is about the statue in his honor that was dedicated and installed in the U.S. Capitol's Statuary Hall in 2019.

**Grade Level:** K - 12

**Curriculum Connections:** Social Studies, Nebraska History, Visual Arts, Sculpture

# WORKSHOPS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## THE VIRTUAL CREATE INSTITUTE Spring Semester 2021

CREATE is a semester-long course for teachers who are interested in integrating the arts into their teaching practice. The course emphasizes teaching all the arts – dance, music, theater, visual arts – across the curriculum. The Institute will be offered virtually spring semester 2021 through the University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) and features



national experts in the field, sampler/ demonstrations of arts integration in action, local teaching artists, performances, museum and arts organization visits. All participants will plan/create arts integrated learning experiences to use in their teaching. Offered for both undergraduate and graduate credit the course number is: TEAC 490/890.

## CREATE FACILITATORS AND KENNEDY CENTER TEACHING ARTISTS:

**Deb Brzoska** – Kennedy Center Teaching Artist, Facilitator

**Amy Cordova y Boone** – Visual Artist/Author/Illustrator, Teaching Artist

**Imani Gonzalez** – Jazz Musician, Kennedy Center Teaching Artist

**Nancy Engen-Wedin** – Lied Center for Performing Arts, Arts Educator, Facilitator

**Tammy Meneghini** – Professor, University of Colorado Boulder, Teaching Artist

**Glenis Redmond** – Poet, Word Warrior, Kennedy Center Teaching Artist

**Dr. Guy Trainin** – UNL Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education, Dept. Chair

## CREATE RESOURCES:

- *Revelations* by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
- *What My Hand Say*, Poetry by Glenis Redmond
- *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson
- *Rhapsody in Black* by Leland Gantt
- *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass
- *Blues Journey* by Walter Dean Myers
- *Jacob Lawrence: The Migration Series* by Elizabeth Alexander
- *Giving Voice* – 2020 Netflix Film about the August Wilson Monologue Competition starring Viola Davis, Denzel Washington, Stephen Henderson.



For more information contact  
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# KENNEDY CENTER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

## NEBRASKA'S KENNEDY CENTER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Since 2001, the Lied Center has collaborated with the Umo<sup>ho</sup> Nation School in Macy, Nebraska and with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's College of Education and Human Sciences to develop ongoing professional development for K-12 teachers. A planning team develops a partnership agreement and program objectives annually and meets quarterly to set goals, plan activities, evaluate progress, and celebrate success. Research results were featured in a national publication as one of six success stories selected from more than 100 Kennedy Center Partnership teams.

*The Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program* assists arts organizations throughout the nation to develop and/or expand educational partnerships with their local school systems. The purpose of each partnership is to establish or expand professional development programs in the arts for all teachers. The program is based on the belief that educating teachers is an essential component of any effort designed to increase the artistic literacy of young people.

## K-12 TEACHERS AND TEACHING ARTIST WORKSHOPS

Classroom teachers, arts specialists and teaching artists may choose to participate in our summer institutes led by experienced teaching artists, including those affiliated with the Kennedy Center. Addressing K-12 national and state education standards in the arts and core subjects is an essential aspect of this approach.

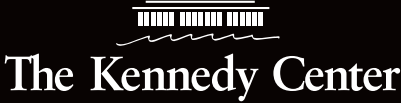
## ARTS INTEGRATED TEACHING AND LEARNING

The arts are effective tools for teaching subjects such as social studies, math, science, and reading/language arts. Through this approach general classroom teachers and arts specialists learn how to engage students using arts integrated strategies, directly addressing school and students needs in literacy, computation, fluency as well as critical thinking or problem solving.

## INFORMATION

For more information about the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program contact Nancy Engen-Wedin at 402-472-4707 or [nengenwed2@unl.edu](mailto:nengenwed2@unl.edu).

# PROGRAM SUPPORT:



**DR. PHILLIP ENGEN**

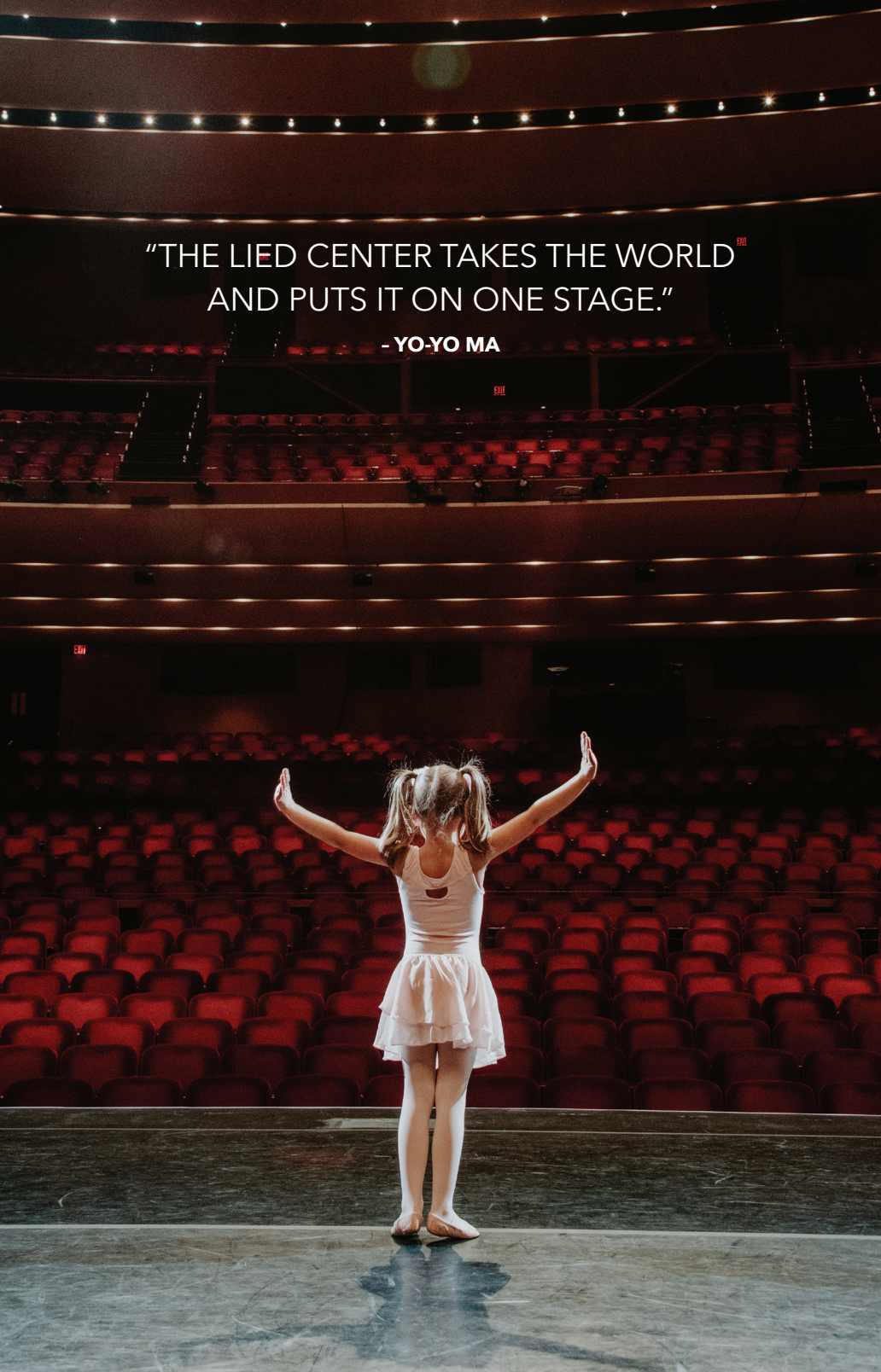
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NIOBRARA, NE**

**UMONHON NATION SCHOOL, MACY, NE**

**CRETE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CRETE, NE**

"THE LIED CENTER TAKES THE WORLD  
AND PUTS IT ON ONE STAGE."

- YO-YO MA





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