

ARTS IN CONTEXT

FROM THE STAGE TO THE CLASSROOM



LIED CENTER
FOR PERFORMING ARTS



2018–2019
EDITION

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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

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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

EXPLORE

- Read more about what to expect from this *New York Times* [review](#) of the show.
- Learn more about the process of turning a series of tweets into a book, then into a Broadway musical on their [website](#).



AN EVENING WITH LESLIE ODOM JR.

FRIDAY, OCT. 5, 2018 ▼ 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
Jazz Studies
Leadership
Music
Music Technology
Musical Theatre
Piano
Sociology
Voice

EXPLORE

- 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 [scholarly article](#).



THE CAPITOL STEPS

FRIDAY, OCT. 19, 2018 ▼ 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

EXPLORE

- 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 ▼ 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

EXPLORE

- Works of art and essays from the Ming Dynasty at [The Met](#).
- CNN's [guide to Martial Arts](#) in China.
- Ancient China: A [History](#) 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
Journalism
Law
Modern Languages & Literatures
Philosophy
Political Science
Psychology
Sociology
Theatre

EXPLORE

- *This American Life's* [episode](#) regarding free speech on UNL's campus.
- [Article](#) from the University's archives regarding the Loyalty Trials.
- Gain historical context by exploring this [document](#) about the Espionage Act of 1917.



BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO

TUESDAY, OCT. 30, 2018 ▼ 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

EXPLORE

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



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

EXPLORE

- Learn more about the centuries-long history of Mariinsky by visiting their [website](#).
- 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 [here](#).
- 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 show-stopping 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

EXPLORE

- 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 [NPR interview](#).



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
Jazz Studies
Modern Languages and Literatures
Music
Music Technology
Piano
Political Science
Sociology
Voice
Women's and Gender Studies

EXPLORE

- Listen to some of Montero's legendary improvisations in this [NPR interview](#).
- Learn more about her advocacy in this [CNN article](#).

