

THE

# LIEDER

SPRING 2023







**BILL STEPHAN, CVE**  
Executive Director &  
Chief Artistic Officer



Spring of 2023 will go down in Lied Center history as one of the biggest periods of spectacular events! Viva Lied Vegas was one of the most successful Friends of Lied events in history, bringing people together for a fabulous evening and raising tens of thousands of dollars for the arts. In addition, there are very few periods of time when you see world-renowned artists the caliber of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Yo-Yo Ma, and American Ballet Theatre all in Nebraska in the same season. I dare say we are enjoying an abundance of artistic bliss!

An unexpected super star of this year's season was Reza and his Edge of Illusion show. Reza sold out the Lied Center and delivered a magical evening. Beyond the show, his personal story of how the Lied Center changed his life as a young person seeing David Copperfield was so inspiring. It's a great reminder of how the programs we produce literally change people's lives.

We recently announced our 2023-2024 Glenn Korff Broadway Series, and it's another spectacular one! If you haven't already become a Broadway subscriber, please consider this my personal invitation to do that now. Then, stay tuned for the announcement of the full 2023-2024 season of music, theater, dance, and much more on May 10! Of course, there's still so much to enjoy this season, including Alanis Morissette's groundbreaking *Jagged Little Pill*, the return of American Ballet Theatre with their sweeping production of *Giselle* featuring nearly 100 dancers, and, of course, the Lincoln premiere of the blockbuster *Hamilton*.

They say that what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, but I simply must extend my thanks to everyone who helped produce Viva Lied Vegas including the amazing committee of Friends of Lied volunteers who put in record hours producing the event. I'd like to specifically thank co-chairs Jill Davis and Leslie Wright for their talent, dedication, and generosity. We thank Amy Ossain for her leadership as well.

As always, thank you for all that you do to support the Lied Center's mission. YOU are making an impact! I'll see you soon #AtTheLied!



**NANCY KRUMLAND**  
President | Friends of Lied  
Board of Directors

The Friends of Lied Board of Directors accomplished a big first! Our fundraiser "Viva Lied Vegas" had a record turnout of nearly 1,000 people and a record of over \$120,000 raised!! This successful turnout and fundraiser were accomplished by the leadership of Jill Davis and Leslie Wright and their hardworking teams. A special thank you to the dedicated staff at the Lied for all they did to make the logistics of this special event happen. Thank you to all who turned out to game, dance, and enjoy the four stages of entertainment. We continue to appreciate your support.

In the upcoming weeks, the Lied will be welcoming many great artists, groups and events to Lincoln. These include *Madagascar*, *Jagged Little Pill*, American Ballet Theater, and the long-awaited *Hamilton*. Watch for the announcement in May for the full 2023-24 schedule of events.

A pre-performance dinner is planned for the 7:30 p.m. showing of *Jagged Little Pill* on April 29. You can learn more about this event and register to attend online at [liedcenter.org](http://liedcenter.org).

Membership in Friends of Lied makes this all possible, and we encourage you to renew your membership when you are notified in the coming weeks. Your membership supports Lied performances, Arts Across Nebraska, and education programs like master classes with artists. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Lied Center.



# FRIENDS OF LIED EVENTS

## OPEN HOUSE & BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR

Friends of Lied members at the Fabulous Friend level or higher were invited to a special Open House and Behind-the-Scenes Tour of the Lied Center on Jan. 10. Guests were treated to tasty charcuterie boxes, cookies and drinks before going on a small group tour with expert tour guides Mark Moore, Steve Pearson and Jesse Snyder. The guides provided interesting information about the building and backstage happenings, including stories of specific artists.

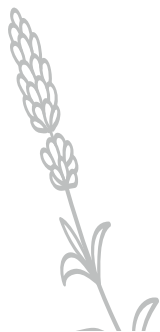


## STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCH

On Jan. 29 Friends of Lied thanked the Lied Center staff for the help they provide the Friends and for their dedication to making the Lied Center an outstanding performing arts center. Grab-and-go meals were provided at two different times to accommodate different work schedules.

Lied Center Service Awards including a card and gift card were given to employees celebrating milestone anniversaries:

Connie Mendoza - 25 years  
Jesse Snyder - 15 years  
Natalie Stroud - 10 years  
Jesse Dillman - 10 years  
Stacy Brand - 10 years  
Cary Gerner - 5 years  
Ginger Dzerk - 5 years



## 2022 MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

1,150 Friends of Lied members from across the state donated \$567,655 during the 2022 Membership Campaign. These funds will be donated to support the mission of the Lied Center during the annual check presentation later this spring.

**THANK YOU, FRIENDS!**

## MEMBERSHIP LEVEL UPDATE

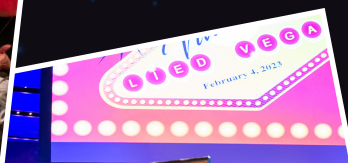
There are a few changes to the top Friends of Lied membership levels and benefits, starting in January of 2023. Patron Friends are now invited to attend the donor lounge during intermission for all Lied Season events. The minimum contribution increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000 at the Distinguished Friend level and from \$2,500 to \$3,000 at the Patron Friend level.

This change will help to offset increased operating expenses such as postage and catering and make it possible for the Lied to continue providing world-class performances and education and outreach across the state.

## FEATURED MEMBER!

Congratulations to Julie Andresen, who won Vegas Nightlife Passes to Viva Lied Vegas during our December new Friends of Lied member promotion.





On Feb. 4, the Lied Center transformed into Viva Lied Vegas. We had record-breaking attendance for our annual fundraiser, with nearly 1,000 people joining us for four different stages of live entertainment, casino-style "gaming," delicious dining and top-shelf drinks, and lots of sparkle. Because of the incredible generosity of guests and event sponsors, we raised more than \$120,000 to support the arts.

Viva Lied Vegas co-chairs Jill Davis and Leslie Wright, and the Friends of Lied Board of Directors worked tirelessly to plan and set up this brand-new fundraising event. The Lied Center staff also helped immensely in the weeks leading up to the occasion.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by giant dice and a custom Viva Lied Vegas lighted sign leading them to a silent auction and the many choices for fun and entertainment waiting for them throughout the Lied.

Attendees who chose an All Access Pass enjoyed an exclusive cocktail hour, followed by dinner and live auction on the Main Stage, where shining lanterns hanging from the ceiling and red feather centerpieces set the scene. During the dinner program, guests learned about the lives that have been impacted by the work of the Lied Center. Taryn Vanderford of 10/11 News served as emcee and business owner Lyn Leach served as auctioneer, encouraging the crowd to open their hearts and pocketbooks during the live auction and "Fill the Heart for the Arts."

After dinner, Vegas Nightlife Pass holders joined the fun for two floors of casino-style gaming and live entertainment, including popular favorites by Kathy Morrow and No Limit on the Main Stage and high-octane dance music from The 402 Band and the I-80 Horns in the Carson Theatre. Attendees filled the Commons for Elvis tribute artist Joseph Hall and mentalist Clint! Runge. In the High Roller Lounge, Bobby Gadoury serenaded guests with classic Vegas hits while they tried their hand at blackjack, craps, roulette and more featuring local celebrity dealers, such as Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, UNL Chancellor Ronnie Green, Miss Nebraska Steffany Lien, and 10/11's Jon and Taryn Vanderford.

Viva Lied Vegas was a wonderful evening filled with glitz and glamour to come together with friends old and new to support a great cause.

Thanks for your support!

- Jill Davis & Leslie Wright





# ARTS ACROSS NEBRASKA



## HENRIETTA SOLWAY VISITS RED CLOUD, MCCOOK & KEARNEY

In our second Arts Across Nebraska tour of the season, Animal Engine Theater Company's *Henrietta Solway* visited the communities of Red Cloud, McCook, and Kearney on March 1-3, 2023. *Henrietta Solway*, a new play commissioned by the National Willa Cather Center, combines the short fiction and serialized novels of Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Nebraskan Willa Cather into one epic story.

In Red Cloud, the show played a sold out student matinee at the Red Cloud Opera House, the very stage Cather wrote about in works featured in the script, as well as an evening performance, to enthusiastic crowds. Artistic Director and actor Karim Muasher also led an acting workshop for one-act play production participants from Red Cloud High School and the entire company joined for a post-show Q&A at the public performance. At our second stop in McCook, the company also performed a student matinee for area youth, following up with a Q&A about the production and life as theatre artists. The evening performance played to a full main floor at the Fox Theater and surveys had audiences raving about the imaginative dialogue and physicality of the piece. In Kearney, the Merryman Performing Arts Center hosted two matinee performances for students and members of the public. These performances featured an informative and lively pre-talk with Cather scholars Drs. Charles Peek and Steve Shively. Peek and Shively joined the cast for more conversation with the audience post-show.

Friends of Lied education committee chair and members Dee Cummins, Nancy Brosz, Julie Neidfeldt, and Paulette Stefka facilitated receptions at the Red Cloud and McCook public performances, sharing coffee, cookies, chocolates, and information about Friends of Lied with community members. It was wonderful to have Friends of Lied supporting us on the road and friend-raising in local communities.

*Henrietta Solway* was a perfect addition to the 25th season of Arts Across Nebraska, presenting a professional production sharing Nebraska stories with audiences spanning over 500 miles of the state! Thank you to the Friends of Lied for making this experience possible.



## ANOTHER FANTASTIC FAMFEST

Local Indigenous teaching artists and IBEX Puppetry company members led educational and artistic pre-show activities for young people and their families attending *Ajijaak on Turtle Island*. Stations included Indigenous hand games, Pawnee corn pins and medicine pouches craft, and a screening of the short film *Shells of Wisdom* by Ginew Benton. Additionally, our generous sponsors Runza, Pepsi, and The Cookie Company provided refreshments for FamFest attendees. Friends of Lied volunteers supported Lied Staff and teaching artists in serving refreshments and facilitating activities. Their efforts helped make the event an incredible success!





MAY  
2/3



## THIS MAY, AMERICAN BALLET THEATRE RETURNS TO LINCOLN!

America's National Ballet Company has a close relationship with the Lied Center, including the unforgettable collaboration with the St. Louis Symphony in 2018 that brought the masterpiece *Firebird* to the Lied stage starring Misty Copeland. In 2021, ABT chose the Lied Center to host the kickoff of their historic ABT Across America tour, drawing more than 6,000 people to Lincoln's Pioneers Park to experience an evening of ballet under the stars. From there the tour moved on to iconic venues including Chicago's Millennium Park and New York's Rockefeller Center, but as then-ABT Executive Director Kara Barnett put it, "Lincoln, Nebraska has become a home-away-from-home for American Ballet Theatre."

On May 2 and 3, the Lied Center welcomes American Ballet Theatre company back to Lincoln for another high mark in our historic relationship! Experience the full ABT company of nearly 100 dancers as they present the beloved *Giselle*. Tickets available now!



## FRIENDS OF LIED: SPRING DATES

**APRIL 18, 4:30pm** • Lied Center Planned Giving Workshop. RSVP to [lieddevelopment@unl.edu](mailto:lieddevelopment@unl.edu)

**APRIL 29** • *Jagged Little Pill* Pre-Performance Dinner - tickets still available!

**MAY 2-3** • American Ballet Theatre: *Giselle* (cover)

**MAY 9** • On Stage Season Announcement Party for Best Friends (\$1,000) and above

**MAY 10** • Early Access to Create Your Own Season Ticket Packages for Special Friends (\$250) and above

**MAY 10** • Annual Membership Meeting (online) for Friends of Lied members at all levels

**MAY 16** • Create Your Own Season ticket packages available to all Friends of Lied members.

**MAY 24** • Give to Lincoln Day

[GIVETOLINCOLN.COM](https://www.givetolincoln.com)

**AUGUST TBD** • Individual tickets for most 23/24 Season events will go on sale with early access for Great Friends (\$100) and above





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