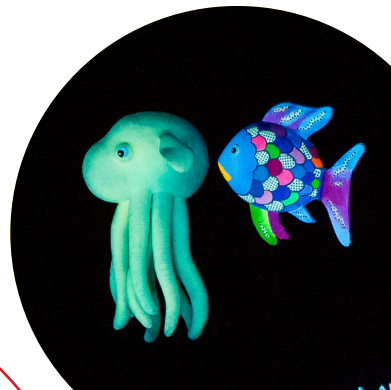




2023-2024 STUDENT MATINEES

The Lied Center's mission is to
**EDUCATE, INSPIRE
& ENTERTAIN**
the people of Nebraska
through the performing arts.



2023-2024 STUDENT MATINEE

JAKE SHIMABUKURO

 **THU**
OCT 12
10:30 AM

 **LIED CENTER**
MAIN STAGE

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Music, Reading/Writing, Speaking/Listening, Language, Culture

GRADE LEVELS: 2 to 12

LENGTH: 60 minutes

Since 2000, Jake Shimabukuro has grown his seemingly limitless music vocabulary - playing jazz, rock, blues, bluegrass, folk and classical on the unlikelyst of instruments - the 'ukulele. This Hawai'i-born virtuoso has reinvented this small underappreciated four-string instrument, reaching the legendary reputation as "Jimi Hendrix of the 'ukulele." Both humble and good-natured, Jake picked up the 'ukulele at the age of four; a journey that took him from local phenom playing tiny clubs, to YouTube sensation. Shimabukuro's personal mission lies in connecting and inspiring young people through outreach in the communities he visits, sharing his story and passion for the ukulele and its heritage.



2023-2024 STUDENT MATINEE

MERMAID THEATER OF NOVA SCOTIA'S RAINBOW FISH

 **TUE**
FEB 20
10:30 AM

 **LIED CENTER**
MAIN STAGE

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Puppetry, Visual Arts, Literature, Science/Ocean Life, Friendships/Relationship Skills

GRADE LEVELS: Pre-K to 3

LENGTH: 60 minutes (No intermission)

A children's picture book classic written by Marcus Pfister, *The Rainbow Fish* is a colorful story told through innovative puppetry, striking scenes, and original music. The lesson? A beautiful fish with iridescent scales learns to share his most prized possessions in order to gain treasured friendships. Other stories performed include *Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea* and *Opposites*. Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia brings *The Rainbow Fish* to life with their enchanting puppetry. Winner of many Children's theater awards, the sweet message of *The Rainbow Fish* has resonated with children, parents, teachers, librarians, and booksellers around the world.



2023-2024 STUDENT MATINEE

DRUM TAO

THE MARTIAL ART OF DRUMMING



THU
MAR 7
10:30 AM



LIED CENTER
MAIN STAGE

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Music/Percussion, Dance, History, Social Studies, Culture

GRADE LEVELS: 6 to 12

LENGTH: 60 minutes

Formed in 1993, this drum and dance ensemble combines music and dance to reflect Japanese traditions, but also incorporates Korean, Maori, and Indonesian influences. Some songs are traditional, though most are modern compositions created by members of the troupe. Japanese entertainment for a new generation, DRUM TAO's stage is created through spectacle performances using "taiko" drums and the beautiful melodies of Japanese flutes and harps. Many pieces include only percussion instruments, and in some cases only taiko drums, but other pieces include the shinobue, or Japanese flute, bamboo marimba, gongs, and the koto, a horizontal harp. The performers train in their own center in the Kujū Highlands on Kyushu called Grandioso. The strenuous physical demands of their performance style requires all performers to train as athletes.



2023-2024 STUDENT MATINEE

SHOW WAY THE MUSICAL

 **THU**
MAR 27
10:30 AM

 **LIED CENTER**
MAIN STAGE

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Visual Art/Quilting, Music, Theater, Dance, History/Social Studies, Social Awareness, English/Literacy.

GRADE LEVELS: 3 to 12 **LENGTH:** 50 minutes *(No intermission)*

NOTE: This show includes a fog effect.

Jacqueline Woodson's award-winning story of history, love and resilience follows the stitches of a family's lineage. Soonie's great-grandma was 7 years old when she was sold to a big plantation with only some fabric and needles to call her own. She began to stitch a Show Way – a quilt with secret meanings – to show enslaved people the way to freedom. As each generation passes, the Show Way shines a light on the past and paves a road to the future, stitching together possibility and promise. **Jacqueline Woodson's** award-winning book/story of history, love, and resilience becomes a world premiere stage adaptation. This moving, lyrical account pays tribute to the women in Woodson's own family whose strength and knowledge illuminate their daughters' lives over seven generations.



TEACHER WORKSHOPS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CREATE is a week-long summer institute offered in late June or mid July, 2024 (TBD) for teachers interested in integrating the arts into their curriculum or teaching strategies. The course emphasizes teaching the arts – dance, music, theater, media and visual arts – across the curriculum and features national experts in the field, sampler demonstrations of arts integration in action, experienced professional teaching artists, local performances, and museum visits. Participants from across Nebraska are invited to attend and create arts integrated learning experiences using a project-based learning approach. We learn new assessment measures such as “single point assessment” or “single point rubric” and different arts integration strategies such as Tableau. The course is offered for undergraduate and graduate credit (3 credits) through UNL’s Department of Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education. The institute is part of the Lied Center’s Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CREATE SUMMER INSTITUTE

PLEASE CONTACT

NANCY ENGEN-WEDIN

NENGENWEDIN2@UNL.EDU | 402-472-4707





KENNEDY CENTER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

NEBRASKA'S KENNEDY CENTER PARTNERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Since 2001, the Lied Center has collaborated with the Umo'ho' 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, media, 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.

PROGRAM SUPPORT:

Partners
in Education



A KC Education Program

PETER KIEWIT
FOUNDATION



NEBRASKA ARTS COUNCIL



NEBRASKA
CULTURAL
ENDOWMENT

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the **ARTS**
arts.gov



Umo'ho'n Nation
School

Dr. Phillip Engen

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE CREATE SUMMER INSTITUTE**

PLEASE CONTACT

NANCY ENGEN-WEDIN

NENGENWEDIN2@UNL.EDU | 402-472-4707

THE IMPACT OF ARTS EDUCATION ON LEARNING.

The impact of arts education on at-risk students is well documented. Learning through the arts has been found to be highly correlated with student's increased achievement, academic skill building, and social emotional learning. In addition, the arts serve as educational motivators, leading to positive outcomes such as decreased dropout, re-engaging student's interest in learning, and providing one of the only means of communication or expression in the K-12 curriculum. Research also shows that students most likely to benefit from learning through the arts, have little access to, are geographically isolated, or attend schools that do not have access to the resources to provide arts learning opportunities for all students.

AN EXTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (LPS) BEGINS - LPS ARTS FOR ALL.

In 2019/2020, an extensive partnership titled LPS Arts for ALL, began in Lincoln uniting the Lied Center's education goals with those of Lincoln Public Schools. A team of Lied educators and LPS curriculum specialists regularly began meeting to identify specific LPS programs and grade levels that might best be served through a unique partnership in the performing arts; This partnership would ultimately bring all LPS 6th graders (approximately 4,400) to attend one of five student matinee performances of *Ajijaak on Turtle Island* created by IBEX Puppetry, produced and directed by Heather Henson and Ty DeFoe. LPS Arts for ALL also supported the development of culturally relevant curriculum by a team of LPS teachers, drawing from extensive work already created by the IBEX Puppetry team, Lied Center staff, and LPS's Indian Education program staff and advocates.

Besides attending student matinee performances, this program also involved pre- and post-show residency and workshop activities that took place in Lincoln and LPS, as well as in indigenous schools/communities throughout Nebraska. These residencies and workshops significantly involved teachers and their students in classroom activities that extended student learning beyond attendance at the matinee of *Ajijaak on Turtle Island*.





THE AJIJAAK ON TURTLE ISLAND STORY - A YOUNG WHOOPING CRANE

Ajijaak on Turtle Island is a distinctly indigenous story, developed by Heather Henson and IBEX Puppetry through years of collaboration with a diverse group of indigenous artists, teachers and leaders. For years, the Sandhill Cranes, one of two species of North American cranes, have made an area of the Platte River a focal point of their migration. The cranes' "dancing" has fascinated naturalists and artists for generations, and are Heather Henson's self-described obsession. This program, presented at the Lied Center March 6-9, 2023, included one public and five school-day performances; over a week of community and school residencies or workshops were led by IBEX Puppetry artists, Heather Henson and local teaching artists. These activities were specifically designed for students, and their teachers, to take place in the Lied Center's partner schools and communities.



Ajijaak on Turtle Island is a story about Ajijaak, a young whooping crane, who is separated from her family in a Tar Sands fire caused by the monstrous Mishibizhiw. Ajijaak begins her travels with a medicine bundle, given to her by her parents, as her guide, and makes her first migration on her own, flying from Wood Buffalo, Canada, down to the Gulf Coast of the U.S. Along the way she encounters many animals - deer, buffalo, coyote, and turtles - as well as communities of people from Ojibwe, Ho-Chunk, Lakota, and Cherokee Nations, living in harmony with their environments. These people share prayers, songs, and dances that celebrate life on earth and help Ajijaak find meaning and strength in her own voice and song. It is with this song that Ajijaak restores balance to Turtle Island and returns the monster, Mishibizhiw, to sleep.

STATEWIDE IMPACT

As part of the Lied's and IBEX's larger mission of engaging and empowering all audiences, this project provided significant statewide impact through a broad range of school and community activities, including:

- Ginew Benton's *Shells of Wisdom* Film Screening October 2022 reached 976 students, teachers and teaching artists in Omaha Nation, Santee, Niobrara and Winnebago schools.
- Teaching Artist Visits held in March 2023 in indigenous schools and communities reached 898 students, teachers and teaching artists in Omaha Nation, Winnebago, Niobrara and Santee schools.
- Student Matinee Performances were held March 7 to 9, 2023. Four indigenous school districts attended the student matinees including Niobrara School, Omaha Nation School, Winnebago School and Lincoln Public Schools. 307 indigenous children/youth and their teachers attended the student matinees.
- Almost 5,000 students and teachers from schools across Nebraska attended one of the five student matinees.
- Over 2,480 indigenous students, teachers, and family members participated in activities (residencies, matinees, a family festival, a family festival and public performance) of *Ajijaak on Turtle Island*.
- All told, 8,293 Nebraska children, youth, and adults were inspired by the story of Ajijaak.





THE PERFORMANCE AND FAMFEST ACTIVITIES

March 9 2023

Over 250 indigenous children, youth and family members attended the public performance; Public performance attendance included 2020 adults, students, family members.

Pre-show FamFest activities were open for everyone with a ticket, and were led by indigenous artists and Lied Center staff:

- HOPE the Crane, from the International Crane Foundation
- Honoring the Connection to Mother Earth
- Beaded Pawnee Corn Pin
- Crane Paper Puppets
- Indigenous Hand Games
- Medicine Pouches
- Crane Flyway Activities
- Kite Making
- Honoring the Bison

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND WELCOMES

A Land Acknowledgement/Welcome was presented at each matinee and public performance March 7-9 2023 – Six Native American community members welcomed the audience members and acknowledged Nebraska's indigenous lands:

- Kevin Abourezk (Lakota)
- Renee Sans Souci (Umo'ho")
- Herb Adson (Pawnee)
- Steve Tamayo (Lakota)
- Kristine Earth (Ho-Chunk)
- Mike Wolfe (Ponca)

Teaching Artists: Ginew Benton, Tecumseh Ceaser, Tsering Choedron, Renee Sans Souci, Heather Henson

A post-show gathering was held at the Lincoln Indian Center with 45 indigenous performers, local teaching artists and project staff attending.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

This program offered a unique opportunity for the Lied Center and Nebraska students and teachers to address relevant curricular themes including:

- The Crane migration story
- Crane habitats and environmental encounters
- The arts of puppetry, music and theater
- Indigenous art, culture and historical perspectives
- And more!

Besides reaching over 3,500 LPS 6th graders in the LPS Arts for All project, the Kiewit Foundation also supported the Lied Center in involving almost 2500 American Indian students, teachers and community members in Nebraska in the student matinees, residency activities and film premier.

With the the public performance, matinees and education experiences, the project was able to reach almost 8,300 Nebraskans with the compelling story of Ajijaak the Crane, and her remarkable journey on Turtle Island.





FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE REFER TO:

This pre-performance video “The Puppets, Songs and Story of Ajijaak on Turtle Island” features Master puppeteer Heather Henson, along with Director and Anishinabe artist Ty DeFoe and composer/cellist/Mohawk artist Dawn Avery.

This study guide was meant to show the connections between the whooping crane, ecosystems, indigenous communities, and how they all co-exist in a cycle of reciprocity. The Whooping Crane interacts with many different First Nations peoples, animals, environments and natural resources, some of which are highlighted in this guide. As you explore this study guide, please consider all the ways that animals, plants, food, and culture are interconnected.

Link to the 45-minute video:

- <https://youtu.be/8URU2tNfsUU>

Link to study guide and resources link:

- <https://www.ajijaak.com/education-resources>

CONTACT:

- Nancy Engen-Wedin
nengenwedn2@unl.edu | 402-472-4707





LIED CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

301 North 12th St.
P.O. Box 880151
Lincoln, NE 68588-0151

Non Profit
US Postage

PAID
UNL

**TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH
THE PERFORMING ARTS.**

