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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Marcus Performing Arts Center Announces 2024/25 Student Matinee Series in Celebration of Arts in Education Week**

*Eight special daytime performances will bring over 10,000 area students to downtown Milwaukee to experience the performing arts*

**MILWAUKEE** (September 13, 2024) – In celebration of [National Arts in Education Week](#), [Marcus Performing Arts Center](#) (MPAC) announced today the [2024/25 Student Matinee Series](#), which will feature eight special daytime performances for area students. **Now in its fourth year, MPAC's Student Matinee Series is expected to serve more than 10,000 young people this season.**

Five of the shows on the series are condensed versions developed for student audiences and have corresponding full-length public performances on the MPAC Presents season. Also on this season's lineup is a sensory-friendly performance of [Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks](#) from Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences.

These performances enhance classroom learning by bringing history, science, and the arts to life via tangible, memorable experiences. All participating schools will receive in-depth study guides containing lesson plans and arts-integration opportunities that can be incorporated into the classroom.

"Our Student Matinee Series is a cornerstone of our commitment to fostering a lifelong love for the arts in the next generation," said **Kevin Giglinto, MPAC President & CEO**. "For many students, this will be their first experience with the magic of live performance, and we are proud to offer this opportunity to spark their imaginations and broaden their horizons. By opening the door to the world of performing arts, we hope to inspire creativity and curiosity in young minds across our community."

**The Student Matinee Series is open to schools throughout the region, including homeschools. Thanks to the support of our funding partners, MPAC is proud to offer special pricing to Title 1 schools in the Milwaukee Public School District, ensuring that all students have access to the performing arts.**

The Student Matinee Series is generously supported by Bader Philanthropies, Inc., Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Herzfeld Foundation, the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, the Bert L. & Patricia S. Steigleder Foundation, and the Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation. The Student Matinee Series is also supported in part by a grant from the Milwaukee Arts Board and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin. To learn more about supporting the Student Matinee Series, contact [give@marcuscenter.org](mailto:give@marcuscenter.org).

Following is a chronological listing of the 2024/25 Student Matinee Series.

### [123 Andrés: Around the Americas](#)

Fri., October 11, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

Andrés and Christina are the GRAMMY award winning music duo 123 Andrés. In *Around the Americas*, Andrés can't find his friend Juana, and our only clue is that she's somewhere in the Americas. Travel with song and dance through a lesson in geography that incorporates an introduction to a variety of musical instruments as well as Latin language, culture and music.

*Recommended for grades pre-K-5.*

### [Mister C Live: Air is Everywhere](#)

Wed., October 23, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

Calling all scientists! Are you ready for some hair-raising science, toe-tapping music and mind-blowing media? Join Mister C for an amazing day of learning in the lab as he explores all things air! Mister C is no stranger to finding exciting and engaging ways to explore STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) in our everyday lives.

*Recommended for grades 3-6.*

### [Recycled Percussion\\*](#)

Fri., October 25, 2024 | 10:30 a.m.

Get ready for a musical experience that will have you clapping your hands and stomping your feet! Recycled Percussion transforms everyday objects like power tools, ladders, buckets, and trash cans into rock instruments for the ultimate interactive show. Recycled Percussion expands the boundaries of modern percussion, creating a "junk rock" experience you won't forget!

*Recommended for grades 7-12.*

### [Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque\\*](#)

Wed., January 29, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

Prepare to be amazed by acrobats who soar through the air! Acrobats and musicians perform to the sounds of live Afro-Jazz music, percussion beats, and the soulful melodies of the *kora*, a West African string instrument – creating a high-energy show that celebrates the rich traditions of Guinea. Cirque Kalabanté promotes the artistic cultures of African, humanitarian projects, and multiculturalism.

*Recommended for all ages.*

*This Student Matinee performance is SOLD OUT.*

### [Complexions Contemporary Ballet\\*](#)

Wed., February 5, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

With gifted dancers and powerful choreography, Complexions Contemporary Ballet reinvents dance and contemporary ballet by pairing its fierce style with music ranging from Bowie to Bach. Celebrate the 30th season of Complexions, a company dedicated to breaking boundaries and celebrating diversity in dance. Witness the transformative power of dance with Complexions, performing in Milwaukee for the first time ever.

*Recommended for grades 6-12.*

### [YAMATO: The Drummers of Japan\\*](#)

Thu., March 6, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

YAMATO: The Drummers of Japan takes students on a whirlwind tour of rhythm and culture with more than 40 Taiko drums on stage, each with its own character, size and sound. But it's not just about power; YAMATO also creates delicate music, building a unique soundscape. Founded over 30 years ago in the birthplace of Japanese culture and civilization, YAMATO travels the world to share this longstanding cultural tradition.

*Recommended for all ages.*

*This Student Matinee performance is SOLD OUT.*

### [Look Both Ways: A Tale Told in Ten Blocks](#)

Kennedy Center Theater For Young Audiences Tour

Fri., March 7, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

10 blocks. 10 unique tales. There's something for everyone across these 10 vignettes about identity, compassion, fear, and friendship—as told through puppetry, dance, music, projections, audience participation, *kamishibai* (paper theater), and more. This stage adaptation of Jason Reynolds' award-winning book encourages audiences to look both ways not only when crossing the street, but also when acknowledging the people walking by.

*A sensory-friendly performance. Recommended for grades 5-12.*

### [Ladies of Hip Hop\\*](#)

Fri., April 4, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.

Join the Ladies of Hip Hop (LOHH) for an inspiring performance that celebrates the strength, power, and diversity of women in Hip Hop. Led by founder Michele Byrd-McPhee, LOHH is an all-female intergenerational dance collective that brings to life the experiences of women through dynamic dance works, reclaiming and transforming cultural spaces.

*Recommended for grades 5-12.*

*\*Shows that have a full-length public performance on the [2024/25 MPAC Presents Series](#).*

Advance reservations for shows on the Student Matinee Series are required. Educators may reserve seats for their students by visiting [www.MarcusCenter.org/student-matinees/](http://www.MarcusCenter.org/student-matinees/).

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### **About Marcus Performing Arts Center**

A mission-based non-profit organization located in downtown Milwaukee, the Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) brings high-quality arts and cultural programming to Southeastern Wisconsin. MPAC strives to act as an energizing force that connects the community to the world through collaboration, innovation, social engagement, and the transformative power of the performing arts. Through multiple performance series, community events, and educational experiences, MPAC brings a diverse range of celebrated artists to the region. A fixture in Milwaukee for over 50 years, MPAC is proud to be part of the Milwaukee Theater District as well as a dedicated War Memorial facility. Learn more at [www.MarcusCenter.org](http://www.MarcusCenter.org).

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Interviews available with MPAC spokesperson. Contact Jennifer Han at [jhan@marcuscenter.org](mailto:jhan@marcuscenter.org) with preferred dates/times.