

GSU DANCE COMPANY PRESENTS

RISE UP! Truth to Power

Directed by Megan Lindsay



March 10 – 11
at 7:30 p.m.

**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University

CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222

GSU THEATRE AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES PRESENTS



By William Shakespeare
Adapted and Directed by Jane F. Cox

Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 2 p.m.

Get ready to see **Othello** as you've
never seen her before....that's right, **HER!**

Tickets: \$15
\$10 for students with i.d.

This contemporary adaptation finds Shakespeare's characters transported to modern day while retaining the eloquence and vitality of the bard's original text.

Othello is a successful Black woman who has everything: power, respect, and the love of her fair Desdemona – not to mention the contempt of the cunning, back stabbing, ladder-climbing, Iago. Threatened by, and resentful of the power couples' happiness, Iago preys on Othello's insecurities—using insidious race, class, gender and sexual warfare to poison Othello's mind and convince her that Desdemona's devotion is fleeting and false.

This powerful tale of prejudice, inequity, discrimination, and jealousy is full of wit and action, and a few surprises as well. So, come see the show you've known for all these years in a whole new light...



Limited, tiered, on-stage seating!

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Center for Performing Arts' 2022-23 Season.

The Performing Arts provides an oasis of compassion in a world starving for it.

This season, the Center continues advancing its vision through courageous, audacious programming. MPAACT – Maat African Centered Theater returns to GSU with its seventh and most ambitious partnership, a new musical entitled *RED SUMMER*. The story takes place during the bloodiest summer in Chicago's history: the summer of 1919. The musical bridges the past to the present and shows how little things have changed in a century.

The Center's Creating Compassionate Communities series launched in 2019 and focuses on works that promote empathy, gender expression and social justice while challenging bullying, stereotypes, and discrimination. *Cloud 9* satirizes what society teaches us about colonialism, gender roles, and sexuality. While *Othello* demonstrates how prejudice leads to unspeakable tragedy. These academic productions are authentic and complex, raw, and courageous; asking questions without immediate or simple answers.

This season also offers joyous experiences, celebrations of cultures and generations. We look forward to welcoming you to the Center this season.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Green, Ph.D.
President, Governors State University



The Center for Performing Arts is committed to presenting works that reach into the hearts and minds of our neighbors to activate compassion and connection.

Our next season, punctuated by the tagline: Heartbeat of the Southland: a soulful celebration of music, dance, and theatre is doing exactly that.

• We celebrate cultures with Alvin Ailey II, Mariachi Herencia de México, and State Ballet of Theater of Ukraine.

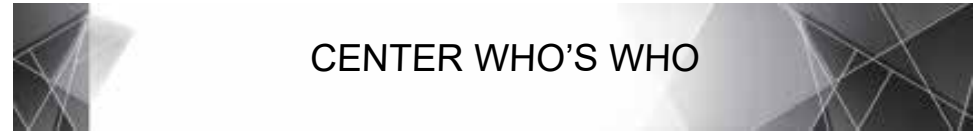
• We honor our community of veterans and bring multi-generational families together with a circus-style adventure Air Play.

• We support our students' creative expression and development of important new work premieres.

• We connect through shared experiences. One heartbeat at a time.

Sincerely,

Lana Rogachevskaya
Executive Director, Center for Performing Arts



CENTER WHO'S WHO

Center for Performing Arts Board of Advisors

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Vice-Chair
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Ian West, *Assistant Technical Director*
Tracey Offett, *Stagehand*

HOUSE INFORMATION
708.235.2222 • CenterTickets.net

Patron Services

Assisted Services & Seating

Special seating areas for wheelchair accessibility are available. Please contact the box office in advance to secure a seat in this area. Audio amplification is available for the hearing impaired free of charge. A driver's license or other identification is all that is required for deposit. An elevator serving the balcony is located at the east end of the main floor lobby. Do not use the elevator during an emergency.

Camera/Recording Devices/Phones and Smart Devices

Audio and visual reproduction of any kind is prohibited. Please silence all cell phones. Please refrain from bringing video cameras or any other type of recording equipment into the theater.

Emergency Fire Exits

Emergency exits are clearly marked and may be found outside each door to the hall. The lighted "Exit" sign nearest your seat is the shortest route outdoors.

Late Seating

As part of our commitment not to disturb other audience members, late arrivals may be seated at the back of the house at the discretion of the House Manager. For best service, plan to arrive 15 minutes prior to scheduled curtain time.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the Celebrity Gallery in the outer lobby. There are no restrooms in the balcony.

Policies and Ticketing

All sales are final. There are no refunds or exchanges on single ticket or group sales. Groups of 10 or more should call 708.235.2222 for tickets to Field Trips and Mainstage shows. Serving you from 10am-4pm Monday-Friday (6pm Thursday) and Two Hours Prior to CPA Curtain Time.

Children

All children, even those sitting in laps, must have their own ticket. We suggest children under one year old not attend performances.

Smoke-Free

Governors State University is a completely smoke-free campus. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on campus, inside or outside.

Rental Information

The theater is available to rent for many types of events. Contact Theater Manager Tracey Williams at williams41@govst.edu or 708.235.2237 for details.

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Directed by Megan Lindsay



March 10 – 11
at 7:30 p.m.

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RISE UP! Truth to Power

March 10-11, 2023

They Don't Really Care

Choreographer: Tashona Butts

Dancers: Nia Baker, Jazmin Butler, Tamar Clark, Brezhan Durant, Jaiana Eckles, Delilah Harris, Trinity Jones, Dakota Keel, Marquis Parks, My'Anna Perdue, Lanise Stinson, Nicole Thompson, Aja Unger

Music: "This is America" by Childish Gambino, "The Bigger Picture" by Lil Baby, "They Don't Care About Us" by Michael Jackson remixed by Tashona Butts

Bitter Earth

Guest Choreographer: Sadee Wuethrich

Dancers: Kloie Cole, Lilian Eheart, Natalie Erickson, Lauren Pueschell, Savannah Reed, Rae Stucki, Clare Wagner, Sadee Wuethrich

Music: "This Bitter Earth / On The Nature of Daylight" by Dinah Washington

Last Stand

Choreographer: My'Anna Perdue

Dancers: Jazmin Butler, Brezhant Durant, Jaiana Eckles, Trinity Jones, Amber Kelley, Marquis Parks, My'Anna Perdue, Aja Unger, Tasia Washington

Music: "Last Stand" by Kwabs & "That's How It Goes (ft 6lack)" by Zoe Wees

Time

Guest Choreographers: Lauren Pueschell & Sadee Wuethrich

Dancers: Lauren Pueschell & Sadee Wuethrich

Music: "Time" by Nathan Lanier

Read All About It

Choreographer: Sadee Wuethrich

Dancers: Nia Baker, Tyra Barnes, Jazmin Butler, Jaiana Eckles, Delilah Harris, Imani Jackson, Trinity Jones, Dakota Keel, Amber Kelley, Marquis Parks, My'Anna Perdue, Renee Stevenson, Lanise Stinson, Aja Unger, Tasia Washington, Tatyana Wilkens

Music: "Read All About It" by Emile Sande

In Memory of Chasatte Simeon: Video Tribute

Creators: Megan Lindsay & Deart Ramadani

Video Designer: Deart Ramadani

Psalms: 91

Choreographer: Amber Kelley

Dancers: Tyra Barnes, Jazmin Butler, Jaiana Eckles, Delilah Harris, Imani Jackson, Trinity Jones, Amber Kelley, My'Anna Perdue, Lanise Stinson, Aja Unger, Tasia Washington, Tatyana Wilkens

Music: "Secure" by Christy Bee

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

Impact

Choreographer: Megan Lindsay

Dancers: Nia Baker, Tyra Barnes, Jazmin Butler, Tamar Clark, Jaiana Eckles, Delilah Harris, Imani Jackson, Trinity Jones, Dakota Keel, Amber Kelley, Marquis Parks, My'Anna Perdue, Lanise Stinson, Tasia Washington, Tatyana Wilkens, Sadee Wuethrich

Music: "The Happiest Days of Our Lives" & "Another Brick in the Wall Part 2" by Pink Floyd remixed by Megan Lindsay

Hey, Lord

Choreographer: Tyra Barnes

Dancers: Tyra Barnes, Lilian Eheart, Courtney Heiskell, Lauren Pueschell, Sadee Weuthrich

Music: "I'm Tired" by Labrinth & Zendaya

Das Me

Choreographer: Aja Unger

Dancers: Jazmin Butler, Tamar Clark, Brezhan Durant, Trinity Jones, Navia McDonald, My'Anna Perdue, Aja Unger, Tasia Washington, Tatyana Wilkens

Music: "Das U" by Planet Giza

ARTIST PROFILES

Wonderful World

Co-Choreographers & Dancers: Lily Eheart, Natalie Erickson, Laure Pueschell, Savannah Reed, Rae Stucki

Music: "What a Wonderful World" by 2WEI, Ali Christenhusz, Edda Hayes

Me v/s Me

Choreographers: Jazmine Butler & My'Anna Perdue

Dancers: Jazmine Butler & My'Anna Perdue

Music: "Freedom" by Beyonce ft. Kendrick Lamar

Rise Up

Choreographer: Renee Striverson

Warrior Guard Team: Madison Bradley, Oghenemine Ekasa, Ma'Riyah Harris, Mikayla Henson, Daya Hendricks, Maria Velasquez (Crete-Monee High School)

Dancers: Nia Baker, Tamar Clark, Imani Jackson, Trinity Jones, Dakota Keel, Amber Kelley, Marquis Parks, My'Anna Perdue, Renee Striverson, Aja Unger, Tatyana Wilkens

Music: "Rise Up" by Andra Day

Finale & Bows

Dancers: Cast

Music: "Break My Soul" by Beyonce



Nia A. Baker is a Freshman and Member of the GSU Dance Company with a 3.5 GPA. Nia would like to thank her family and friends for always supporting her and encouraging her to chase after her goals in life to become successful.



Tyra Barnes (Choreographer/Dancer) is from the Southside of Chicago, Illinois. Tyra began dancing at a young age in the style of tap. Ballet came shortly after that and she fell in love. Her love of dance grew as she learned the styles of African, square dancing, waltz and salsa dancing, etc. When she started college at Governors State University her love of dance turned into a love of choreographing and this passion has continued to grow.



Jazmin L. Butler is a sophomore at Governors State University, and her major is Theater and Performance Studies. Jazmin serves as the Vice President of the Dance Company and loves everything that comes along with that role. This is her second Dance Showcase with the company, but third performance here at GSU. Jazmin says, "Having prior dance experience gives me an emotional connection to the show. I love performing and hope the audience gains the same emotional connection that I've built."



Tashona Butts (Choreographer) is a graduate student enrolled in the Clinical Psychology Master's program. She is from the south side of Chicago. Tashona joined the GSU Dance Company during the 2015-2016 season as a dancer and choreographer. Thereafter, she graduated and returned for the 2021-2022 season as choreographer and had the privilege of choreographing *FELA!* She has been dancing since age seven starting in the church and began formal dance training in 11th grade. She has choreographed and performed for various events, dancing backup for artists and music videos. She is also the founder and owner of Safe Havens Art Productions LLC, an up and coming performing and fine arts company.

Kimelia Carter (Stage Manager) has always believed that art has a way to connect people in the most unlikely of ways. She started acting at the age of five and began to involve herself in other aspects as well, such as a love for writing and stage management. Her writing includes poems and performances dealing with life experiences like love, heartbreak, and oppression. This passion has given her the opportunity to work for companies like Congo Square Theater and South Shore Opera. She is a recent graduate from Governors State University with a bachelors in Theater and Performance Studies with a minor in Creative Writing.



Tamar I. Clark is a freshman at GSU, studying for a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and is originally from Kankakee, IL. Tamar would like to thank her family, who has continued to support her both academically and creatively.

Kloie Cole is a senior at Bishop McNamara Catholic High School and is planning on attending Aurora University in the fall of 2023. Kloie Cole is a first-time dancer. She says dance has taught her a lot about emotion, flexibility, and expressing herself. Dance is a new experience for her and she has found that she really enjoys it! Kloie would like to personally thank everyone at GSU for this opportunity and her friends and family for their support.

Ellen Dillon (*Production Manager*) is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at GSU this year. She retired from a 35-year career in higher education having served as faculty, staff, and administration and in 2021 moved to University Park with her husband, Rob, to be nearer her adult children, Jeremy and Cecilia, and their families. Ellen has performed and provided technical support in university, regional, and professional theatres around the country for many years. From 2001-2004 Ellen traveled as Mama Clown with Patch Adams' Gesundheit! Institute's good humor clowns and visited children of all ages in the streets, orphanages, hospitals, and residential facilities of Russia major, Siberia, Jamaica, China, and Tibet.



Brezhan Durant is a junior at GSU from Hammond, Indiana. Her major is Social Work, and she aspires to work with kids with disabilities. This is her second year with the dance company. Brezhan also serves as captain of the GSU Cheer Team. Brezhan wants to say, "Thank you to my friends and mom who have been supporting me from the beginning".



Jaiana A. Eckles is a freshman and TAPS major. This is her debut show at GSU but she has been involved in dancing and acting for most of her life. She has performed on stage and in innumerable dance recitals. Jaiana is hoping to pursue her passions and accomplish her aspirations now that she is a student at GSU.

Lilian (Lily) Eheart is currently a junior at Watseka Community High School with twelve years of dance experience. This is her second year performing with GSUDC as well as her first year choreographing with the company. She gives a special thanks to her friends in and out of the dance world and her parents for their continuous support.

Natalie Erickson is currently a junior at Watseka Community High School. Over the years, she's been involved in many different activities. This is her first dance performance! Through this new experience, she has been able to learn a lot about movement and what it takes to perform. She'd like to thank all of her friends and family for supporting her through all of the stages of her life, including this new one!



Delilah S. Harris is a Senior here at Governors State University, studying Criminal Justice. Delilah aspires to work with juveniles to help better the community because it starts with the children. She transferred from Lincoln College in May of last year after Lincoln had shut down for good. Delilah is glad to have picked GSU because it has been a great transition. Delilah has been on the dance company team since August and says that it definitely was worth it. "Megan is a wonderful director."



Imani Jackson is a sophomore studying secondary education with a focus on history and political science. Her home town is Lansing, Illinois.



Amber Kelley is a junior majoring in elementary education and minoring in dance. She's trained with the Joffery Ballet in their summer intensives for 3 years, has volunteered with her church teaching praise dances throughout her life and taught ballet classes in Chicago Public Schools for K-2nd grade. Amber would like to thank her parents for bringing her into the world and helping her begin her craft in dance and her best friends for pushing her to pursue her dreams.



Megan Lindsay (*Artistic Director/ Faculty Choreographer / Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance TAPS*) *Rise Up! Truth to Power* is the eighth annual spring dance concert at GSU. Megan joined the Theatre and Performance Studies faculty at Governors State University in 2013 and serves as the resident TAPS choreographer and the coordinator, director and faculty advisor of the Governors State University Dance Company. Courses taught by Megan at GSU are Jazz dance, Modern dance, Tap, Ballet, Social dance, Dance Appreciation, Dance Pedagogy, Choreography, FYS, and Mastering College. Megan co-created the dance minor program in fall of 2019. Megan graduated cum laude from Ball State University with a BS in Dance Performance, and later obtained her Master of Arts in Dance/ Movement Therapy from Columbia College Chicago.



Marquis Parks is a junior studying Theatre and Performance Studies with a minor in Business Administration. Parks is currently serving as the Student Senate President and the President of the GSU Dance Company. He has performed on the Center for Performing Arts stage in such productions as: *Shrek the Musical* (2015), *25 Years of Broadway and Beyond* (2022), and *12 Angry Jurors* (2022). Parks wants to become a star in the theater world and plans to eventually perform professionally post graduation.



My'Anna Perdue (*Choreographer/Dancer*) is Freshman majoring in Psychology with a minor in Dance from Joliet, Illinois. My'Anna has performed with GSU Dance company in Pep Rally, TAPS Showcase, basketball games and intermissions for multiple clubs and organizations. She has also choreographed a number of performances and is a self-taught dancer. My'Anna went to college in 2018 and took a class on modern dance. My'Anna would like to thank her family for always believing in her when it comes to movement.

"I always say dance is how I express myself; dance is how I breathe. Thank you God, for allowing me to breathe freely."

Lauren Pueschell Over the course of her 18+ years on stage, Lauren has performed with companies such as Indiana Youth Ballet, Country Theatre Workshop, Kankakee Valley Theatre Association, Acting Out Theatre Company, and GSU. She is trained in Ballet/Pointe, Jazz, Tap, Musical Theatre, Contemporary/Lyrical, and Vocal performance. She is also currently a dance teacher at Studio On Main in Watseka, IL.

Lauren would like to thank the faculty and company members of GSU for inviting her to return to their beautiful stage, and her family for always supporting her performance endeavors.

Savannah Reed is a Sophomore at Iroquois West High School. She has been dancing for 12 years, gaining experience at various locations. She enjoys different dance styles such as Ballet/Pointe, Jazz, Tap, and Contemporary/Lyrical. Savannah would like to thank GSU for inviting her back again with the opportunity to perform for her second year in a row! She would also like to thank her parents for always being loving and supportive.

Rae Stucki has been dancing for the past 11 years, and this is her second year performing for GSU! Rae has furthered her dance career with training from Studio on Main and now with Dancepiration. She has learned styles such as contemporary, hip hop/jazz, tap, and ballet/pointe. Rae would like to thank Sadee and GSU for giving her the opportunity to perform. She would also like to thank her mom for supporting her throughout her dance career.

Rachel M. Sypniewski (*Costume Design*) is thrilled to be back at GSU and so excited to be working with the Dance Company for the first time. Other companies she has worked with include Goodman, Music Theater Works, Porchlight, Trap Door, Oak Park Festival Theater, Kokandy, Broken Nose, Black Button Eyes, Jackalope, The New Colony, Emerald City, Lifeline, Griffin, Hell in a Handbag, Compass, Strawdog, Factory, Red Tape and Redtwist. She also has designed at Wheaton College, North Central College, St. Patrick's High School, Indiana University Northwest, and the Chicago Academy for the Arts. She is an eight-time Non-equity Jeff nominee, having been awarded one for "La Bete" at Trap Door. More info at www.rachelsyp.com



Aja Unger (*Dancer and Choreographer*) is a Freshman studying in IT, she was a dancer and choreographer in high school and is a home trained dancer with some experienced training in ballet and hip-hop.

Clare Wagner Over the past eight years, Clare has had many dancing opportunities with various organizations. Clare has performed many times and has been in multiple plays including: *The Wizard of Oz* and *The Addams Family*. Clare is currently a sophomore at Iroquois West High School. She wants to express her gratitude to her family and friends for supporting her artistic passions. Clare would also like to thank GSU for this dancing opportunity.



Tatyana Wilkins a second year Psych major from Chicago, Illinois, and first year dancer at GSU. For a little over 10 years, dancing has been the escape she uses to allow her emotions to move her body. Tatyana would like to thank her parents for always supporting her no matter what she was going through and for always being able to turn a bad situation into a lesson.

Sadee Wuethrich is a GSU Alumna and is currently enrolled at BSU. As well as performance, Sadee has many years of experience setting choreography! Through GSU, she has danced and choreographed numbers for the last three years. She dances because it's fulfilling to entertain others with the art of movement. Sadee also enjoys teaching and inspiring others to dance. She gives special thanks to all the dance moms, friends, and family members that have supported her throughout her dance career.



VOLUNTEER

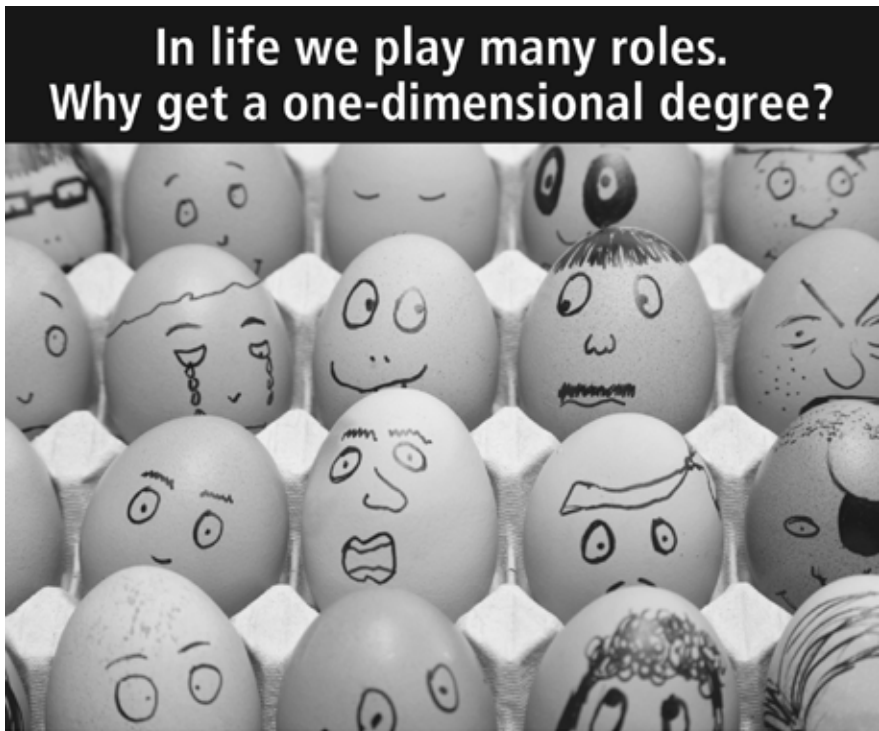
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Visit www.govst.edu/volunteer for a complete list of duties and upcoming events. Contact Patron Services Manager, Ingrid Anderson at ianderson@govst.edu or call 708.235.2239 to sign-up.

CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
Governors State University
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60484
CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222



In life we play many roles.
Why get a one-dimensional degree?

THEATRE and PERFORMANCE STUDIES

Summer 2023 Theatre and Performance Studies Classes:

TAPS-1100	Theatre Appreciation (Online)	Ellen Dillon
TAPS 4750/6750	Chicagoland Theatre	Patrick Santoro

Fall 2023 Theatre and Performance Studies Classes:

DNCE-2210	Intro to Modern	Megan Lindsay
DNCE 4100	Intro to Choreography	Megan Lindsay
TAPS-1100	Theatre Appreciation (Online/In Person)	Instructor TBA
TAPS-2100	The Storytelling Tradition	Patrick Santoro
TAPS-2210	Introduction to Acting	Instructor TBA
TAPS-3099	Critical Perspectives in TAPS	Patrick Santoro



IYER & SIBELIUS
February 25, 2023
7:30PM
 Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*
 Inbal Segev, *Cello*
CZINER
Rear-view
 World Premiere
IYER
Haman Archipelago
 Midwest Premiere
SIBELIUS
 Symphony No. 2

February 25, 2023

Cziner, Iyer & Sibelius
Inbal Segev, Cello

March 11, 2023

Pictures at an Exhibition
with visuals by Adrian Wyard
Lisa Tannebaum, Harp

April 15, 2023

Soaring Strings:
An Orchestral Celebration
of Matthew Mantell
Matthew Lipman, Viola

Emily Mantell, Cello
Sonia Mantell, Cello

May 13, 2023

Dvořák & Beach

Pictures at an Exhibition
with visuals by Adrian Wyard
March 11, 2023
3:00PM
 Stilian Kirov, *Conductor*
 Lisa Tannebaum, *Harp*
DEBUSSY
Children's Corner
Danse sacree et danse profane
RAVEL
Le Tombeau de Couperin
MUSSORGSKY
Pictures at an Exhibition
with visuals by Adrian Wyard



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In *Air Play* umbrellas fly, fabrics soar over the audience, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls, filling the stage. With stunning images and gales of laughter, *Air Play* bounces on the edge of definition: part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater.

A circus-style adventure of two siblings journeying through a surreal land of air, *Air Play* transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty. Great for all ages!

Join us after the show for a free Earth Day celebration of art, springtime, and the natural wonders around us. First up, is a mini tour of theNate, GSU's award-winning sculpture park. During the tour, families can scatter milkweed seed pods in the growing butterfly sanctuary. After enjoying art outdoors, guests can make their own Koinobori (Japanese fish kite) that "swims" through the air in its own play!

Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 – 35
Children 14 & under: \$20

theNate
NATIONAL MILKWEED SCULPTURE PARK

CENTER FOR PERFORMINGARTS

Governors State University

CenterTickets.net

708.235.2222



WAYS TO SUPPORT

JOIN US in ensuring that your Center for Performing Arts will continue to thrive as the premier cultural destination in the Southland, bringing quality and diverse entertainment and educational programs to over 50,000 community members. Your support in any role and at any level is **greatly** appreciated.

SIX WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CENTER

1. DONATE NOW



2. SPONSORSHIP (small business/ corporations)

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3. Playbill Advertising

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4. VOLUNTEER

Our volunteer ushers are valued members of the Center's team. They assist with Mainstage productions, Arts in Education and Rental events.

5. IN-KIND donors

From gift certificates to restaurants (to feed our artists) to donated auction items, there are many ways to support your Center.

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Holiday Inn

2022-23 SEASON AT A GLANCE

MARCH 2023

Rise Up! Truth to Power
GSU Dance Company, TAPS Friday,
March 10 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday,
March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

APRIL 2023

Othello, TAPS
Thursday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.
Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m.

Air Play

A Breathtaking Homage to the
Power of Air
Saturday, April 22 at 2 p.m.

Shen Yun

Thursday, April 27 at 2 p.m.
Friday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 29 at 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 30 at 1 p.m.

JUNE 2023

Summer Musical Theatre Camp
The Little Mermaid
June 19-23

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