



Contact: Jane Cox  
Governors State University  
jcox1@govst.edu  
708.207.1361 (cell)  
708.235.2811 (office)

**For Immediate Release**

**Governors State University Center for Performing Arts' 2022–23 Season is a Soulful Celebration of Music, Dance, and Theatre**

University Park, IL (July 11, 2022) – Governors State University's Center for Performing Arts' (the Center's) 2022–23 Season will feature an eclectic mix of music, dance, and theatre.

From celebrating diverse cultures with Ailey II, Mariachi Herencia de México, and the State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine, to honoring veterans and bringing multi-generational families together with the circus-style adventure *Air Play*, the season has something for everyone.

The Center also remains committed to presenting works that activate compassion and connection through courageous, imaginative programming. The season kicks off with a new musical: *RED SUMMER*, presented by MPAACT (Maat African Centered Theater), marking MPAACT's seventh and most ambitious partnership with the Center. *RED SUMMER* takes place during the summer of 1919, the bloodiest summer in Chicago's history. The musical bridges the past to the present and illustrates how little life in the U.S. has changed in over a century.

Features also include *DRUMLINE Live!*, a high-energy show that brings the experience of historically Black colleges and universities to life on stage with musical tributes to Motown, Prince, and Michael Jackson, and choreography inspired by Tina Turner and James Brown.

The Center's Opera Up Close series offers 150 audience members the opportunity to experience the awesome power of the unamplified human voice up close, seated on stage with the performers, while sampling themed culinary offerings. In its 12<sup>th</sup> season, Opera Up Close presents the humorous *Battle of the Baritones* on October 9 and *Happy Birthday, Mozart!* on January 29, featuring musicians from the Lyric Opera performing arias and duets from Mozart's most beloved operas while accompanied by musicians from the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Center's Creating Compassionate Communities series continues with academic theatre productions *Cloud 9* in November and *Othello* in April. In *Cloud 9*, adults play children; men and women play opposite genders; and a white man plays a black man. Playwright Caryl Churchill crafts a biting commentary of social structures and an intelligent and comedic show that will challenge societal perceptions.

April's *Othello* is set in modern day but retains Shakespeare's original text with a twist. 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. Exploring the intersectionality of gender, sexual orientation, race, and even religion, this powerful tale of prejudice, discrimination, and jealousy is full of surprises.

The Center for Performing Arts thanks our generous partners, funders, and individual contributors, including The National Endowment for the Arts, Arts Midwest, First Midwest Bank A Division of Old National Bank, and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

All tickets for 2022–23 shows are now on sale.

GSU students, faculty, and staff qualify for discounted tickets with a valid GSU email address or ID.

For more information, ticket prices, and preview videos, visit [CenterTickets.net](https://CenterTickets.net).

## Center for Performing Arts 2022–23 Season At-a-Glance

### September 2022

16–18; 23–25

#### **RED SUMMER**

A new musical making its world premiere at the Center. Set during the Chicago race riots of 1919, RED SUMMER revolves around two soldiers—one black, one white—who return from the battles of WWI only to find themselves caught in the violence of a segregated city torn apart by ethnic tensions.

### October 2022

1

#### **Mariachi Herencia de México**

This Latin GRAMMY-nominated group of young Mexican-American musicians have released four highly acclaimed studio albums with chart-topping debuts on both the Billboard and iTunes Latin Album charts, defying a music industry and pointing to a revival of mariachi music.

9

***Opera Up Close: Battle of the Baritones***

Two baritones enter the ring, but who will be victorious? Experience the power of the unamplified human voice and culinary sampling while seated on stage with the performers.

15

**Ailey II**

Founded by Alvin Ailey, Ailey II is one of the most popular modern dance companies universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers.

**November 2022**

3–6

***Cloud 9* presented by GSU Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS)**

*Cloud 9* is a satirical commentary on the British Empire and its rigid perspectives on gender roles, sexuality, and race.

11

**The United States Army Field Band—Concert Band & Soldiers' Chorus (FREE)**

This free Veterans Day concert features selections from vast choral repertoires that include Broadway music, opera, barbershop quartet, Americana, and pop music.

19

**The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine presents  
*The Nutcracker***

With a company of over 55 dancers, the State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine have drawn critical acclaim throughout Europe, India, and Africa. Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, *The Nutcracker* will fill you with the holiday spirit!

**January 2023**

23

***Opera Up Close: Happy Birthday, Mozart!***

Lyric Opera vocalists perform beloved arias and duets from Mozart's most beloved operas.

**February 2023**

4

**DRUMLine Live!**

The legendary Historically Black College and University (HBSU) band experience comes alive with this world-class cast of percussionists, musicians, and dancers.

**March 2023**

10–11

**GSU Dance Company presents *RISE UP! Truth to Power***

Choreographed by GSU faculty, students, and alumni, *Rise Up!* features provocative performances that encourage dialogue and action that address inequity.

**April 2022**

6–8

***Othello* presented by GSU Theatre and Performance Studies (TAPS)**

Get ready to see *Othello* as you've never seen HER before... that's right, HER! This contemporary adaptation finds Shakespeare's characters transported to modern day while retaining the eloquence and vitality of the original text.

22

**Acrouffos present**

***AIR PLAY***

This circus-style adventure transforms ordinary objects into uncommon beauty. Umbrellas fly, fabrics soar over the audience, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls. *AIR PLAY* bounces on the edge of definition: part comedy, part sculpture, part theatre.

**How to Purchase Tickets**

- Online at [CenterTickets.net](https://www.CenterTickets.net)
- Over the phone at 708.235.2222
- In person at the Box Office: 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484

Box Office Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays and two hours prior to show times.

**Flex Packages**

Flex buyers (patrons who purchase three or more shows) save 15% off tickets, receive priority seating, and enjoy exchange or bank-a-credit privileges.

**Know Before You Go**

Your health and safety are our priority.

Face masks are encouraged on campus, even if vaccinated. Hand sanitizer will be made readily available throughout the venue, and patrons are strongly encouraged to make use of them. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms of COVID-19, stay home and do not attend an event.

Tickets range from **\$10 to \$84**. Ask about additional opportunities for box seating and special events. Discounts are available for students, children, seniors 65+, groups of 10+, GSU faculty and staff, and patrons purchasing tickets to three or more shows.

Parking is free. For best GPS directions, use the location search term "Governors State University."

### **Connect With Us**

Like us on **Facebook** @centeratgsu for updates on events, offers, and more. Share your experience at the Center on **Instagram** @gsu\_center #govstatearts.

Subscribe to the Center's YouTube channel at [youtube.com/GSUCenter](https://youtube.com/GSUCenter)

# # #