



2022-23 SEASON

**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University

Heartbeat of the Southland
A Soulful Celebration of
Music, Dance, and Theatre

2022-23 SEASON AT A GLANCE

SEPTEMBER 2022

RED SUMMER by MPAACT **World Premiere**

Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 18 at 2 p.m.
Saturday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25 at 2 p.m.

OCTOBER 2022

Mariachi Herencia de México Saturday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

Opera Up Close **Battle of the Baritones** Sunday, October 9 at 4 p.m.

Ailey II Saturday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Southland **International Film Festival** October 13 – 15

NOVEMBER 2022

Cloud 9, TAPS Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, November 6 at 2 p.m.

The United States Army Field Band **Concert Band & Soldiers' Chorus (FREE)** Friday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine **The Nutcracker** Saturday, November 19 at 1 and 5 p.m.

JANUARY 2023

Opera Up Close **Happy Birthday, Mozart!** Sunday, January 29 at 4 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2023

DRUMLINE Live! Saturday, February 4 at 7:30 p.m.

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.



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*. It 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 an immediate or simple answer.

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

Your Health and Safety are Our Priority

For up-to-date guidelines and recommendations visit govst.edu/COVID-19/

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Respecting our Past. Reimagining our Future. **Together.**

CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222



*A pandemic ravages the land.
An innocent black teenager murdered. A country divided.
It's not 2022. It's 1919.
A new modern musical that bridges the past to the present.*

Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 18 at 2 p.m.
Saturday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25 at 2 p.m.



RED SUMMER paints a vivid picture of a crucial moment in Chicago history. Brutally honest, while hauntingly provocative and personal, *RED SUMMER* presents an intimate portrait that eerily mirrors our present time. Crafted by MPAACT co-founders Shepsu Aakhu and Shawn Wallace, along with Andrew White, a co-founder of Lookingglass Theatre Company, this large-scale world premiere will showcase a cast of 20 of Chicago's finest actors, singers, and musicians.



Set during the Chicago race riots of 1919, *RED SUMMER* centers on two soldiers—one black, one white—who return from the battlefields of Europe only to find themselves caught in the violence of a city that is struggling to accommodate the Great Migration, a global pandemic, the return of war veterans, a downturn in the economy, and long-standing ethnic tensions. Having fought on the same side in “The Great War,” and now pitted against each other as their friends, family, and neighbors wage block-by-block warfare, and the city’s ethnic enclaves rage and burn.



Shepsu Aakhu

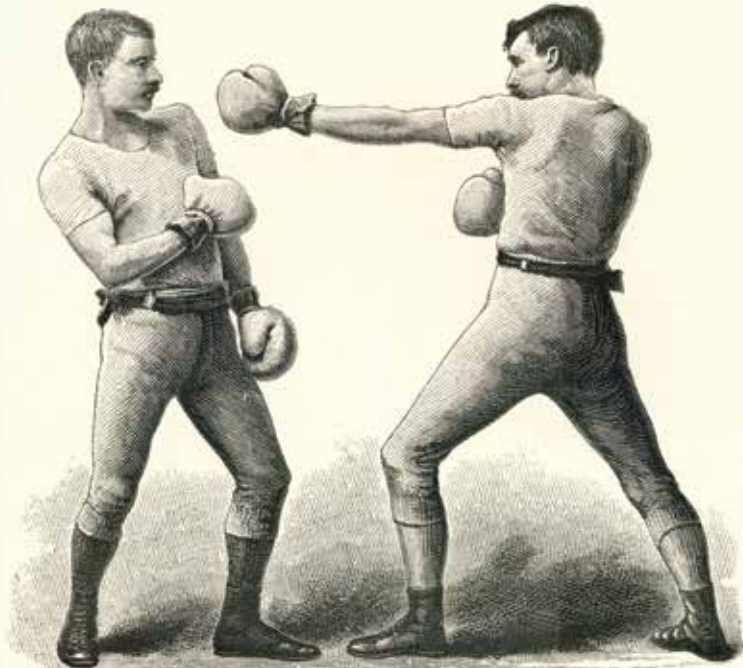


Andrew White



Shawn Wallace

Battle of the Baritones



Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 4 p.m.

Two baritones enter the ring but who will be victorious? Your favorite host, John Concepción, hosts a showdown between some of the best baritones in Chicagoland.

Featuring Evan Bravos, Michael Cavalieri, Nick Ward, and Jonathan Wilson performing selections from Puccini, Mozart, Verdi, Korngold, Bernstein, and more!

Experience the power of the unamplified human voice and a culinary sampling while seated on stage with the performers!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

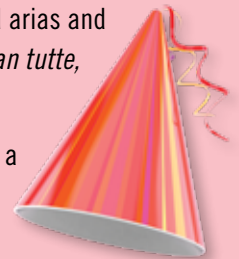


Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 4 p.m.

Celebrate Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 266th Birthday with Opera Up Close!

An ensemble of Lyric Opera artists will perform beloved arias and ensembles from *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Magic Flute*, and more!

Tickets include a slice of birthday cake and a champagne toast at intermission.





Mariachi Herencia de México

Saturday, October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

The historic tradition of mariachi music has roots in cities like Guadalajara and Mexico City, places where the festive folk style lived its past glory days in the mid-1900s. Today, the future of the evolving genre may rest in the hands of a dynamic ensemble from the capital of the American Midwest: Chicago's Mariachi Herencia de México.

The 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 the iTunes Latin Albums charts, defying a music industry trend and pointing to a revival in recorded mariachi music.

Mariachi expert and historian Jonathan Clark describes their recent album *Esencia, Vol 2* as "A masterpiece. This is mariachi music at its most sophisticated and most modernistic. It's almost the antithesis of folklore, almost futuristic. Maybe 20 or 30 years from now, all groups will sound like this, I don't know. But it is state-of-the-art."

Mariachi Herencia de México has toured throughout the U.S., Mexico and Canada performing in some of the most prestigious performing arts centers across the continent, including Washington D.C.'s The Kennedy Center and Guadalajara's Teatro Degollado. The group has performed alongside major artists like Lila Downs, Aida Cuevas, Los Lobos, Pedro Fernández, as well as some of the most respected mariachi groups from both sides of the border, including Mariachi Vargas de Tecatitlán, Los Camperos, Sol de Mexico, Cobre, and the all-female group Reyna de Los Angeles, demonstrating that this group of young musicians have the talent, training and bravado to hold their own with the best in the world.

**OCTOBER
13-15
TWO-THOUSAND
TWENTY-TWO**

**REEL VISION.
REAL FILMS.**

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conversations with the filmmakers who
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Grant funded by the
Illinois Arts Council

AILEY II



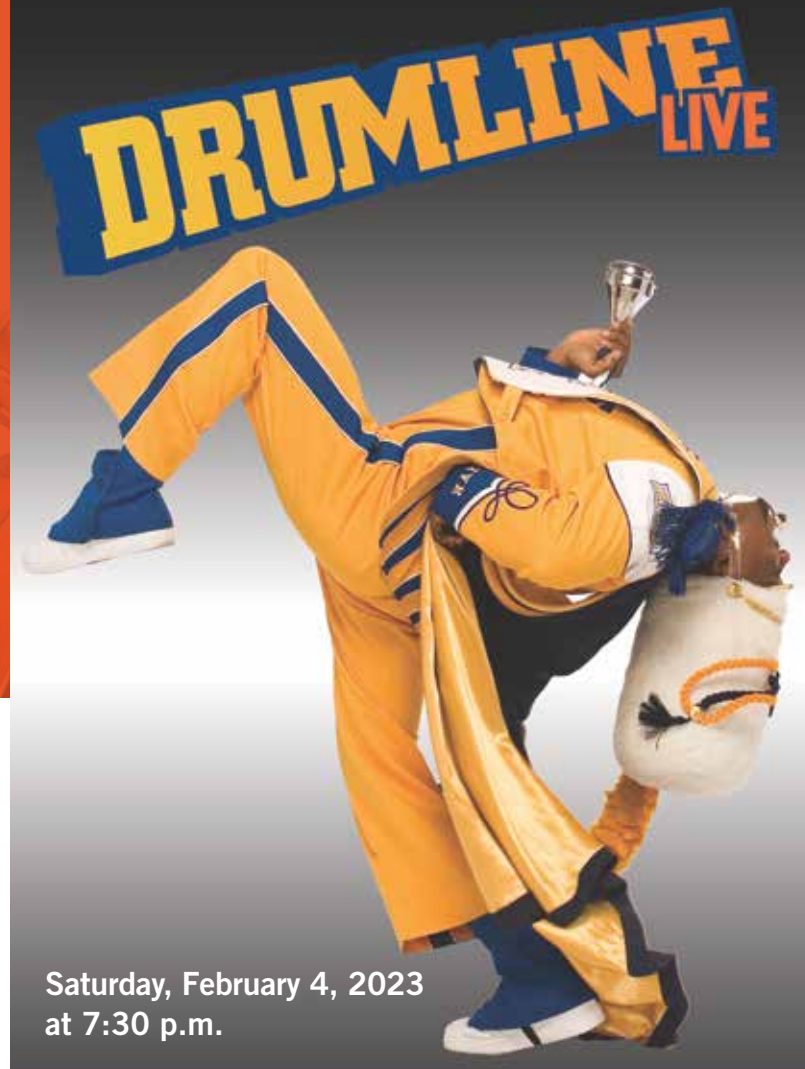
Saturday, October 15
at 7:30 p.m.



Photos by Nir Arieli

Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of the country's finest early-career dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers.

Founded by Alvin Ailey, the company embodies his pioneering mission to establish an extended cultural community that provides dance performances, training, and community programs for all people. Since its 1974 inception, Ailey II has flourished into one of the most popular modern dance companies, combining a rigorous touring schedule with extensive community outreach programs.



Saturday, February 4, 2023
at 7:30 p.m.

DRUMLine Live, the show-stopping attraction created by the musical team behind 20th Century Fox's hit movies, *Drumline* and *Drumline: A New Beat*, has already paraded onto some of the biggest theatre stages in America, Japan, and Korea. After performing over 300 shows since 2009, it's time for a **BRAND NEW** show, with new music and choreography. The Legendary Historically Black College and University (HBCU) band experience comes alive with this world-class cast of percussionists, musicians, and dancers. Be prepared to laugh, sing, dance, and cry because **DRUMLine Live** is a high-octane musical roller coaster ride that will hit every emotion in your body.

Complete with dazzling choreography and explosive percussion, **DRUMLine Live** is a thrilling spectacle that pays homage to the show-style marching popularized at historically black colleges and universities. With musical highlights from hip-hop, American soul, gospel, and jazz to name a few, **DRUMLine Live** blends genres. This music, combined with a unique style of drumming, mesmerizing musicianship, and lively choreography create a production never seen on stage before.

FAMILY FUN



The State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine presents

The Nutcracker

Saturday, November 19 at 1 and 5 p.m.

'Tis the season for making special memories with your family! Whether you're a kid or a kid at heart, *The Nutcracker* will fill you with the Christmas spirit. Starring the acclaimed State Ballet Theater of Ukraine, this treasured fairytale follows a young girl's journey through a fantasy world of fairies, princes, and an army of mice. Tchaikovsky's beloved score is full of instantly recognizable holiday music, including "Waltz of the Flowers," "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," "Waltz of the Snowflakes," and more.

With a company of over 55 dancers, the State Ballet Theatre of Ukraine have drawn critical acclaim in performances throughout Europe, India, and Africa. The State Ballet Theater of Ukraine's *THE NUTCRACKER* is sure to make some magical memories this holiday season!



Acrobuffos present

Air Play

**Saturday, April 22, 2023
at 2 p.m.**

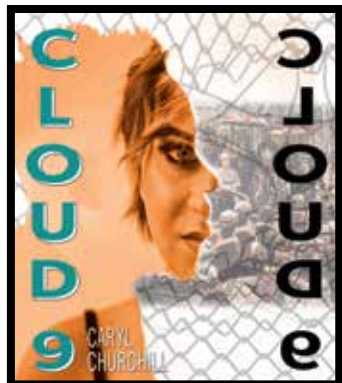
In *Air Play* umbrellas fly, fabrics soar over the audience, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls, filling the stage. With stunning images and gales of laughter, *Air Play* bounces on the edge of definition: part comedy, part sculpture, part circus, part theater.

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

Created by circus performers Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone in collaboration with kinetic sculptor Daniel Wurtzel, *Air Play* was devised through years of experimentation with simple materials, movement, and technology.

Great for all ages, *Air Play* creates beauty and inspires laughter across cultures and continents. No translation necessary.

Air Play is a visual poem, using no words, and brings to life the very air we breathe.



CLOUD 9

By Caryl Churchill

Directed by Patrick Santoro, Ph.D.

Friday, November 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 6 at 2 p.m.

Cloud 9 is a satirical commentary of the British Empire and its rigid perspectives on gender roles and sexuality. The first act follows Clive, a colonial administrator, and his family as they try to contain the British colonies in Africa during the Victorian era. The second act follows the surviving characters in London, 1980. Between the acts, the characters have only aged 25 years and have been freed from their sexual repression, as well as from the Empire. In *Cloud 9*, adults play children; men and women play opposite genders; and a white man plays a black man. With its inventive casting and Churchill's biting analysis of social structures, *Cloud 9* is an intelligent and comedic show that will challenge yesterday and today's society.



Othello

By William Shakespeare

Adapted and Directed by Jane F. Cox

Thursday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 8 at 2 p.m.

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 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...

RISE UP! Truth to Power

Directed by Megan Lindsay

Friday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 11 at 7:30 p.m.



Join the GSU Dance Company as they dance for social justice. Choreographed by GSU faculty, students, and alumni, *Rise Up!* features provocative performances that encourage dialogue and action that address inequity.

The United States Army Field Band Concert Band & Soldiers' Chorus



Friday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
and limited to 4 tickets per household.

The Soldiers' Chorus, founded in 1957, is the vocal complement of the United States Army Field Band of Washington, DC. The 29 – member mixed choral ensemble travels throughout the nation and abroad, performing as a separate component and in joint concerts with the Concert Band of the “Musical Ambassadors of the Army.” The chorus has performed in all fifty states, Canada, Mexico, India, the Far East, and throughout Europe, entertaining audiences of all ages.

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

This versatility has earned the Soldiers' Chorus an international reputation for presenting musical excellence and inspiring patriotism. Critics have acclaimed recent appearances with the Boston Pops, the Cincinnati Pops, and the Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, Nashville, and National symphony orchestras.

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Buy 3 or more shows to:

- Save 15%
- Access pre-sale (July 1–8, 2022) to receive best seats
- Receive ticket exchange/credit privileges*

*Flex packages qualify for exchange or credits to future shows within at least a 48-hour notice prior to curtain.

GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE RECEIVE THESE BENEFITS:

- Save 15-20%
- Access pre-sale (July 1–8, 2022) to receive best seats
- Waived handling fees
- Flexible payment policy

Visit govst.edu/BoxOffice or call 708.235.2222 for more information about discounts, pricing, and box office policies. Some restrictions may apply. Most discounts are not available online. Purchaser must inform box office that a discount may apply when ordering. Discounts cannot be combined to honored after transaction is processed.

DIRECTIONS & PARKING

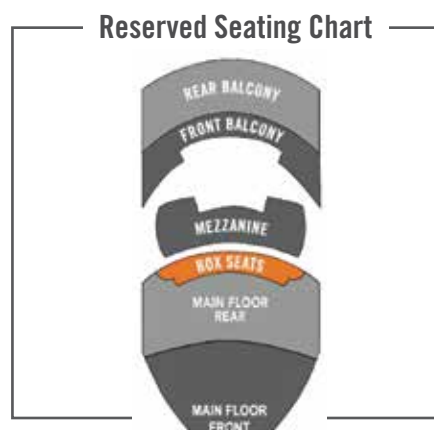
From I-57, take exit on Stuenkel Rd/ University Pkwy east and turn right at GSU entrance. For more directions, visit CenterTickets.net.

PARKING IS FREE



YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY ARE OUR PRIORITY

For up-to-date guidelines and recommendations visit govst.edu/COVID-19/



TO PLACE YOUR TICKET ORDER

Call 708.235.2222 or stop by the box office during hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Open until 6 p.m. on Thursdays.

The Box Office is open two hours prior to curtain and through intermission.

Online at www.CenterTickets.net

PLAN YOUR VISIT to BUNDLE AND SAVE

REGULAR PRICES

FLEX PRICES

RESERVED SEATING	Main Front	Main Rear	Mezzanine/ Front Balcony	Rear Balcony	Child	Main Front	Main Rear	Mezzanine/ Front Balcony	Rear Balcony	Child	# of Tix	Subtotal
Red Summer	\$39	\$34	\$29	N/A	N/A	\$33.15	\$28.90	\$24.65	N/A	N/A		
Mariachi Herencia de México	\$39	\$34	\$29	N/A	\$20	\$33.15	\$28.90	\$24.65	N/A	\$17		
Ailey II	\$59	\$54	\$49	\$45	\$20	\$50.15	\$45.90	\$41.65	\$38.25	\$17		
Nutcracker	\$55	\$50	\$45	\$35	\$20	\$46.75	\$42.50	\$38.25	\$29.75	\$17		
Drumline Live!	\$69	\$59	\$54	\$54	\$20	\$58.65	\$50.15	\$45.90	\$45.90	\$17		
AirPlay	\$35	\$29	\$25	\$25	\$20	\$29.75	\$24.65	\$21.25	\$21.25	\$17		

REGULAR PRICES

FLEX PRICES

CABARET OR GENERAL ADMISSION SEATING					# of Tix	Subtotal
Opera Up Close: Battle of the Baritones*	\$50	\$42.50				
Cloud 9 +	\$15	\$12.75				
Opera Up Close: Happy Birthday Mozart!*	\$50	\$42.50				
Rise Up! Truth to Power ♦	\$15	\$12.75				
Othello +	\$15	\$12.75				
Please use this form to calculate your savings. We ask that you do not mail your order.					TOTALS	\$

* Reserved On Stage Seating (6 to a table)

+ General Admission On Stage Seating

♦ General Admission

Processing fees apply to phone and online orders.

All ticket sales are final. No refunds.

CENTER FOR
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