

MONDAVI  
CENTER  
Arts Education

**Q** CUE  
Sheet  
for Teachers



**STREB: BRAVE**

MON, MAR 12, 2010 | 11:00 AM JACKSON HALL

*Recommended for grades 4-12*

**ABOUT**

STREB: BRAVE is an entertaining yet thought-provoking show, produced in cooperation with the MIT Media Lab, about pure movement, the idea of the circle, and the pursuit of perpetual motion, complete with virtuoso trapeze artists, amazing dancers, incredible gizmos, the thrills of the circus, and the excitement of extreme sports. For STREB, perpetual motion is not just a concept but an action. STREB: BRAVE not only keeps the performers leaping, spinning and soaring, but the structures around them, under and over them will be in motion as well. STREB finds ingenious ways to turn traditionally unoccupied surfaces into new performance terrain, giving audiences new ways and places to look at the unexplored world right around us.

Award-winning choreographer Elizabeth Streb, who calls herself an "action architect," has been creating edgy, highly physical dance works since 1975. She was awarded a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Award in 1997. Once called the Evel Knievel of dance, Streb's choreography, which she calls "PopAction," intertwines the disciplines of dance, athletics, boxing, rodeo, the circus, and Hollywood stunt-work. The result is a bristling, muscle-and-motion vocabulary that combines daring with strict precision in pursuit of the public display of "pure movement."

STREB has been seen on the *David Letterman Show*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *CNN Showbiz Today*, *Nickolodeon*, *NBC's Weekend Today*, *MTV*, *ABC Nightly News with Peter Jennings* and on *Larry King Live*.

Dear Teachers:

We hope you will find this CueSheet helpful in preparing your students for what they will experience at the STREB: BRAVE matinee at Mondavi Center. The CueSheet provides background information on this unique company and their performance.



**LEARN MORE**

- <http://www.streb.org/V2/company/brave.html>
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/strebvideo>
- <http://www.myspace.com/strebextremeaction>
- <http://www.streb.org/V2/company/rehearsals.html>



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# THINK ABOUT IT!

## DEAR STUDENTS

- 1 How would you describe a STREB: BRAVE performance to a friend?
- 2 What did you like best about performance and why? Was the program different from what you expected? How?
- 3 Describe the sets and other objects that the performers used. How did they affect the performance?



## ATTENDING THE THEATER

### WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENT AUDIENCES AT THE MATINEE:

- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your assigned seat immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating);
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times;
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artist's work by applauding at the appropriate times;
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements;
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance; food is not allowed in the performance hall;
- Relate any information acquired from the pre-matinee discussion to the new information gained from the matinee;
- Please do not use flash photography.

### WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN A PERFORMING ARTS THEATER:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience—whispering, rustling of papers, speaking and moving about—can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. The audience shows respect for the performers by

watching attentively. Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. While the audience at a dance performance will sit quietly, other types of performance invite audience participation.

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### ROBERT AND MARGRIT MONDAVI CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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### MONDAVI CENTER ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2009-10 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.



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Mondavi Center