

Mondavi Center Arts Education

19-20 CUE Sheet for Teachers

Circa *Humans*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020

11AM | Jackson Hall Stage

Recommended for grades 5–12

Visual & Performing Arts Standards

The newly revised California Arts Standards provide guidance toward a common goal: for all California students to fully participate in a rich and well-rounded arts education.

The standards are based on the **artistic processes of creating; performing/producing/presenting; responding; and connecting**. Our school matinees correspond to **responding** and **connecting**.

5-Adv.DA:Re7.a; 5-Adv.DA:Re7.b; 5-Adv.DA:Re8;
5-Adv.DA:Cn10.a; 5-Adv.DA:Cn10.b;
5-Adv.TH:Re7; 5-Adv.TH:Re9c

Common Core

The Common Core broadens the definition of a “text,” viewing performance as a form of text, so students are experiencing and interacting with a text when they attend a performance. Seeing live performance provides rich opportunities to write reflections, narratives, arguments, etc.

RL.5-12.2; RL.5-12.3; RH.6-12.2; RH.6-12.5;
SL.5-12.3

Learn More:

Circa website (circa.org.au/show/humans)

Circa Humans video (vimeo.com/203785131)

Circa Humans playlist

(open.spotify.com/playlist/0tH9RZngVsQ6XUxK2XWZu2)

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About Circa

From Brisbane, Australia, comes a thrilling and heart-stopping performance. In Circa's *Humans* we are taken on a stirring journey of what it means to be human, and how our bodies, our connections, and our aspirations all form part of who we are. Created by Circa's artistic director Yaron Lifschitz, 10 acrobats explore the physical limits of their bodies as they are pushed to the extreme to question how much we can take as humans. How much weight can we carry? Who can we trust to support our load? They lead us to reflect on our lives, our loved ones, the burdens we carry and the physical and emotional strength it takes to overcome them.

In *Humans*, the stage is stripped bare as the vulnerability of a team of highly skilled acrobats is exposed. With incredible strength and integrity they connect each moment seamlessly with the next. Glimpse their humanity as they find redemptive power in strength and celebrate what it means to be fiercely human.

Since 2004, Circa has been at the frontier of new circus—creating powerful works of circus art that challenge, thrill and delight by pushing the boundary of the circus art form and blurring the lines between movement, dance, theatre and circus. Featuring an ensemble of multi-skilled circus artists, Circa's award-winning works have been seen in 33 countries across six continents. Circa also runs a training center in Brisbane, Australia, and conducts workshops for children, young people, and adults.



Think About It

Dear Students,

- 1 **Before the performance:** How do you think circus, acrobatics and dance will be combined?
- 2 **During the performance:** What aspects stand out to you (e.g., lighting, costumes, music)? Why?
- 3 **After the performance:** Were you right about how circus, acrobatics and dance were combined? What was different than what you expected?



MC Fun Facts:

- The outside walls of the Mondavi Center are made from sandstone from India that is 1.8 billion years old.
- What look like fossils in the sandstone tiles are really iron and manganese crystal dendrites.
- The building sits on 200 pillars to keep the sounds and vibrations of the freeway and trains from being heard or felt inside the theatre.
- The ceiling curtains in Jackson Hall weigh 2,200 pounds each.

What is expected of student audiences at the matinee:

- To facilitate starting the performance on time, get a drink of water and use the restroom before entering the seating area.
- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your seats immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating).
- Show courtesy to the artists and other guests at all times.
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artists' work by applauding.
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements.
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theatre.
- Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience.
- Please do not photograph or record the artists.

Please no talking during the show.

A theatre 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! Theatres 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, speaking and moving about, can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these disrupt everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

Watch attentively.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. By watching attentively the audience shows respect for the performers. Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. For instance, while the audience at a dance performance may sit quietly, other types of performances may invite audience participation.

Show appreciation by applauding.

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.

Mondavi Center Arts Education

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2019–20 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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Support provided by



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