

Mondavi Center Arts Education

19-20 CUE Sheet for Teachers

MOMIX *Viva MOMIX!*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2019

11AM | Jackson Hall

Recommended for grades 4–12

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**.

4-Adv.DA:Re7.a; 4-Adv.DA:Re7.b; 4-Adv.DA:Re8;
4-Adv.DA:Cn10.a; 4-Adv.DA:Cn10.b

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.4-12.2; RL.4-12.3; RL.4-12.5; RL.4-12.6;
SL.4-12.2

Learn More:

MOMIX website
(www.momix.com)

Viva MOMIX preview
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3_nTP-N4)

Interview: Moses Pendleton on creativity
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDyJdaX2Ru4)

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About MOMIX

Based in Washington, Connecticut, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of choreographer Moses Pendleton. The company is an offshoot of the dance company Pilobolus, which Pendleton co-founded. Invited in 1980 to choreograph the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York, Pendleton performed a solo called MOMIX, short for “Moses Mix”, and chose the same name for the company.

Performing for nearly 40 years, MOMIX has become internationally known for presenting works of astounding inventiveness and physical beauty. Each production focuses not only on the beauty of the human form, but also the beauty of nature, music, scenography, and life itself.

Viva MOMIX

MOMIX returns to the Mondavi Center stage with *Viva MOMIX*, featuring small vignettes from some of their beloved and unforgettable shows including *Botanica*, *Alchemia*, *Remix*, *Opus Cactus* and *Lunar Sea*. Exploring wonder through a lens that only MOMIX can provide, they take you into a surreal fantasy world, allowing you to dip your toes into the “stream of unconsciousness,” as Pendleton describes, with fascinating and engaging multi-layered performances.

Botanica revolves around the imagery and magic of the four seasons enhanced by spectacular costumes, projections and giant puppetry.

Alchemia explores the ancient art of transformation focusing on the four classical elements and the spirits and imagery of each.

Remix is an anthology of early MOMIX pieces.

Opus Cactus brings the landscape of the American Southwest to life with a multimedia world of cacti, slithering lizards and fire dancers.

Lunar Sea explores the unique effects of black-light, bringing dancers into magical shapes and forms through the sheer use of costume and lighting effects.



Think About It

Dear Students,

- 1 **Before the performance:** Research terms such as “choreography” and “props” so you are prepared to watch.
- 2 **During the performance:** What aspects stand out to you (e.g., movement, lighting, costumes, etc.)? Why?
- 3 **After the performance:** What kind of spatial shapes did the dancers make? What props did they use?



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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