Diavolo
*L.O.S.T.: Passengers*
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017
11AM | Jackson Hall
Recommended for grades 4–12

Welcome
We believe that live performance actively supports the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As the arts also require complex thinking skills, learning by doing and an innovative interpretation of theme, mood and drama, these common elements are strategically aligned to the progressive learning required of today’s students.

The Mondavi Center Arts Education department’s School Matinees embody the Mondavi Center’s mission to “present a rich program of diverse artists and thinkers in public performance and as the basis for education and engagement programs on our campus and in our region”.

**About Diavolo**

DIAVOLO (Di-a’-vo-lo) “Dia”: Greek for “through, across, from point to point”; “Volo”: Latin for “I will fly.”

Diavolo is an innovative dance company acclaimed by the *Los Angeles Times* for its “sharply defined creative goals, unstinting energy and the ability to dance on any surface, whether horizontal, vertical, tilted or tubular.” Founded in 1992 by choreographer and visionary Jacques Heim, Diavolo uses dance to explore the relationship between the human body and its architectural environment. The company celebrates 25 years of visceral and awe-inspiring works that reveal how we are affected emotionally, physically and socially by the spaces we inhabit, with a brand new work titled *L.O.S.T.* (*Losing One’s Self Temporarily*) *Passengers*. On and around a giant morphing staircase with multiple doors, passageways and shifting surfaces, the dancers reckon with transitions and tenuous balance. Meticulously designed architectural structures serve as inspiration, activated by the stylistically varied and intensely physical choreography.

In developing his dances, Artistic Director Jacques Heim uses a structured improvisation process, engaging the dancers in a journey of “working out” with a new prop for at least six weeks—exploring the set’s possibilities, and cultivating the story behind the work. Sometimes the process takes more time, or goes off in an entirely new direction. Once the movement is set, the music is laid onto the piece. His work is never static, and pieces will change from performance to performance, sometimes quite radically over the course of a year.

Heim believes what the dancers do on stage is like a live abstract painting. There is no narrative, but strong themes pervade the work such as human struggle, fear, danger, survival, chaos, order, deconstruction, reconstruction, destiny, destination, faith, and love. He feels what is exciting about the dancers of Diavolo is that they are not only performing but creating a fusion of modern dance, everyday movement, ballet, gymnastics, martial arts and hip hop. Every dancer brings their own artistry and their own movement style.

**LEARN MORE:**
http://www.diavolo.org/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oc2hrLbvXMG
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. How would you describe the Diavolo performance to a friend?
2. If you were to choreograph a dance what would it be about? Would you use any props?
3. Pretend you are a reporter for your school newspaper and write a review of the performance. Describe the performers, costumes and stage props with as much detail as you can remember.

Attending the Theater

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 artist and other guests at all times.
• Demonstrate appreciation for the artist’s work by applauding.
• Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements.
• Please eat lunch before or after the performance. Food is not allowed in the theater.
• Use information learned from the pre-matinee discussion to enhance the performance experience.
• Please do not photograph or record the artists.

What your students can expect of their experience at the Mondavi Center:

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, 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. 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.

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 2016-17 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.

Support provided by

mondaviarts.org | 530.754.5431