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 Lightwire

Lightwire Theater is internationally recognized for their unique brand of ‘electroluminescent’ artistry, poignant storytelling and evocative music scores that create an imaginative audiovisual experience. In Dino-Light a famous scientist with magic powers brings a friendly green dinosaur to life by adding a heart that seems to tame his basic instincts. When the curious dinosaur wanders away from home, he discovers a wonderful world full of creatures that light up the darkness and help him find the true meaning of love. Dino-Light was the recipient of the prestigious Jim Henson Foundation Grant and the first feature-length theatrical production developed and performed by creators Ian Carney and Corbin Popp. This glow-in-the-dark adventure is visually amazing and has been praised for its cutting-edge blend of puppetry, technology and dance by audiences all over the world.

The process of building Lightwire Theater’s electroluminescent characters starts with the creators and the cast. They build everything from the ground up, with each sculpture taking nearly 200 hours of intensive labor. They utilize recyclable materials that create durable and pliable sculptures that can withstand the movement of the dancers and multiple performances. Black fabric is added to the sculpture for dimension and then lined with electroluminescent wire (EL wire). Unlike black lights, EL wire can be powered by batteries and requires no theatrical lighting. Each character can use up to 16 AA or rechargeable batteries per performance. The result is anything your inner-child can dream of including 16-ft. tall birds, dinosaurs, swords and more.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Ian Carney’s successful dancing career took him to New York, and it was on Broadway when he met co-creator, Corbin Popp, while dancing in Twyla Tharp’s Movin’ Out. They came across electroluminescent wire and the possibilities seemed endless. They began to experiment with shapes and designs to develop puppetry-based neon creatures that quickly came to life.

After years of engineering and development, Ian Carney and Corbin Popp founded CORBIAN Visual Arts and Dance in New York. Ian Carney wanted to return to New Orleans shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit his hometown. With the hopes of helping rebuild the city, he was joined by Corbin Popp and eventually founded Lightwire Theater.

LEARN MORE:
http://lightwiretheater.com
https://vimeo.com/125739876
https://vimeo.com/125739878
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. What type of electroluminescent character would you like to build?
2. What type of metal is electroluminescent wire? What is it coated in? How does it become illuminated?
3. What did you like best about the performance and why? Was it what you expected?

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
Friends
of Mondavi Center