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 Shane Koyczan

Shane Koyczan is an extraordinary talent, one that has blown the dust off of the traditional designation “poet.” His performance in the opening ceremony of the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics brought him to the world’s attention, and his viral To This Day Project video focused new emotional urgency on the subject of bullying. Winner of the U.S. Slam Poetry Championship and the Canadian Spoken Word Olympics, Koyczan is best experienced up close and personal, with his rhythmic verse in high gear, piloting his audience through social and political territory with a furious honesty and a tender humanity.

Together with Mighty Mike McGee and C.R. Avery, Shane Koyczan co-founded Tons of Fun University (TOFU) in 2003 known for writing about issues like bullying, cancer, death, and eating disorders. The group’s performances incorporate keyboards, harmonicas, poetry and beatboxing along with influences pulled from hip hop, rock and roll, folk music and spoken word.

In February 2013 Koyczan released an animated video of his spoken work poem To This Day on YouTube and at the TED Conference. The poem focused on the subject of bullying that Koyczan and others had received during their life and its lasting effects. To This Day went viral shortly after its release with the video receiving over 18 million views as of March 2016, prompting many viewers to send Koyczan letters thanking him for publishing the poem.

Koyczan has published four books, poetry collection Visiting Hours, Stickboy, a novel in verse, Our Deathbeds will be Thirsty, and A Bruise on Light most recently in 2015. Visiting Hours was selected by both the Guardian and Globe and Mail for their 2005 Best Books of the Year lists.

LEARN MORE:
http://www.shanekoyczan.com/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltun92DfnPY
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vX4s04wlxQA
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. What would you write about if you were to write a spoken word poem?

2. Have you heard spoken word poems before? How did Shane Koyczan’s poems make you feel?

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.

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 theater.
- There are hot water pipes running underneath the Vanderhoef Studio Theatre that heat the floor, so that performers (especially dancers) can more easily warm up.

mondaviarts.org | 530.754.5431