**IMAGO Theatre**  
*La Belle: Lost in the World of the Automaton*

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2017**  
11AM | Jackson Hall  
**Recommended for grades K–12**

**Common Core**

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.

K-12 RL.3; K-12 RL.5-7; K-12 RL.9; 6-9.RL 3; K-12 SL.2

**About La Belle: Lost in the World of the Automaton**

Based on the story *Beauty and the Beast* written by French novelist Gabrielle-Suzanne Bardot de Villeneuve in 1740, IMAGO Theatre has imagined a new fairytale experience that mixes *Beauty and the Beast* with steampunk aesthetics and automata. Set to the backdrop of a whimsical ship, *La Belle* tells the love story of the crew’s coal stoker and a woman passenger, who, after seeking refuge from a storm, finds herself in an engine room full of mechanized figures brought to life by the stoker himself. A multitude of puppets, shadows and over 100 effects are at the center of the work, with only two human characters.

**About IMAGO Theatre**

Founded in 1979 by Carol Triffle and Jerry Mouawad, IMAGO Theatre’s methodology is based on the teachings of Jacques Lecoq (1921–1999) aiming to place form and design at the forefront of theatre creation. Their original productions have toured internationally for over two decades. Their signature works, *FROGZ* and *ZooZoo*, have appeared at the acclaimed New Victory Theater on Broadway in New York. The universal nature of IMAGO Theatre’s world has won audience and critical acclaim in tours across Asia, Europe, Canada and the United States.

Working out of a large theatre laboratory in Portland, Oregon, IMAGO Theatre’s ensemble of actors, dancers, designers, fabricators and musicians become alchemists seeking fresh perspectives on performance. The company has been honored for mask theatre pieces that have appealed to a wide age range, as well as for innovative works that push the boundaries of form, design and story.

**LEARN MORE:**  
[IMAGO Theatre website](#)  
[La Belle video](#)
Think About It

Dear Students,

1. Describe what you SAW in the performance. How did the puppets, theatrical props and shadows work together to create each scene? How did the costumes contribute to the performance?

2. Describe what you HEARD in the performance. Did you hear sounds that made you think of a ship?

3. What did you like best about the performance and why? Was it what you expected?

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 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 disrupt 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 2017–18 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