

Mondavi Center Arts Education

18-19 CUE Sheet for Teachers

Cirque Mechanics

42FT—A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2018

11AM | Jackson Hall

Recommended for grades K-12

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.

K-12 RL.1; K-12 RL.3, K-12 RL.6; K-12 RL.9;
K-12 SL.2; 6-12 RI.3



LEARN MORE:

[Cirque Mechanics website](http://www.cirquemechanics.com)
(www.cirquemechanics.com)

[42FT website](http://www.cirquemechanics.com/42ft)
(www.cirquemechanics.com/42ft)

[Behind the Scenes video](http://www.cirquemechanics.com/42ft/videos)
(www.cirquemechanics.com/42ft/videos)

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About Cirque Mechanics

Cirque Mechanics was founded in 2004 by Boston native Chris Lashua after the success of his collaborative project with the Circus Center of San Francisco, *Birdhouse Factory*. Cirque Mechanics quickly established itself as a premiere American circus, with its unique approach to performance, inspiring storytelling and innovative mechanical staging. *Spectacle* magazine hailed it as “the greatest contribution to the American circus since Cirque du Soleil.”

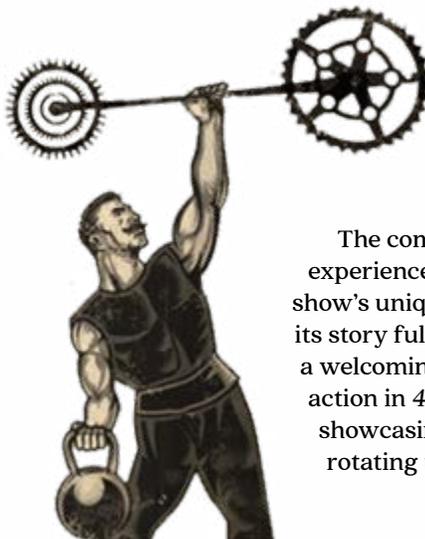
Cirque Mechanics, although inspired by modern circus, finds its roots in the mechanical and its heart in the stories of American ingenuity. The shows, rooted in realism, display a raw quality rarely found in modern circus, making their message timeless and relevant. The stories are wrapped in circus acrobatics, mechanical wonders and a bit of clowning around. The troupe has created four extraordinary productions; *Birdhouse Factory*, *Boomtown*, *Pedal Punk*—and new for the 18-19 season—*42FT—A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels*.

“The American circus reinvented in timber, steel and ingenuity.” —Cirque Mechanics

About 42FT—A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels

Step right up ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, to the Cirque Mechanics’ world of gears and canvas, pulleys and sawdust. At the center of every circus rests a 42ft ring full of thrills, laughs and excitement. *42FT—A Menagerie of Mechanical Marvels* is the latest invention from the creative minds of Cirque Mechanics.

The company dares us to leap into the circus ring and experience the timelessness of this evolving art form. The show’s unique mechanical interpretation of the traditional—and its story full of the lore of the historic one-ring circus—creates a welcoming place, like a big top, where we can be amazed. The action in *42FT* is full of theatricality and a modern sensibility, showcasing a galloping mechanical metal horse and a rotating tent frame for strongmen, acrobats and aerialists.



Think About It

Dear Students,

- 1 What do you think of when you hear the word circus?
- 2 What characters did you see in the performance? Who were your favorite characters and why?
- 3 Were there any additional aspects of the show that stood out to you (e.g. stage, lighting, costumes, music)? Why?
- 4 If you were training to be a circus performer, what type of apparatus or acrobatic feat would you want to train for?



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.



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



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.

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 2018–19 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

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