

MIDWEST



Midwest Theater Youth Education

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT



Sixth Graders from Morrill Elementary School pose with performing artist Mark Nizer after the free educational matinee.

Educational Programming for the 2017-2018 Season

For the upcoming season, the Midwest Theater is currently planning 15 matinee programs and 11 outreach performances/workshops for area students, covering folk and ragtime music, theatre, songwriting, acting, science, and storytelling through dance.

The TENTATIVE lineup of educational opportunities for next season includes:

- A matinee performance and songwriting workshop with alt-folk artists **The Hunts**
- Three outreach performances and a matinee performances of Alt.Latino singer/songwriter **Gina Chavez**
- A matinee performance and a workshop for Illusion Theater's **"My Antonia"**
- A matinee performance with the **Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra**
- A matinee performance with the classical artists **The 5 Browns**
- A matinee performance of Mermaid Theatre's **The Very Hungry Caterpillar & Other Eric Carle Favorites**
- A matinee performance of the dance company **Catapult**
- A matinee performance of **Tapestry Dance Company's "Passing it Forward: The American Dream?"**
- Four matinee performances and six acting workshops with the **Missoula Children's Theatre**
- Three **Science on Screen** matinees

All shows and educational offerings are subject to change. When schedules and target age ranges for the educational programming are finalized, the Midwest Theater will send details to all schools and educators for which we have email addresses. Matinee performances are limited to 700 students and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Seating and accommodations for students with special needs are available (e.g., wheelchair access, amplification devices) but must be requested at the time of registration.

If you wish to ensure you are on the email list for educational opportunities at the Midwest Theater, contact the theater at 308-632-4311 or midwest@nebraskarts.com



2018 Midwest Theater Board of Directors: *President* LaRita VanBoskirk, *Vice President* Phil Kelly, *Secretary* Shirley Burford, *Treasurer* Sharyn Wohlers, *Ex Officio Officer* Tammy Viessman, Laurie Alkire, Jessica Clark, Cristina Karpf, Bill Peters, Marilyn Rahmig, Mary Robinson, Stewart Rusch, Teresa Swank, Jeff Tracy.

Midwest Theater staff: *Executive Director* Billy Estes, *Development Director* Katie Bradshaw, *Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator* Celestina Godinez, *Operations/Production Manager* Jeff Johnson, *Bookkeeper* Harriett Aden

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The historic Midwest Theater in downtown Scottsbluff operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit as Friends of the Midwest Theater. The organization's mission is to preserve and enhance the historic Midwest Theater for present and future generations by offering mainstream and specialty films, performing and visual arts, and school and community programming.

A KEY PART OF THE MIDWEST THEATER'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY PERFORMING ARTS EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

"I wish I could bring my whole family to that show."

-Roosevelt Elementary student who saw the Moon Mouse educational matinee

Each fall-through-spring season at the Midwest Theater includes free educational programming specifically for students. Traditionally, this educational programming has focused on the performing arts, but the 2017-2018 season added the new film-and-lecture Science on Screen® series as well. These matinee performances, in-school outreach performances and workshops are targeted for specific age ranges, anywhere from kindergarten through college, but usually grades 3 through 6. Reservations for these free educational programs in the 729-seat theater are available through schools on a first-come, first-served basis. The Midwest Theater does not charge for these programs. Programming is paid for through grants, sponsorships, Midwest Theater memberships, and donations to the Midwest Theater's Fourth String fund.

2017-18 Educational Programming by the Numbers

Free
Matinees

17

Outreach
Performances
/ Workshops

11

Schools
Attending

19

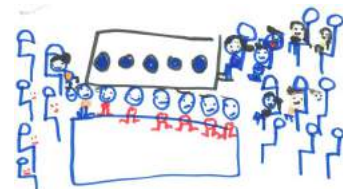
Total
Educational
Contacts

7,894

Student and Teacher Reactions

Students who attend Midwest Theater programming often send thank-you notes with the help of their teachers. We ask students and teachers at some events to complete surveys. Here are some excerpts from notes and surveys from the 2017-2018 season.

It is great for the students to experience the different cultures of dance, music, and other performing arts. A lot of our students would not get this exposure with their families, so it's nice for them to get to experience it through school.
-Teacher, Ballet West performance



I have a student who is bullied and really identified with the play. He came up to me and said "I'm the mouse."
-Teacher, Moon Mouse performance



I really enjoyed this because I play in orchestra and I want to play the cello in 6th grade.
-Student, Portland Cello Project performance



Science on Screen is important to inspire little schools, like us, to think bigger.
-Student, Science on Screen, Future Weather



Funding Educational Programming

The nonprofit Midwest Theater relies on grant funding, season and event sponsorships, and donations to help pay for the educational programming that we provide free of charge to our community's students. The Nebraska Arts Council and Nebraska Cultural Endowment also helps to provide basic operational support that enables the Midwest Theater to meet its mission to serve the community.

Performing Arts Season Sponsors



JGE J. G. Elliott Company
A Platte Valley Company
Dr. Thom & LaRita VanBoskirk
The Lockwood Foundation



Science on Screen Season Sponsors



Event Sponsors

Panhandle Shrine Club, Bluffs Dental, Regional West Medical Center, Shar VanBoskirk, Gateway Realty, Dinklage Feed Yards, Connecting Point, Culver's, Douglas Kelly Law Office, Vistabeam, Robert G. Pahlke Law Group, Ralph and Joi Phelps, Viero Wireless, Panhandle Coop, Wills Chiropractic, Nossaman Pettitt Law Firm

Fourth String Donations

The Fourth String Fund is named after a cello—with only three of its four string, it can make a sound, but it can't make music. The Midwest Theater can pay for about 3/4 of the season operating expenses, including the educational programming, and we look to sponsors and donors to cover the remaining 1/4 of the funds needed. Donations to the Fourth String Fund are **instrumental** in bringing world-class performing artists to the Midwest Theater stage and into classrooms throughout our community. **Every note helps!** If you are interested in making a Fourth String donation, or in sponsoring a program, please contact Development Director Katie Bradshaw at Katie@nebraskarts.com or Executive Director Billy Estes at billy@nebraskarts.com, or call the office at 308-632-4311.

Ticket Return Donations

Did you know—while Midwest Theater performing arts tickets are not refundable, if you have performing arts tickets you cannot use and you return them to the box office for resale, we will give you a donation credit equal to the value of the tickets, and the funds will help to support the theater's educational programming and outreach work.

New educational program

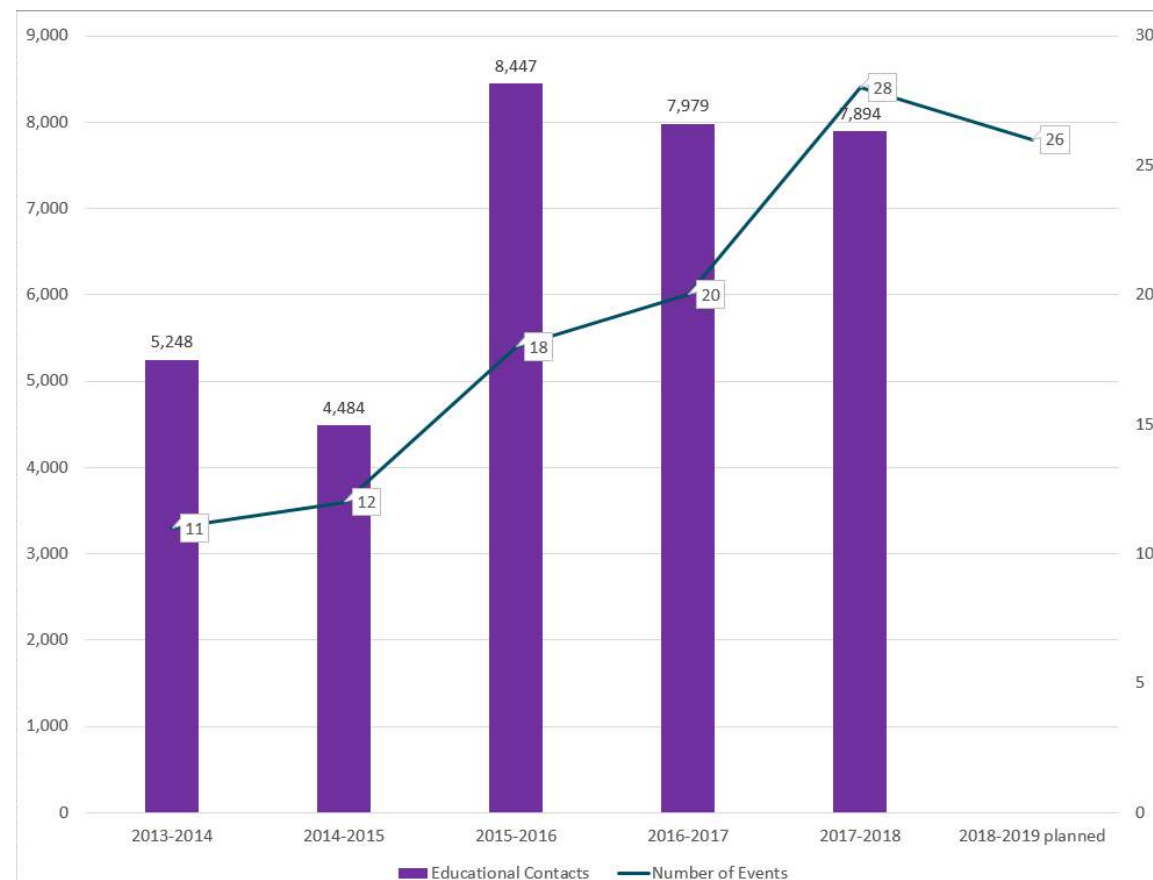
Participation by School District 2017-2018

- 3,533** Scottsbluff Public Schools: Bluffs Middle School, CHOICES, Lake Minatare Elementary, Lincoln Heights Elementary, Longfellow Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Westmoor elementary
- 2,150** Gering Public Schools: Geil Elementary, Gering Junior High School, Lincoln Elementary, Northfield Elementary
- 1,196** Private Schools: Community Christian, St. Agnes, Homeschool, Valley Christian
- 431** Morrill Public Schools: Morrill Elementary
- 210** Minatare Public Schools: Minatare Elementary
- 149** ESU13: Life Link, VALTS
- 108** Bayard Public Schools: Bayard Elementary
- 117** Mixed schools in workshops

Science on Screen

Science on Screen® is an initiative of The Coolidge Corner Theatre with major support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Midwest Theater participated in this program for the first time in 2017-2018. The purpose of the program is to pair film with engaging speakers as a fun way to improve science literacy, and the Midwest Theater piloted shortened matinee sessions with panelists who spoke about science and careers, targeted to students in middle school through college.

Number of Midwest Theater Educational Events and Student Contacts



Filmmaker Jessica Oreck and rangeland expert Jim O'Rourke talk with students after the "Cowboy" program

The Cowboy Life: From the Arctic Circle to the High Plains
 On Nov. 9, **141** students attended a discussion of reindeer herding, ecosystems, rangeland management, filmmaking, careers with:
 Walter Schacht, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Professor of Agronomy
 Jessica Oreck, filmmaker
 Jim O'Rourke, Chadron State College Professor Emeritus
 Phillip Licking, reindeer rancher



Live reindeer on stage at the "Cowboy" program



Flying Farmhands: The Future of Drone Technology in Agriculture
 On Jan. 25, **204** students attended a discussion of types, uses, and safety of unmanned aerial vehicles and technology careers with:
 Wayne Woldt, Director of the Nebraska Unmanned Aircraft Innovation, Research and Education (NU-AIRE) laboratory and Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
 Don Masten, pilot and agribusiness owner
 Tracy O'Neal, volunteer drone pilot



NU-AIRE Director Wayne Woldt and business owner Don Masten talk with students after the "Farmhands" program



Before the "Future Weather" program, Gering Junior High students presented science fair projects

Future Weather
 On Mar. 22, **179** students attended a discussion of Nebraska climate, precipitation and agriculture, careers relating to weather data with:
 Martha Shulski, Nebraska State Climatologist and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Associate Professor of Climate Science
 Dave Wolf, Information & Education Coordinator, North Platte NRD
 John Schmall, insurance agent, Federal Crop Agency
 Taylor Stephens, University of Nebraska-Lincoln technician and student



Students joyfully danced as the Harlem Gospel Choir sang "Happy"



Ballet West dancers led the students in warmup exercises



Ethan Bortnick wowed students with his musical ability



Students were impressed with Riders in the Sky's "mouth music"



Artwork captured students' impressions of the Moon Mouse show



Comedian-juggler Mark Nizer took time to pose with students



Liza Jo & the Tintown Troubadours gave a student lesson onstage



Local students were cast in MCT's production of Snow White



A Wiz of the West actor learned that makeup application can tickle!



The Welsh Song Fest musicians performed at Longfellow Elementary



Scottsbluff students played onstage with the Portland Cello Project

<p>Liza Jo & the Tintown Troubadours played a matinee show of western swing, Appalachian fiddle, and early blues and field tunes for 221 students on Sept.21.</p>	<p>On Sept. 29, the Missoula Children's Theatre's "The Wiz of the West" featured 49 students in the production, who performed in front of 885 of their peers during two matinee performances. On Sept. 26-27, 75 students participated in acting workshops.</p>
<p>Guinness-World-Record-holding pianist Ethan Bortnick performed for and bantered with 625 students at the Midwest Theater on Oct. 12.</p>	<p>The musicians with the Welsh Song Festival traveled to Longfellow Elementary to perform for 391 students on Oct. 16 and performed at the Midwest Theater for another 300 students on Oct. 17.</p>
<p>On Nov. 2. the Ballet West II ensemble demonstrated dance techniques to 230 students, and even invited some of them to try dance moves on stage. An additional 14 dance students benefitted from a hands-on workshop.</p>	<p>Riders in the Sky performed for 536 students on Dec. 5, and greatly impressed the students with their connection to animated film and their ability to use their bodies as musical instruments.</p>
<p>33 Scottsbluff cello students had the opportunity to take a master class and play onstage with the Portland Cello Project musicians on Jan. 29. The professional cellists played a matinee show for 659 students.</p>	<p>54 local students played a role in Missoula Children's Theatre's "Snow White." They performed in front of 1,063 of their peers during two matinee performances on Feb. 23. On Feb. 20-21, 375 students participated in acting workshops.</p>
<p>Comedian-juggler Mark Nizer slipped a few science lessons into the two matinee shows he performed for 795 students on Mar. 2.</p>	<p>The Harlem Gospel Choir's feel-good music on Apr. 12 had 320 students bouncing in their seats and dancing in the aisles during a matinee performance.</p>
<p>The cast of Lightwire Theater performed Moon Mouse, with a story of overcoming bullying and pursuing your dreams, to a packed house of 701 students on Apr. 23.</p>	

2017-2018 Performing Arts Educational Programming