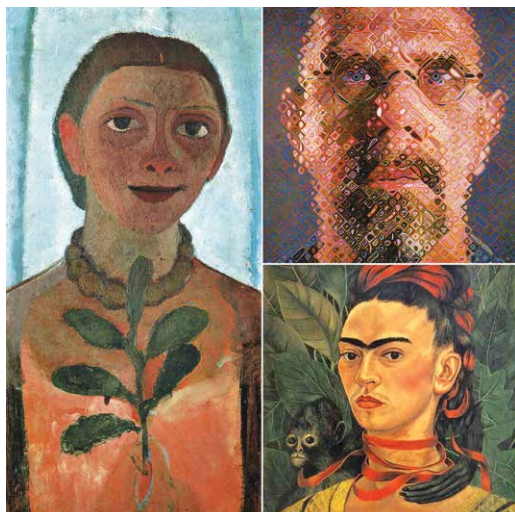


2017 | 2018



# FOCUS WORKS



**TOURING TO SCHOOLS** by appointment

## Proprium: An Exhibit of Portraits

September 2017 – April 2018

An equal number of male and female artists define McCallum Theatre Education's popular exhibit of high-quality reproductions. This interesting collection of self-portraits by Leonardo Da Vinci, Gustave Courbet, Mary Cassatt, Vincent van Gogh, Paula Modersohn Becker, Gwen John, Juan Gris, Frida Kahlo, Francis Bacon, Anna Belle Lee Washington, Chuck Close and Becki Sanders successfully toured to schools during the 2014-15 program year and will continue to do so in 2017-18. Products of different cultures and time periods ranging from 1452 to the present, these artists all became their own models – leaving the world with “selfies” that can be studied, discussed and experienced from a number of intriguing vantage points.

“A highlight from the Proprium unit of study is that students are exposed to different artists and artistic styles.”

**NICOLA LEVINE**

AMELIA EARHART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



## The Okee Dokee Brothers with special guest Carlos Medina

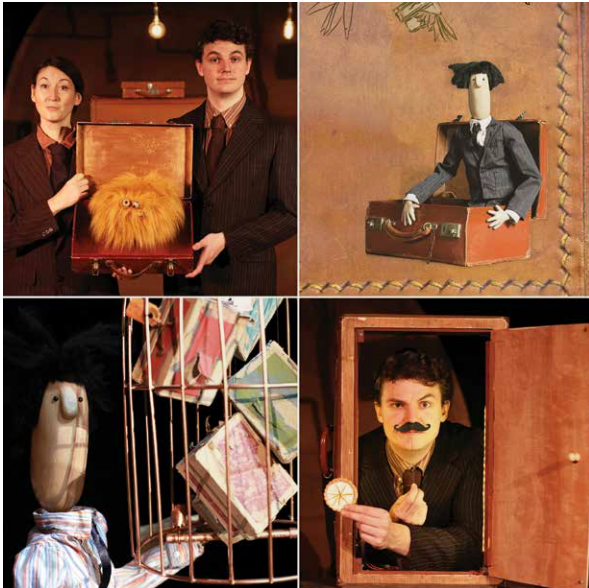
Monday, Oct 2 at 9:30 am & 11 am  
Tuesday, Oct 3 at 9:30 am & 11 am



“A roots music and bluegrass affair with striking harmonies and spot-on picking...”

**ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE**

As childhood friends growing up in Denver Colorado, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing were always exploring the outdoors. Whether it was rafting down their neighborhood creek or discovering hiking trails through the Rocky Mountains, Joe and Justin were born adventurers. Now, as the GRAMMY® Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, they have put this passion for the outdoors at the heart of their Americana Folk music. The three-time Parents' Choice Award winners have garnered praise from the likes of NPR's *All Things Considered* and *USA Today*, and have been called “two of family music's best songwriters.” Their nationwide fan base is drawn to their witty lyrics, strong musicianship and unique folk style. Rounding out the band at the McCallum are Jed Anderson, percussion, Liz Draper, stand-up bass, Becky Gaunt, fiddle and special guest Carlos Medina on the accordion.



# The Secret Life of Suitcases

By Ailie Cohen Puppet Maker

Tuesday, Oct 31 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am  
 Wednesday, Nov 1 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am  
 Thursday, Nov 2 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am  
 Friday, Nov 3 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am

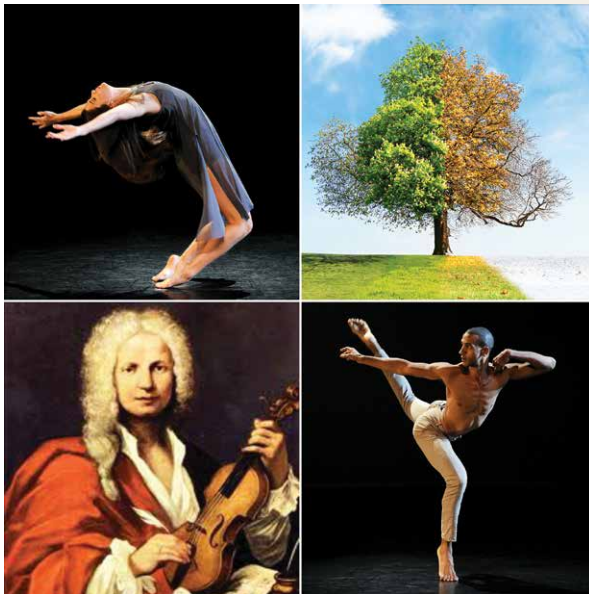
Larry works in an office and he likes it very much. He likes sorting and tidying and generally putting things in order. "Everything in its place, a place for everything." But one day, a suitcase suddenly appears at his door. A suitcase with a tiny label. A tiny label with Larry's name on it. And this suitcase has a mission. Larry's world gets turned upside down as this fantastical flying suitcase takes him further than he ever thought possible, to discover the thrill of adventure and the joy of coming home again. A playful, huge hearted piece for small people with giant imaginations, *The Secret Life of Suitcases* celebrates a handmade aesthetic in a digital world. Both funny and profound, this charming play resonates with all ages and is the first ever co-production between Ailie Cohen Puppet Maker, one of Scotland's leading puppetry companies, and Unicorn Theatre, the UK's leading theatre for young audiences.

"A fantastical life-changing journey...the sheer craft and invention is a constant stream of delightfully quirky surprises."

THE HERALD

"A charming, ingenious piece of puppet theatre infused with a spirit of adventure."

THE LIST



# TOURING TO SCHOOLS by appointment Backhausdance Meets Vivaldi — A Journey Through The Four Seasons

December 2017 or March 2018

Antonio Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons*, written around 1723, was intended to be an artistic tour de force marrying the arts of painting, poetry and music. Add dance to the mix when Backhausdance invites Vivaldi to step into the 21st century with the sound space for a dynamic movement journey steeped in choreographer Jennifer Backhaus's detailed and meticulously sculpted style and imbued with her refined yet playful sense of humor. Fluidity, strength, whimsy and wonder take center stage as Backhausdance moves through spring, summer, autumn and winter in a full-length work that promises to juxtapose harmony and invention – what Vivaldi would have called "Il cimento dell'armonia e dell'inventione." Commissioned by McCallum Theatre Education.

"A fluid, unforced fusion of classical and contemporary dance."

THE BROOKLYN RAIL

"[Backhausdance] captivated the audience with grace and gumption."

VICTORIA LOOSELEAF, LA TIMES





"Astonishing...a theatrical trip well worth taking."  
*THE COURIER MAIL, AUSTRALIA*

# Snowflake

Performed by Gale LaJoye

Wednesday, Feb 7 at 11 am

Thursday, Feb 8 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am

This charming silent comedy follows the quirky antics of Snowflake, a childlike street character who lives on a vacant lot strewn with rubbish. Bittersweet and touching – with a fine line between the sublime and the ridiculous – *Snowflake* speaks to human nature in an eloquent and deeply moving way. A comic descendant of Red Skelton, Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin, Gale LaJoye has mastered all the technical tricks of the trade and masterfully combines the physical excess of slapstick with the sensitivity of mime. In *Snowflake*, he stages a tale of a kindhearted soul who, with little more than imagination and hope, breathes life into what others regard as useless, transforming the simplest of objects into comedic treasures.



"...as long as David Gonzalez is around,  
the venerable and very fine art of storytelling  
is in safe hands."  
*NEW YORK TIMES*

"David Gonzalez speaks with courageous  
humanity and brilliant creativity - his poetry and  
stories uplift the spirit and inspire wonder."  
*DEEPAK CHOPRA*

# The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures

Performed by David Gonzalez with Daniel Kelly, Piano

Monday, Mar 5 at 9:30 am & 11 am

Critically acclaimed and award-winning artist David Gonzalez and pianist Daniel Kelly return to the McCallum with a new storytelling performance featuring two stories that promise to enchant audiences of all ages. In the first one, adapted from Seymour Leichman's *The Boy Who Could Sing Pictures*, Luka, son of Bustelo the jester, finds that when he sings for people spectacular pictures appear in the sky. His songs are a blessing to all except a few who believe the boy to be possessed by evil spirits. Will Luka's finale be his last song? Will beauty and truth triumph over lies and corruption? In the second story, based on a Persian tale, a clever young girl challenges the all mighty wizard. This performance features the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos and Astor Piazzolla, along with original compositions and arrangements by Daniel Kelly.



# The Children of Willesden Lane

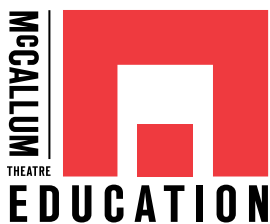
Performed by Mona Golabek

Monday, May 7 at 9:30 am & 11 am  
Tuesday, May 8 at 9:30 am & 11 am  
Wednesday, May 9 at 9:30 am & 11 am

Set in Vienna in 1938 and in London during the Blitzkrieg, *The Children of Willesden Lane* tells the true story of Lisa Jura, a young Jewish musician who is dreaming about her concert debut at the storied Musikverein concert hall. When new ordinances are issued under the Nazi regime, everything changes for Lisa, except her love of music and the pursuit of her dream. In this heart-stirring show, virtuoso Mona Golabek performs some of the world's most revered piano compositions as she shares her mother's riveting story of survival. Infused with hope and brimming with the life-affirming power of music, *The Children of Willesden Lane* is based on the book *The Children of Willesden Lane: Beyond the Kindertransport: A Memoir of Music, Love, and Survival* by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen.

"A stirring case of art preserving life...  
Golabek sitting down at the Steinway piano  
is enough to make your mouth fall open with  
a certain wonder at the way of the world."

CHICAGO TRIBUNE



ARTS | INQUIRY | IMAGINATION

