

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2017



CONTACT: DeAnn Lubell-Ames – (760) 831-3090

Note: Photos available at <http://mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/media>

MCCALLUM THEATRE EDUCATION, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MCCALLUM THEATRE INSTITUTE, ANNOUNCES 2017 SUMMER INSTITUTE PERFORMANCES

Palm Desert, CA — Cool off at the McCallum Theatre with performances that feed the soul and awaken the imagination! McCallum Theatre Education’s Summer Institute (formerly known as Summer Session) presents three exciting performances to inspire, educate and entertain audiences ages 7 and up June 14-16 at McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts. Single tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students (age 18 and under). A three-performance pass is \$35 for adults and \$20 for students. Tickets are available at the box office by calling 760-340-ARTS or online at www.mccallumtheatre.com.

The Summer Institute, part of The Aesthetic Education Program, celebrates 20 years and in conjunction with this celebration, the McCallum education department slightly changes its name from McCallum Theatre Institute to McCallum Theatre Education and introduces a new logo. The word Institute lives on in conjunction with summer professional development for partnering educators.

The 20th Summer Institute kicks off on Wednesday June 14th at 3:00 pm with **The Children of Willesden Lane performed by Mona Golabek**. 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, this performance 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

On Thursday, June 15th at 3:00 pm, don’t miss **PIXing – A storytelling Adventure performed by David Gonzalez with Daniel Kelly on piano**. Critically acclaimed and award-winning artist David Gonzalez and pianist Daniel Kelly return to the McCallum with a new storytelling concert 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. PIXing features the music of Villa-Lobos and Piazzolla, along with original compositions and arrangements by Daniel Kelly.

"...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 Festival concludes on Friday, June 16th at 3:00pm with **Snowflake performed by Gale LaJoye.**

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 descendent of Red Skelton, Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin, Gayle 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.

"Astonishing... a theatrical trip well worth taking."

- The Courier Mail, Australia

These performances are presented in conjunction with McCallum Theatre Education's professional development courses for teachers and mark the beginning of the 2017-18 Aesthetic Education Program which places the arts at the center of inquiry-driven learning experiences that include classroom workshops and attendance at McCallum performances and exhibits. Teachers and students who partner with McCallum are encouraged to be curious, ask questions and rigorously explore works of art to awaken imaginative learning as part of the core curriculum. Approximately three-hundred classrooms will partner with McCallum Theatre Institute under the umbrella of this program in 2017-18. These school and classroom partnerships are made possible

thanks to generous support from individuals, municipalities and foundations that support McCallum's mission to educate in and through the arts.

For more information go to

<http://www.mccallumtheatre.com/index.php/education/aesthetic-education>.

Since its launch in 1997, McCallum Theatre Education (known as McCallum Theatre Institute for the past 20 years) — the education department of McCallum Theatre — has served over 540,000 students with performances and arts education experiences. In close partnership with local education agencies, McCallum makes the arts available and accessible to youth in the area through its dynamic education programs. In addition, the Choreography Festival and Open Call Talent Project serve as powerful vehicles for developing artists and present exciting and affordable performances open to the general public. McCallum Theatre Education seeks to enhance the role of the arts in our lives and in our community by inspiring greater awareness of their educational, cognitive, emotional and spiritual power.

The McCallum Theatre Box Office, its phone center and website, are the only authorized outlets for tickets to performances presented at the Theatre. Tickets purchased from any other sources, such as brokers or secondary market websites, are purchased at consumer's own risk and cannot be guaranteed as valid.

###