

WallisAnnenberg
Center for the
Performing Arts

Paul Crewes
Artistic Director

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PRESENTS

the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour production of

Elephant & Piggie's
"We Are In A Play!"

BASED ON THE *ELEPHANT & PIGGIE* BOOKS BY MO WILLEMS
PUBLISHED BY HYPERION BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

SCRIPT AND LYRICS BY

Mo Willems

MUSIC BY

Deborah Wicks La Puma

MUSIC DIRECTION BY

George Fulginiti-Shakar

CHOREOGRAPHED BY

Jessica Hartman

DIRECTED BY

Jerry Whiddon

with

Alexa Doggett, Jamie Eacker, Julia Klavans, Jennie Lutz, and Joe Mallon

DRAMATURG

Megan Alrutz

SCENIC DESIGNER

James Kronzer

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Kyle Grant

COSTUME DESIGNER

Frank Labovitz

SOUND DESIGNER

Elisheba Ittoop

ASSOCIATE SOUND DESIGNER

Justin Propper

PROP ARTISAN ASSISTANT

Pamela Weiner

CHOREOGRAPHER

Elizabeth Crandall

PRODUCING DIRECTOR

Kim Peter Kovac

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Mario R. Rossero

APRIL 22-23, 2017

Bram Goldsmith Theater

Running Time: 1 hour without an intermission.

Bank of America is the Presenting Sponsor of Performances for Young Audiences and the National Sponsor of Theater for Young Audiences on Tour.

Additional support for *Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play!* is provided by The Clark Charitable Foundation; The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation; Paul M. Angell Family Foundation; and the U.S. Department of Education.

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Major support for educational programs at the Kennedy Center is provided by David and Alice Rubenstein through the Rubenstein Arts Access Program.

Kennedy Center education and related artistic programming is made possible through the generosity of the National Committee for the Performing Arts and the President's Advisory Committee on the Arts.

**Patrons are requested to turn off cell phones and other electronic devices during performances.
The taking of photographs and the use of recording equipment are not allowed.**

CAST OF CHARACTERS

JOE MALLON.....ELEPHANT GERALD
 ALEXA DOGGETT.....PIGGIE
 JAMIE EACKER*.....SQUIRELLE, DELIVERY DOG
 JULIA KLAVANS.....SQUIRELLE
 JENNIE LUTZ.....SQUIRELLE, ICE CREAM PENGUIN
 CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL RICHARDSON.....UNDERSTUDIES

* DANCE CAPTAIN



The actors and stage managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers in the United States.



The Choreographer is a member of the **STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY**, a national theatrical labor union.

This play was commissioned by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and was first produced at the Kennedy Center during the 2013-14 season.

Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play! is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
 All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.
 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
 Phone: 212-541-4684 Fax: 212-397-4684 www.MTIShows.com

Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour is represented by Simon Shaw at Shaw Entertainment Group.

TOUR TECHNICAL STAFF

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER
 Julia Singer

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/LIGHTING SUPERVISOR
 Gillian Wolpert

SOUND SUPERVISOR/ATD
 Jessica McIlquham

PROPS AND WARDROBE SUPERVISOR
 Tracey Fess

THE WALLIS STRIVES TO MAKE THE ARTS ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERYONE.

The 2:30pm performance on April 23 will be sensory-friendly. The show will be modified slightly to be more welcoming for children with Autism and others who may have sensitivity to light and sound. The volume will be lowered, lighting effects reduced, and the feeling will be more relaxed, so patrons can feel free to move, talk, and come in and out of the auditorium as much as they like.



ALEXA DOGGETT (Piggie) couldn't be more thrilled to be "in a play" with The Kennedy Center and this amazing team! Recent Theatre for Young Audience credits: Alexander in *Alexander and the... Very Bad Day* and *Alexander Who's Not... Going to Move* with Theatreworks/Two Beans Productions, and Alison/Dr. Wink in *Pinkalicious* with Vital Theatre Company in NYC. She is a proud graduate of Coastal Carolina University. "Thank you to Louis for always believing in me!"



JAMIE EACKER (Squirrelle, Delivery Dog) is so excited to be reprising her role as Squirrelle on tour again! NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL TOUR: The Kennedy Center: *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*; Phoenix Entertainment: *Grease* (China). DC/MD/VA AREA: Shakespeare Gala as Elizabeth McGovern; Artscentric: *Delilah* (Delilah); Teatro101: *The Wild Party* (Queenie); Ford's Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; Studio Theatre: *Carrie: The Musical*, *Grey Gardens*; Signature Theatre: *Titanic*, *Girlstar*, *The Fix*, *Cabaret*, *Elmer Gantry*, *The Threepenny Opera*, *Beaches*, *Spin*, *Company*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Xanadu*, *Hairspray*, *Chess* (Assistant Choreographer); Totem Pole: *Leader of The Pack*; Washington Savoyards: *The Music Man*; Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Hairspray*, *Aida*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *George M!*, EDUCATION: AMDA of NYC. www.jamieeacker.com



JULIA KLAVANS (Squirrelle) is thrilled to make her Kennedy Center TYA debut! DC Theatre: *Guys and Dolls*, Olney Theatre Center; *Jumanji*, Adventure Theatre MTC; *Absolutely! Perhaps*, Constellation Theatre; *The Oregon Trail*, Flying V Theatre; (*a love story*), Source Festival. Regional Theatre: *Living on Love*, Williamstown Theatre Festival; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, National Academy of Chinese Theatre Arts. Julia is a proud graduate of Baltimore School for the Arts and University of Maryland, College Park. Juliaklavans.weebly.com.



JENNIE LUTZ (Squirrelle, Ice Cream Penguin) is thrilled to be performing in her first national tour with the Kennedy Center's *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* Most recently, Lutz was seen as *The Enchantress* in the original musical, *The Little Mermaid*, co-produced by Imagination Stage and The Washington Ballet. Favorite acting credits include: *Oliver!* (Adventure Theatre MTC~ Helen Hayes Nomination for

Outstanding Ensemble); *Honky Tonk Angels* (Alhambra Theatre); *Sister Act!* (Riverside Theatre Center); *Grease* (Olney Theatre Center); *Legally Blonde*, *RENT*, *Shrek*, *Cinderella & A Christmas Carol* (Toby's Dinner Theatre); *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* (Studio Theatre 2nd Stage); *Nunsense* (District Arts Collaborative); *Breast in Show* (Capitol Fringe). Lutz holds a bachelors in music theater from American University and has worked in the D.C. area as an artist and educator for more than 12 years; directing and/or choreographing more than 20 student and inclusive productions. Jennielutz.com.



JOE MALLON (Elephant Gerald) Theatre: *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"*: Kennedy Center TYA/1st National Tour; *KISS: Woolly Mammoth Theatre*; *No Rules SKETCH!*: No Rules Theatre; *Fiddler on the Roof*. Arena Stage; *Romeo and Juliet*: Folger Theatre; *Beauty Queen of Leenane*: Round House Theatre; *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Coriolanus*, *Wallenstein*: Shakespeare Theatre Company; *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*: New Candlelight Theatre; *Working, Honk!*: Theatre Horizon; *Picnic*, *The Last Night of Ballyhoo*: Montgomery Theater; *Little Shop of Horrors*: Devon Theater; *The Fantasticks*: Kimmel Center; *Macbeth*, *Present Laughter*, *Comedy of Errors*, *Streetcar Named Desire*: Theatre South Carolina. Television: *Hack*, *House of Cards*. Education: New York University's Tisch. BFA; University of South Carolina. MFA.



CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL RICHARDSON (u/s Gerald) is excited to be a part of this production of *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* Selected regional credits include: Know Theatre of Cincinnati: *Andy's House of [blank]*; Commonwealth Theatre: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park: *Theory of Mind* and *A Christmas Carol*; Olney Theatre Center: *The Tempest*; and he is also a proud member of National Players Tour 65. He dedicates his performance to his parents and his brother, who inspire him in new ways every day.



CAROLINE WOLFSON (u/s Piggie, Squirrelles) D.C. area: Theatre J: *The Sisters Rosensweig*; The Kennedy Center: *Elephant & Piggie's "We Are in a Play!"* (u/s); Signature Theatre: *The Fix*, *Cabaret* (u/s), *Cloak and Dagger* (u/s); Keegan Theatre: *Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight*, *Hair*; Imagination Stage: *101 Dalmatians*, *Lyle the Crocodile* (u/s); Unexpected Stage: *Dani Girl*; Scena Theatre: *Salome*; Red Branch Theatre Company:

Pinocchio; Washington Savoyards: *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*; Education: Syracuse University, bachelors in musical theater.

MO WILLEMS (Playwright), Mo Willems (Playwright), a No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author and illustrator, is the recipient of three Caldecott Honors for his picture book illustration. His Elephant and Piggie adventures have been awarded two Theodor Geisel Medals and five Geisel Honors since debuting in 2007. Willems began his career as a writer and performer in downtown performance venues such as the Village Gate and Nada in the 1980's and commentator for BBC Radio before becoming a writer and animator for *Sesame Street* (PBS), where he garnered six Emmy Awards for writing. Further TV work includes creating *The Off-Beats* (Nickelodeon) and *Sheep in the Big City* (Cartoon Network), and serving as head writer for *Codename: Kids Next Door* (Cartoon Network). Willems continues to perform regularly at the San Francisco Sketchfest comedy festival. *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical*, also a Kennedy Center commission, was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Best New Play. His artwork has been the subject of retrospective exhibitions at The Eric Carle Picture Book Museum (Amherst, MA), The High Museum (Atlanta, GA), and the New-York Historical Society. He is currently working with Deborah Wicks La Puma on a Rock Experience based on his picture book *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*. Banana! (www.mowillems.com)

DEBORAH WICKS LA PUMA (Music) is a composer, music director, and orchestrator. Her work for adults and children has been seen by thousands around the world, from Australia to Bahrain to the East Room of the White House, enjoying both popular and critical success. She also worked with Mo Willems on the world premiere of *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Musical* at the Kennedy Center. Her other works for young audiences include the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences premiere of *OLIVÉRIO: A Brazilian Twist* (with Karen Zacarias), *Frida Libre* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Ferdinand the Bull* (based on the book by Munro Leaf), *Chasing George Washington: A White House Adventure* (Kennedy Center), *Einstein Is a Dummy* (Alliance Theatre) with playwright Karen Zacarias, and *Nobody's Perfect* (based on the book by Marlee Matlin) with Doug Cooney, a musical in English and American Sign Language, commissioned by VSA and the Kennedy Center. Her awards include the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award, a National Endowment for the Arts' New American Works Grant, two Parents' Choice Awards, an iParenting Media Award, and two Helen Hayes nominations for Outstanding New Play. A proud Mexican-American who speaks Spanish and Portuguese, she is also a member of the board of directors of TYA USA/ASSITEJ International, ASCAP, and the Dramatist Guild.

JERRY WHIDDON (Director). Former producing artistic director/founding member, Round House Theatre and Street 70 Theatre. Acted, directed, and taught in D.C. and New York City. Recent directing credits include: *Guys and Dolls* (Olney Theatre); *Tiny Tim's Christmas Carol*, *Give a Pig a Pancake*, and *The Night Before Christmas* (Adventure Theatre); *Belle of Amherst* (Bay Theatre); *Nixon's Nixon*, *Orson's Shadow*, and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (Round House); and *Speed the Plow* and *Lost in Yonkers* (Theatre J). Some favorite roles include: *Seagull on 16th Street* (Trigorin), *Blackbird* (Ray), *A Body of Water* (Moss), *Tabletop* (Marcus), *Wintertime* (Francois), and *Underneath the Lintel* (solo). Film, television, radio, narration, voiceover: *Heart and Soul – Biography of Frank Loesser*, *The Wire*, *An American Affair*, *My One and Only*, *A Woman Named Jackie* (NBC), *The Pelican Brief*, *On The Block* (Yeager Films), and *Parade of Witnesses* (PBS). *All My Sons*, *American Appetites*, and *A Lesson Before Dying* for VOA/LA Theatre Works. Coaching speakers in the corporate world. Teaching: University of Maryland, Catholic University, George Mason University, and Round House. Love to Jean, Amelia, Hannah...they are the center, and the center holds.

JESSICA HARTMAN (Choreographer) is thrilled to return to the world of Mo Willems. On Broadway, she served as the associate choreographer for Lysistrata Jones and was the assistant choreographer, dance captain and swing for *The Boy From Oz*, starring Hugh Jackman. She recently choreographed *Mamma Mia!* at The Muni as well as created new shows for Norwegian Creative Studios on the Oceania Sirena and Regatta. Off-Broadway/New York credits: *Waterfall*, *Somewhere in Time*, *Showtune*, *Citizen Ruth*, *Break Out in Song* (Director/Choreographer). Other choreography credits include *Hairspray* and *Seussical* (co-choreographer/The Muni), *Elephant and Piggie: "We Are In A Play!"* (Kennedy Center/National Tour), *West Side Story* and *Beaches* (Associate/Signature Theatre), *Next to Normal* (Choreographer/Centerstage), *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Assistant/ Arena Stage), and *Carousel* (Assistant/ Goodspeed). Hartman is the Artistic Director of Broadway Theatre Connection (BTC), bringing unparalleled musical theater training to cities around the United States. Love and gratitude to my husband Jason, my parents Frank and Stephanie and my biggest fan, EHL. Up next: H2\$ at TUTS and BTC St. Louis! www.JessHartman.com

GEORGE FULGINITI-SHAKAR (Music Director) is a music director, pianist, and vocal coach for major theatrical and cabaret performances in the Washington, D.C. area. He was awarded prestigious Helen Hayes Awards for Music Direction for Arena Stage's productions of *Cabaret* and *Oklahoma*. He has 7 additional Helen Hayes Award nominations for *Damn Yankees*, *Camelot*, *South Pacific*, and *Animal Crackers* at Arena Stage, At

the Shakespeare Theatre he was music director and conductor for *Man of la Mancha*, *The Oedipus Plays* (featuring Avery Brooks) in Washington, DC and Athens Greece. Other Shakespeare productions include *The Boys from Syracuse*, *Two Gentlemen from Verona* and *Comedy of Errors*. He was pianist for *Mad About the Bard* at the Folgers Theatre (starring Floyd King). For the Kennedy Center he was Music Director for *Alexander and the Terrible ... Day*, *The Happy Prince*, and *The Tales of Custard the Dragon*. At Imagination Stage he was music director for *The Little Mermaid*, and *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* involving singing, acting, and ballet. Other regional theaters include Ford's Theatre, Studio Theatre, The Public Theatre (NYC), The Ohio Theatre (NYC) and Perseverance Theatre (Juneau, AK). Mr. Fulginiti-Shakar was also a guest Music Director at the Eugene O'Neill Music Theatre Conference as well as *Stop the Presses, Vol. 1 and 2: New Works for Cabaret & Music Theatre*. He regularly gives Master Classes at American University, George Washington University, and Catholic University, teaches on the faculties of the Studio Acting Conservatory and the Theatre Lab, and is President of the Board of Washington's Cabaret Network.

MEGAN ALRUTZ (Dramaturg) is a theater professor at the University of Texas at Austin where she is head of the Drama and Theatre for Youth and Communities MFA program. Ms. Alrutz is a director, dramaturg and community-based teaching artist. Her creative and scholarly practices focus on digital storytelling and applied theater to address gender and racial justice, as well as the development of new plays that engage young audiences.

JAMES KRONZER (Set Designer) has designed scenery for numerous Kennedy Center TYA productions, and his work has been seen at virtually every theater in the D.C. area. Credits include Broadway, Off-Broadway, Denver Center, Portland Center Stage, Delaware Theatre Company, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, Milwaukee Rep, St. Louis Rep, San Diego Rep, and Arden Theatre. National Tours: *The Wizard of Oz*, *Thomas the Tank*, *Backyardigans*, *Barbie Live! In Fairytopia*, *Seussical the Musical*. He also designed scenery for Disney Cruise Lines and Norwegian Cruise Lines. Television credits include numerous specials for Comedy Central, EPIX, and Netflix. He is a member of United Scenic Artists.

KYLE GRANT (Lighting Designer). Regional Theater: *Jason Invisible* (Kennedy Center), *West Side Story*, *Romeo and Juliet* (Arkansas Shakespeare Theatre), *Mary Poppins*, *Urinetown*, *Oliver!* (Cabrillo Stage), The Washington Ballet, Texas Shakespeare Festival, Theater J, Lakota Dance Theater (National Tour), Theater Alliance, Keegan Theater, Rochester

University. Broadway: Assistant designer for *Stickfly*. Other: The Juilliard School, The Washington Opera, Martha Graham Dance Co., Trinity Rep, BAM NYC, Intermezzo Dance Co., TedTalks. Awards: L.B. Tobin Director-Designer Showcase, Opera America 2015. Member: United Scenic Artists. Kylegrant.net.

FRANK LABOVITZ (Costume Designer) is very excited to be a part of this production of *Elephant & Piggie!* Previous design credits for young audiences include: *Lyle the Crocodile*, *Suessical* and *Junie B. Jones: Jingle Bells*, *Batman Smells* for Imagination Stage; *A Lump of Coal for Christmas* and *Goodnight Moon* for Adventure Theatre; *Gimme a Band*, *Gimme a Banana*, *Mark Twain's Riverboat Extravaganza* and *Sleeping Beauty*: a Puppet Ballet for Pointless Theatre Company. Frank is based in Washington, D.C.

ELISHEBA ITTOOP (Sound Designer). Her designs and original music have been heard at the Kennedy Center, Signature Theatre, Women's Project, National Gallery of Art, Soho Rep, Triad Stage, Woolly Mammoth, Arena Stage, Cincinnati Playhouse, Cleveland Playhouse, Trinity Repertory, LaMaMa, 59E59, Children's Theatre of Charlotte, Bonnaroo Music Festival, and the Center for Puppetry Arts. Ittoop was a resident sound designer at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center for the 2010 and 2011 National Playwrights Conferences, recipient of the Kenan Fellowship at the Kennedy Center, and winner of the 2008 USITT Rising Star Award. Education: NYU and North Carolina School of the Arts. For Alan. Elishebaittoop.com.

PAMELA WEINER (Properties Artisan) is thrilled to be working with the Kennedy Center's Theater for Young Audiences again. Previous work includes *The Gift of Nothing* and *Orphie* and *the Book of Heroes*. When not at the Kennedy Center, Ms. Weiner is the assistant prop master at Signature Theatre.

JUSTIN PROPPER (Associate Sound Designer) is a New York City-based sound designer. He graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey. Some of his credits include: *DUAT* at Soho Rep. (Assistant Sound Designer), *Marisol* at the The Juilliard School (Assistant Sound Designer), *Appropriate* at the Juilliard School (Assistant Sound Designer), *Another Year*, *Another Christmas with Haberdasher Theater Company* (Sound Designer), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival (Sound Designer), *Miss Julie* at Ramapo College (Sound Designer), *Macbeth* at Ramapo College (Sound Designer), and Sound Supervisor at Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival for the 2016 Summer Season.

BETH CRANDALL (Assistant Choreographer). Recent assistant/associate choreography includes *1776* at NY City Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2016 Gala: Jazz and Broadway, *My Fair Lady* and *West Side Story* at the St Louis MUNY, the *West Side*

Story 2nd National Tour, and the independent film *Le Pain*. She is the associate director/choreographer for the annual Christmas show *Miracles*. As a performer, Crandall has danced on Broadway, on national/international tours, and at leading regional theaters. She earned her BFA from NYU. BethCrandall.com

MICHELLE KOZLAK (Casting Director), in her 10th season as casting director, is responsible for casting the Kennedy Center's Theater for Young Audiences productions, as well as the New Visions/ New Voices new play festival. In addition to her work with the Kennedy Center, she has also served as the casting director for the VSA Playwrights Discovery Program productions (2008-11), and a casting consultant for the NSO Pops Showboat Concert, as well as the National Gallery of Art's productions of *Who's in the Hopper* and *Forward, 54th!* Prior to her work as a casting director, she was the national touring coordinator for the Kennedy Center's Theater for Young Audiences and manager of theater programming. Kozlak is currently working as a freelance casting director in the Washington, D.C., area and is the producing artistic director and founder of Arts on the Horizon, a non-profit theater company for children ages 0-6 in Alexandria, Virginia.

JULIA SINGER (Production Stage Manager) Ford's Theatre: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *110 in the Shade*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Guard*, *Freedom's Song*, *The Widow Lincoln*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, The Kennedy Center: *If All the Sky Were Made of Paper*, Adventure: *Pinkalicious*, *The Jungle Book*, *Miss Nelson is Missing*, The Juilliard School: *This is Our Youth*, *A Little Night Music*, *Cymbeline*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune*, *Trust, You Are Here*. Training: Ohio Wesleyan University.

GILLIAN WOLPERT (Technical Director/Lighting Supervisor). Originally from Toronto, she has served as lighting designer for New York Theatre Workshop, Brooklyn Arts Exchange, Blessed Unrest, Zoetic Dance, Hartt Dances, Strike Anywhere and many others and has toured with The Acting Company, Sean Curran Dance Company, Joffrey Ballet Concert Group, and numerous other dance and theater projects. Her work has garnered a Guthrie award for her contributions to Canada's Stratford Festival and a Jessie Richardson nomination for her design of *The Unexpected Man* in Vancouver. www.gillianwolpert.com.

JESSICA MCILQUHAM (Sound Supervisor/ATD) is excited to be a part of the Kennedy Center's *Elephant and Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"* She is a stage manager, actress, sound engineer, composer, and musician based in Brooklyn NY, and was touring and recording with her band Beacon James from 2007 to 2015, playing venues like the Chicago Hard

Rock Cafe, 7th Street Entry, and The New Earth Barn, and participating in the *Volume One Backstage* and *Sounds Like Summer* concert series. She has released three albums and two singles to date. Favorite theater credits include *Into The Woods* (Baker's Wife), *Once Upon A Mattress* (Winnifred), and *Candide* (Ensemble). Vlah! Jessicamcilquham.com

TRACEY FESS (Props and Wardrobe Supervisor). credits include Off Broadway: *Bedbugs!!! It's a musical*, *Piece Of My Heart*, *Old Jews Telling Jokes*. Tour: *50 Shades the musical parody*, *Girls Night the musical*. New York: *NYMF 2014 & 2015*, *The Last Seder*, *Promising*. Regional: Ocean State Theatre Company *42nd Street*, *Miracle on 34th Street* the musical, *Les Miserables*.

EDUCATION AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is the national champion for arts learning and creativity. Committed to increasing opportunities for all people to participate in, learn about, and understand the arts, the Center offers programs and events that strive to reflect the nation, its communities, and that are accessible and inclusive for all. From performances and exhibits on the Center's stages and in the community, to classroom and community partnerships, to online resources accessible nearly anywhere, the Center serves the burgeoning artist, the exploring student of any age, the teacher and teaching artist, and even the local and national infrastructure—any person interested in arts learning and utilizing the arts for positive change.

The breadth of the Center's national education programs include: Ensuring the Arts for Any Given Child, which works with 23 municipalities and their school districts around the country to develop a long-range strategic plan for arts education; ARTSEdge, an online resource offering standards-based materials for use in and out of the classroom; Partners in Education forges relationships between an arts organization and its neighboring school systems to build effective arts education programs for teachers and teaching artists; Explore the Arts provides insight into the cultural and historical context of the works presented on stage and sparks dialogue between audiences and the artists who have created the performances through participatory workshops, demonstrations, panels, master classes, and open rehearsals; the Kennedy Center/Stephen Sondheim Inspirational Teacher Awards acknowledges teachers of grades K-12 whose efforts have made a significant impact on their students; Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour brings original Kennedy Center productions for students and families into communities and performing arts centers around the country; and in 2016 the Center and the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities announced a strategic partnership to bring the Turnaround Arts

initiative to the Center, which empowers high-need, low-performing schools with innovative arts programming and resources to help address broader school challenges and close the achievement gap.

The Center's locally based programs serve educators and students with Changing Education Through the Arts, a program that works with seven schools in the area to affect long-term change in school culture through professional learning in arts integration; professional development opportunities for teachers trains educators to teach the arts or other subject areas through the arts; and Washington, D.C., partnership schools, where the Center provides resources and teaching artist residencies to 22 K-12 schools. Additionally, 100-plus events and performances throughout the season are offered for more than 100,000 local school-aged children. As the national performing arts center and a convener of arts and education leaders, its programming also draws from the resources of National Symphony Orchestra, The Suzanne Farrell Ballet, VSA (the international arts and disability organization), Washington National Opera, and the Performances for Young Audiences series.

Believing in the fundamental need to nurture young artists' growth, the Center offers multiple skill and development programs for students and professionals both locally and nationally including the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program, Summer Music Institute, and High School Competition; Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Opera Institute, and Kids Create Opera Partnership; the biennial New Visions/New Voices forum for development of new plays for young people; Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell; Betty Carter's Jazz Ahead; VSA's Playwright Discovery Program, Young Soloists, and Visual Arts programs; arts administration internships; and the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, which impacts hundreds of thousands of collegeaged theater students across the country and marks its 49th anniversary in 2017.

As an essential component of the living memorial to President Kennedy, the Center's education division utilizes the arts to embrace the ideals of service, justice, freedom, courage, and gratitude, and to activate and support the Citizen Artists in all our audiences. For more information, please visit Kennedy-center.org/Education.