THE EXCITEMENT OF DANCE, MUSIC, THEATRE AND STORYTELLING COMES TO YOU!

WILL & COMPANY
Romeo and Juliet
Enclosed is a packet of information about the scheduled program. Please review all of the documents carefully, as they are the materials you will need to sponsor a successful program.

THE DAILY SCHEDULE

It is important that the daily schedule be maintained as specified on the confirmation document. If special circumstances occur once the project has begun, notify Music Center staff as soon as possible. Changes may be accommodated pending artist availability (which can be limited). We request that all participants be seated in the performance area and ready to begin at the scheduled times.

STUDENT SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL SITES

In accordance with California law, The Music Center requires that a classroom teacher be present with students at all times. It is expected that teachers will attend events with their class and actively participate in the learning experience.

YOUR FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

About a week after the performance, you’ll receive an invoice in the mail. You have 30 days to pay upon receipt of the invoice. We do ask that you wait until you receive the invoice before sending payment.

ARTIST INTRODUCTION & STAGING REQUIREMENTS

Please introduce the artist with the enclosed introduction. There is also specific information you will need to prepare for the arrival of each artist. Please give the tech sheet to the school personnel in charge of setting up the performance area well in advance of the scheduled dates. Be sure to have ready any equipment which may be required.

CURRICULUM CONNECTION FOR CLASSROOM TEACHERS

These pre- and post-event classroom activities are designed to enhance the understanding and enjoyment of the program. Please duplicate this preparation material and distribute to all teachers whose students will be attending the event to allow them to fully prepare the students.

PRESS RELEASE AND POSTER

A pre-made press release is available should you wish to publicize the event. A premade poster is also included so that your school community can be aware of the upcoming event.

We applaud your commitment to arts education and look forward to working with you.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to call us at 213-972-4310.
"I would like to introduce today's performance which is presented by The Music Center of Los Angeles County. The name of this company of actors is Will and Company. They will be presenting scenes from Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet." Please welcome Will and Company!

Feel free to encourage the adult members of your audience to share the experience on social media! Tag us on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram at @MusicCenterLA and we might repost your photos!
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

SPACE
- 15' wide x 10' deep minimum (some flexibility available)
  - Must be clean and lighted

SURFACE
- Freshly mopped (not waxed)
- Irregularities covered with tape
- Extraneous clutter removed

DRESSING AREA
- One clean, secured dressing area will be needed

STUDENT PARTICIPATION
- This performance provides a unique opportunity for a few students from your school to be performers in each show
- Please select 6 students to participate for each show (can be different students each show or the same students for each show)
- Students should report to the performance space 30 minutes prior to the performance. (If performance schedule is tight and includes multiple shows, all students should arrive 30 prior to the first performance)

ARRIVAL
- 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to prepare and set up

PARKING
- Two spaces, one close to the venue for loading and unloading

ASSISTANCE
- Please have a school representative ready to welcome the performers and to stay and help as needed

START TIME
- Please prepare to start the program on time
- Students should be in the venue, seated and ready to begin at the listed times
WILL & COMPANY—A Christmas Carol

ART FORM: Theatre
STYLE: Classical
CULTURE: Western European

MEET THE ARTIST:
Will & Company is a multicultural theatre ensemble with a “Professional Designation in Arts Education” award from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. This unique company performs exciting adaptations of some of the world’s greatest classic literature. Under the artistic direction of Colin Cox, they present major scenes from plays, interspersed with narration and background information. Some plays performed by Will & Company include physical humor and dazzling swordplay. The troupe performs Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliette,” as well as adaptations of other great works, such as Homer’s “The Odyssey,” and Charles Dickens’ novella, “A Christmas Carol.” Will & Company has performed locally at The Geffen Playhouse, The Los Angeles Theatre Center, and El Capitan. They also tour nationally, presenting both classic works and original plays highlighting diversity. In 2005, Will & Company was nominated for a GLADD award for their production of “A Pebble in My Shoe.”

PREPARING FOR THE EXPERIENCE:
William Shakespeare was baptized in his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon, England, on April 26, 1564, thought to be three days after he was born. He was born in the same year as Galileo and Christopher Marlowe; it was also the year Michelangelo died. Queen Elizabeth I had been on the throne for five years, and the country was in a state of unrest with the threat of Catholic rebellions. But in the rural market town of Stratford-upon-Avon, life went on in a tranquil fashion.

William’s father, John was a tanner and grocer who went on to become an alderman and mayor in the town; his mother, Mary Arden, had come from a prosperous farming family. William was the third child of eight, but his two elder sisters died as babies, making him the eldest child. He had two younger sisters and three brothers. When Shakespeare was a boy, he attended the local grammar school where his studies included Latin and a thorough grounding in rhetoric (written or spoken language that is intended to influence people and that may not be honest or reasonable). At age 18 William married Anne Hathaway, who was eight years older and pregnant with his child. The baby was born six months later and named Susanna. On February 2, 1585 Shakespeare’s wife gave birth to twins, Hamnet and Judith. Hamnet would unfortunately die in 1596 at the young age of 11.

What happened to William Shakespeare between 1585 and 1592 is not really known, and they are referred to as “the seven lost years.” Some people believe he joined the army; some say he went to sea; some think that he became an actor; most believe that he became a school teacher. By 1592, however, we know that Shakespeare was an established actor in London and had written a number of plays. In all, they total 38 plays, four long poems and 154 sonnets. “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” a comedy, was written in 1594 in celebration of the wedding of a patron’s mother. Written mostly in rhyme, the tale tells a magical story of love lost and gained. Shakespeare died in 1616 at age 52. In 1623, the First Folio edition of his plays was published in which his great contemporary and rival, Ben Johnson, called him the “Sweet Swan of Avon.”

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE:
A feud between two Veronese (Verona is a city in Northern Italy) families, the Capulets and the Montagues, has been raging for many years. While attending a masked ball at the Capulet household, young Romeo, a Montague, falls in love with fair Juliet. Friar Lawrence secretly performs a wedding ceremony in the hopes that the union will bring peace to the rival families. Instead, a tragic tale unfolds as Romeo’s friend, Mercutio, is killed by Tybalt, a Capulet relative. Romeo then kills Tybalt and flees. He learns he has been banished. Desperate after being separated from Juliet, he attempts to take his own life. The Friar calms him and makes a plan to bring the couple together. Part of his scheme involves having Juliet take a potion that will produce the effect of death. A messenger fails to reach Romeo to explain that Juliet is not dead, simply asleep. Romeo, bereaved at her supposed death, buys poison and returns to Verona. He visits Juliet in the tomb, drinks the poison, and dies. Juliet awakens, sees Romeo’s body, and stabs herself. The play ends with the reconciliation of Capulet and Montague over the bodies of their children.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

• If you were to describe the story of “Romeo and Juliet” in a few sentences, what would you say?

• If you had one hour to spend with one of the characters in the play, which character would you choose? Why? What would you talk about?

• Which characters did you identify with most? Which characters did you identify with least? Why?

• How do Juliet’s view of love differ from her parents? Give examples.

• What is an apothecary? (a person who prepared and sold medicines in past times—now called a pharmacist) What part does this character play in the tragedy?

• Do you think the power of love could have brought the Capulets and Montagues together without bloodshed? How might the tragedy have been avoided?

• Did Will & Company’s performance stir your interest about the plays of William Shakespeare? Would you like to read some? Would you like to see more of them? If so, what does interest you?

FRAMEWORK FOCUS—LANGUAGE ARTS:

William Shakespeare’s sonnets were published in 1609, yet his plays were not published until years after his death. This could be attributed to the fact that theatre was not yet considered a truly literary genre. Shakespeare intended his plays to be viewed by an audience, not read. Poetry, however, was a different matter. Shakespeare was quite proud of his 154 sonnets. Each contains fourteen lines with a precise rhyme scheme. Choose a selection of sonnets to read and discuss. Have students identify the major themes and explain the poems’ meanings in their own words. Point out the use of simile, metaphor, assonance and alliteration. Next, scan the rhythm of a sonnet—iambic pentameter - and write the scheme on the classroom blackboard - a-b-a-b-c-d-c-d-e-f-e-f-g-g. Guide students in selection of a topic for an original sonnet and write one following Shakespeare’s models.

LEGEND

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ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE:

• Many lines from Shakespeare’s plays are quoted in contemporary literature, newspaper articles, speeches, television and film. Here are two from “Romeo and Juliet”:

“Good night, good night. Parting is such sweet sorrow, that I shall say good night till it be morrow!”

Juliet, “Romeo and Juliet”

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

Juliet, “Romeo and Juliet”

Discuss them and explore their meaning. Also, try saying them in many different ways.

• Play a class game called “Dost (Does) Thou Know Me?” in which students take on the characters from the Will & Company performance. Using body movement, facial expression and pantomime, have them take turns conveying the essence of a character’s personality and motivations, while the rest of the class tries to guess who they are.

• Make a drawing or model of the Globe Theatre where many of Shakespeare’s plays were performed during Elizabethan times. Research, label and define the various areas: the stage, the “heavens,” the courtyard, the galleries, and the tiring-house.

• Watch a videotape of the musical “West Side Story” and discuss how the play, “Romeo and Juliet,” translates to a different time period and set of circumstances. What is the relationship between the poetry in Shakespeare’s play and the songs in the musical? Describe.

• Use the performance of “Romeo and Juliet” as a springboard to discuss conflict and/or crisis situations in today’s world. Are there aspects of human nature that seem timeless? Identify a current problem and improvise possible resolutions using role playing or writing.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES:


Music: Tchaikovsky, Peter Ilyich. Overture Fantasy -- Romeo and Juliet, 1869.
AND THE MUSIC CENTER ANNOUNCE

WILL & COMPANY TO PERFORM ON ___________

and The Music Center today announced the upcoming Will & Company performance. As part of the school’s continuing efforts to enrich its curriculum and its students’ educational experience, the school will present a special performance of Will & Company. The performance is presented by The Music Center’s education department which provides many offerings including live performances, classroom workshops, scholarship and training programs, online arts curriculum, on-campus events and professional development.

Will & Company’s founder/director Colin Cox and a touring group of artists, much like the troupes who traversed the provinces in Shakespeare’s day, make ageless classics more accessible to young audiences. Celebrate the timeless language and classic theatre of Shakespeare’s work by selecting a tragedy or a comedy for students to enjoy. Each performance features narration of the story of the play, a presentation of several major scenes, and information about the history and background of the play. These dynamic performances are a great way to intrigue, entrance and educate students about the captivating work of William Shakespeare.

The Music Center on Tour is the premiere resource for high-quality performing arts performances in Los Angeles County. For more than 35 years, schools and communities have benefited from the program’s roster of diverse and compelling performing artists who serve as models of artistic excellence, inspire creative thinking and introduce young audiences to the world’s diverse cultural traditions. Music Center artists represent and celebrate the finest artistic contribution of the world’s cultures – from the colorful regional dances of Mexico and the exquisite music of the China, to the pulsating rhythms of Brazil and the golden harmonies of 20th century America.

Schools can choose from more than 70 performances in music, dance, theatre and storytelling from an internationally acclaimed roster of artists seen across the globe in films, theaters, concert halls, television shows and museums.

About The Music Center
As L.A.’s performing arts destination, The Music Center is L.A.’s home to the world’s greatest artistic programs and events. With four iconic theaters and four renowned resident companies – Center Theatre Group, the LA Master Chorale, the LA Opera and the LA Philharmonic – and recognized for its illustrious dance programming, Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, The Music Center is a destination where audiences find inspiration in the very best of live performance, as well as nationally recognized arts education and participatory arts experiences. With The Music Center On Location, the non-profit performing arts organization brings events and activities to locations outside of its Downtown Los Angeles campus. The Music Center also programs and manages Grand Park, a 12-acre adjacent greenspace, with year-round free programming. For more information, visit musiccenter.org Follow The Music Center on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@MusicCenterLA).

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For more information, please contact The Music Center at 213-972-3338. Members of the media are welcome to cover this performance. Please contact The Music Center prior to sending a reporter or photographer to the school.
THE MUSIC CENTER PRESENTS

WILL & COMPANY

DATE: _________________________ TIME: _________________________

SCHOOL: _________________________

musiccenter.org/ontour
ARTS INTEGRATION PARTNERSHIPS

The Music Center’s teaching artists work in the classroom facilitating student learning and modeling effective instructional strategies for teachers. Essential skills and vocabulary in music, theater, dance, or visual art are connected to universal themes and integrated with other content areas.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our Professional Development targets arts integration strategies for K-12 teachers in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Teachers learn creative and effective approaches for integrating the arts into their content areas. Additionally, The Music Center offers the Summer Arts Studio for Educators. This program consists of events tailored for classroom teachers, arts teachers and educators.

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES

Each year Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center offers free student matinee dance performances. All performances include a teacher orientation session and curriculum guide for students.

THE BLUE RIBBON CHILDREN’S FESTIVAL

The Blue Ribbon Children’s Festival, designed specifically for fifth grade students, is an annual admission-free program at The Music Center. Students experience a live professional performance at a world-class performing arts center, then gather together to perform a short choreographed dance inspired by the production.

VERY SPECIAL ARTS FESTIVAL

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual admission-free event celebrating the artistic achievements of students with disabilities and their mainstream peers. The festival features student and professional performances on two stages, visual and performing arts workshops, and a student art exhibit created around a central theme.

SPOTLIGHT

Much more than a competition, Spotlight is a scholarship and training program, which encourages personal and artistic growth, while exploring new possibilities in the arts.

ARTSOURCE®

The Music Center’s Artsource® curriculum is designed to bring the expressive world of the arts into classrooms. The materials are available online free of cost.

OTHER ON CAMPUS MUSIC CENTER OFFERINGS:

Glorya Kaufman Presents Dance at The Music Center, Dance Downtown, Symphonian Campus Tours, Grand Park