

CENTRE FOR THE  
ARTS



**MATINEE  
EXPERIENCE**  
FOR STUDENTS  
& TEACHERS



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**Thank you so much** for sharing the magic of live performing arts with your students! We are honored to host your students, faculty, and chaperones for a performance experience at Midland Center for the Arts. We hope to spark inspiration and creativity in your students as they experience the immortal work of Washington Irving, go under the sea with *The Rainbow Fish*, explore innovation and invention with *Rosie Revere*, and take in the beauty of movement and history with Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

We firmly believe in the value of the whole experience of attending a live performing arts event – from walking through the theater doors, to interacting with other audience members, experiencing the hushed silence that falls when the lights dim, and listening to the exuberant cheers that come when we collectively witness the seemingly impossible on a stage. We hope your visit to the Center serves to create connections to what your students are learning, inspires continued engagement in the arts, and makes your students feel like the arts are meant for them.

We look forward to seeing you at the show!

Sincerely,

**Katie Miller**

Senior Manager of Community & Group Engagement



*Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater is jointly sponsored by the Midland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the Dr. Andrea Louise Jenkins Endowed Fund for Cultural Enrichment at Midland Center for the Arts in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Midland Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.*



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ABOUT THE CENTER  
SCHOOL MATINEE SERIES  
MATINEE EXPERIENCE  
AUDIENCE REMINDERS  
NATIONAL CORE ART STANDARDS







## ABOUT THE CENTER

Long before there was a Midland Center for the Arts, the community was making music, staging dramas, painting landscapes and appreciating fine concerts and rare books. The places they gathered in the name of art were diverse. Alden B. Dow believed that if every human is allowed the freedom to develop and grow their own unique, innate gifts, they will find limitless results to offer the world.

With Alden's help the construction of the 200,000-square-foot building was officially deemed complete in 1968. Midland Center for the Arts is now a place where art, science, history, music, theater, dance, films, camps, classes and professional world-class entertainers live under one roof!

The Center is a one-of-a-kind venue where all ages are invited to create as well as appreciate and explore a diverse array of guest artists, internationally known art and science exhibits, professional symphony concerts, award-winning theatre, art classes and more.

- / A 1,500-seat Auditorium
- / A 400-seat Little Theater
- / Art Studio and Rehearsal Rooms
- / IFF STEM Space & Smithsonian Spark!Lab

In addition, the Center houses the Midland County Historical Society that includes historic homes, galleries, archives and research facilities at the Doan Historical Center and Heritage Park on Main Street in Midland.







## SCHOOL MATINEE SERIES

Take thousands of Michigan students out of their classrooms and into a theater with world-class performers! Reach new levels of learning for students, staff, and parents!

### FROM SCHOOL TO STAGE

Each year over 6,000 students and teachers attend a matinee performance at Midland Center in our Auditorium or Little Theater space. Educational groups of 10 or more are eligible for matinee ticket pricing. We offer scholarships to qualified groups; please visit the Center website to see if you qualify. Scholarships are limited.

### TICKET TO INSPIRATION

Midland Center for the Arts provides multiple age-appropriate performances for preschool to high school students. When considering what performance to attend with your students, please be sure to check the grade level recommendations and curriculum connections provided by the artist for each show. If you have questions, please reach out to our staff. We aim to serve every school district within the Great Lakes Bay Region and beyond with our School Matinee Series productions. Our performances run approximately 60 minutes without an intermission, which gives students the chance to experience new ways of creativity, storytelling, and expression. The theatre becomes the classroom.

### CURRICULUM & STUDY GUIDES

Each performance in our School Matinee Series is accompanied by a study guide for pre-show and post-show use in the classroom. All of our performances are chosen to align with, enhance, and support State of Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations. You can download the study guides directly from the School Matinee Series page on the Center website.

### QUESTIONS? WE ARE HAPPY TO HELP!

Please contact Katie Miller  
[miller@midlandcenter.org](mailto:miller@midlandcenter.org)





# MATINEE EXPERIENCE INFORMATION

## TEACHER GUIDE

We want your performance experience to be safe and fun. Please read below for important tips and details to ensure a great day.

## GET ORGANIZED

Double-check that all students, teachers, and chaperones were included in your ticket order.

To give our staff adequate time to finalize payment invoices, seating, and arrival/dismissal logistics, please plan to confirm your attendance numbers approximately four weeks from the scheduled performance date. We will send a final invoice at that time. No adjustments to ticket counts will be made later than two weeks prior to the performance.

Arrival and departure information will be communicated to each group within two weeks of the show date. Let drivers know that performances are approximately 60 minutes, unless otherwise noted. Bus drivers are asked to be back at their buses and ready to move into the dismissal line no later than 10 minutes prior to the scheduled event end time.

Remind chaperones that everyone attending a performance, even young children attending with a chaperone who may sit in a lap, need a ticket to the performance and should be included in the group reservation.

## ADDRESS/ PARKING

MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
1801 W ST ANDREWS RD  
MIDLAND, MI 48640

A map with parking instructions and dismissal instructions will be sent within two weeks of the performance date. Please ensure that bus drivers and other adults have a copy of the arrival and dismissal paperwork prior to the performance.

## ARRIVAL/SEATING

Assigned arrival times typically start 30 minutes before a performance, and all students, teachers, and chaperones must be present before the group will be seated. Dismissal typically takes 15-20 minutes, depending on the number of schools attending.

A volunteer will greet you at the door. Check in with your assigned usher when you arrive the day of the show and be directed to your seats by our volunteer ushers. Each group will be assigned a specific location in the theater based on various factors. An usher will escort you to your section. Individual tickets are not issued for matinee performances.

Your school group may be seated in multiple rows. Adults should position themselves throughout the group.

Allow ushers to seat your entire group before rearranging student seats or taking groups to the restroom. This helps us seat efficiently and better start the show on time.

## TICKET INFORMATION

All ticket purchases must be made with the school order. Tickets cannot be purchased by individual parents, and cannot be added to an order on the day of the performance due to ticket volume and seating logistics. Any ticket added after the cut-off date will NOT be guaranteed to sit with the school group. Tickets may be paid for via check or over the phone by credit card through the Box Office at 989.631.8250. Please include a copy of your invoice with your check or have your order number ready if paying over the phone. We appreciate prompt payment once a final invoice is issued; if there is a delay, please notify your Center staff contact. Note current box office hours: MON-FRI 12-6 PM, SAT 10 AM-4 PM, SUN 12-4 PM. You will not receive physical tickets in the mail, but will check in with your assigned usher when you arrive and be directed to your seats by our volunteer ushers.

**COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS:** The Center provides up to two complimentary tickets per classroom that attends a school matinee performance. If the number of educators/support staff attending exceeds the number of complimentary tickets available, those admissions will be included in paid tickets.

## IN THE THEATER

Our performance spaces do have accessible seating, and we are happy to work with educators on ways to make attending a school matinee the best experience possible for students with accessibility needs. We consider all matinee performances to be a shush-free, judgment-free environment. We also provide downloadable social stories for all matinees on our website.

## SEVERE WEATHER/ILLNESS

Issues attending the performance caused by severe weather/school cancellations will be handled on a show-by-show basis. Issues with illness in the classroom should be communicated to Center staff as soon as possible and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. The Center does not offer a refund if 5 students or less are absent the day of a matinee performance and do not attend.





## AUDIENCE REMINDERS

Attending a live performance is a unique and exciting opportunity! Unlike the passive experience of watching a movie, audience members play an important role in every live performance.

### YOUR ROLE AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER

During the performance, artists are very aware of the mood and level of engagement of the audience. Each performance calls for a different response from audience members.

### THINGS TO REMEMBER

- / Do not bring food, drinks or chewing gum in the theater.
- / Recording of any sort is strictly prohibited. We ask that you please silence and put away any cell phones and electronics.
- / Respect the theater and your neighbors. Keep your feet off of the backs of the seats.
- / When the house lights dim, that means the show is about to start. Please stop talking at this time.
- / Please try to use the restrooms before the performance. If you need to use the restroom during the performance, quietly ask an adult chaperone to assist you.
- / You are encouraged to laugh, clap, sing, and dance along when it is an appropriate response. The artists will let you know what and when it is appropriate.
- / Enjoy yourself! While you enjoy your performing arts experience consider the following questions!
- / What kind of live performance is this?  
/ Theater / Dance / Concert / Puppetry / Storytelling
- / What is the mood of the performance? Is the subject matter serious or lighthearted?
- / What is the mood of the artist? Are they happy and smiling or somber and sad?
- / Are the artists encouraging the audience to clap to the music, move to the beat, or participate in some other way?
- / Are there “breaks” in the performance that welcome applause?

### THE PERFORMING ARTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

Relax and take in the experience, even if you've never been to a theater performance or concert before!

Midland Center for the Arts is committed to providing a supportive and welcoming environment that makes live performance and our museums accessible to those with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), developmental and physical disabilities, sensory processing disorders, and PTSD, and for other sensory-sensitive people with their families. Our performance spaces do have accessible seating, and we are happy to work with educators on ways to make attending a school matinee the best experience possible for students with accessibility needs.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR MATINEE EXPERIENCE

- / The performance is a shush-free zone - audience members can talk quietly or express themselves freely during the performance.
- / We provide downloadable social stories that portray the theatre-going experience with pictures and text for use by educators and students.
- / House doors are kept open; audience members are welcome to stand, move around, and leave as need be.
- / Audience members are welcome to bring their own manipulatives, seat cushions, comfort objects, headphones, electronics, special snacks, and other support items to the show.
- / Sensory bags provided by Midland Center for the Arts are available for use during performances and museum visits.





# NCAS

National Coalition for  
Arts Standards

The National Coalition for Arts Standards (NCAS) is an alliance of national arts and arts education organizations dedicated to supporting and promoting sequential, standards-based arts education as part of a well-rounded curriculum that ensures artistic literacy for all students. The coalition formed in 2011 for the purpose of creating and supporting national arts standards.

This resource helps guide educators in providing a unified quality arts education for students in PreK-High School. The philosophy, primary goals, dynamic processes, structures, and outcomes shape student learning and achievement in dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, as articulated in the National Core Arts Standards.

To view the National Core Arts Standards go to [nationalartsstandards.org](http://nationalartsstandards.org).

## NCAS LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

- American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)
- Americans for the Arts (AftA)
- Arts Education Partnership (AEP)
- Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)
- Media Arts Committee of NCAS
- National Art Education Association (NAEA)
- National Association for Music Education (NAfME)
- National Dance Education Organization (NDEO)
- State Education Agency Directors of Arts Education (SEADAE)
- Young Audiences Arts for Learning (YA)

When attending a Midland Center for the Arts School Matinee and other tour or workshop opportunity, use these tools to align the subject matter to your curriculum in schools!



[midlandcenter.org](http://midlandcenter.org) / 989.631.8250

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