

## **2014-2015 Wharton Center Performances for Students**

**To order:** Complete the order form on the last page and send to Diane Constan, 5900 Laporte Drive, Lansing, MI 48911 no later than Monday, August 25. In order for us to be included in the school shows and receive the group discount, we have to reserve and pay for seats early in September. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

**Payment:** Payment is due with your order form. Prices for all seats (students and parents) are \$6 for CHESS members and \$7 for non-CHESS members. Payment can be submitted: (1) by check, payable to CHESS, with your order form or (2) sent via Paypal to CHESS before you submit your order form (from your Paypal account, send money to <resource@lansinghomeschoolers.com>, choose “I’m sending money to family or friends,” and put “Wharton Center tickets” as your subject -- CHESS can receive money from a bank account only, credit card payments are not accepted). Please note that all orders are non-refundable! If your plans change before the performance, you are welcome to make arrangements to give or sell your tickets to another family.

**Suggested age ranges:** The grade recommendations set by the theater are only a guideline. Please use your best judgment in choosing appropriate shows for your family. A good rule of thumb is that children should be within two grades of the recommended limits, especially on the younger end. Wharton Center policy states that children under age 4 will not be permitted at performances. Please arrange childcare for any children age 3 or under.

**Tickets:** Shortly after you submit your order, you will receive a confirmation via email stating the number of tickets you have purchased for each show. There are no actual tickets. Your name, along with the number of tickets you have purchased, goes on a group list. You simply check in with the CHESS host at the Wharton Center on the day of the show before entering the theater.

**Seat assignments:** Seats within the designated CHESS section are first-come, first-serve on the day of the performance. In the Pasant Theatre, our group is usually seated in the first few rows on the far right side of the stage. In the Great Hall, our seat assignments vary – sometimes the Wharton uses our group to “fill in” spaces between larger school groups and sometimes we are seated as a group in the center left section of the theater.

**Parking at Wharton Center:** Visitor parking is available in the Wharton Center parking ramp. The ramp is entered off Shaw Lane – the first driveway to the right (south side of the road) when approaching from the Shaw/Wilson intersection. Upon entering the driveway, bear to the left to get to the ramp. Cost is currently \$0.80 per half hour (subject to change). Payment is by cash or check only. Plan to bring enough money to pay for the length of your show plus one hour.

### **Day of performance guidelines:**

- Please arrive AT LEAST 15 minutes before the performance is to begin (AT LEAST 20 minutes for shows in the Great Hall). This allows our group to be seated about 10 minutes before show time. Although the Wharton Center occasionally holds performances for the larger school groups, they will not delay the start time for our group.
- Prepare your children for what they are going to see by reviewing proper theater behavior and, if desired, looking through the study guide provided (will be sent to you before the performance).
- If you have a last-minute change of plans, please contact the CHESS host (contact information will be given before the performance) ASAP. It helps greatly for us to be able to give accurate information to the Wharton Center staff.

**Questions:** If you have any questions about shows at the Wharton Center, contact Diane Constan (dianeconstan@gmail.com) or Tina Cleland (tcleland10@gmail.com).

## Descriptions of 2014-2015 Theater Productions for Students

“During the 2014-15 season, Michigan State University will join communities around the country to celebrate what is being called the 60/50 PROJECT. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision and the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act. These historic landmarks are, indeed, worthy of recognition and celebration. So, if there is a theme to this year’s ACT ONE SCHOOL SERIES selections, it’s the spirit of the 60/50 PROJECT.” ~ From the Wharton Center Act One School Series Brochure

### **Dance Theatre of Harlem**

Thursday, November 13 @ 10:00 AM \* Great Hall \* Grades 4-8

The internationally acclaimed Dance Theatre of Harlem celebrates over 45 years of creating vivid and ingenious forms of expression and bringing a contemporary flair to the ballet repertoire and to diverse international audiences. Arthur Mitchell, the first African American male principal dancer in a major U.S. ballet company, co-founded the company as a response to the growing need for more artistic opportunities for children, especially those living in Harlem. Since then, this multicultural dance ensemble has achieved extraordinary success with powerful messages of self-reliance, artistic relevance, and individual responsibility. This is a rare chance to see a hugely talented ensemble perform works from its lauded repertoire, selected with school audiences in mind.

Run time approximately one hour.

### **The Nutcracker Ballet** performed by Children’s Ballet Theatre

Monday, December 1 @ 10:00 AM \* Great Hall \* Grades 3-12

Come and be delighted by the sights and sounds of this ballet extravaganza performed by students of local ballet schools (and including some CHESS homeschooled students!). The story of a Victorian Christmas Eve with Clara and her nutcracker. A Lansing holiday tradition!

Run time approximately two hours.

### **Soul Street Dance Company**

Friday, December 5 @ 12:30 PM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades K-6

The delightful Soul Street Dance Company returns and takes off with their unique combination of entertainment and art featuring family-friendly hip-hop, classical and new dance styles with urban-fashioned costumes and comic delivery. Soul Street is youthful, risk-taking, new, different and absolutely unique. Attracting highly diverse audiences, they appeal to young and old, male and female, all ethnicities and cultures. The dancers will be bustin’ moves to the music of Leonard Bernstein; Earth, Wind, & Fire; Hacienda Propellerheads; Debussy; Kodo Drummers; Michael Jackson; Nat King Cole; Vivaldi and more!

Run time approximately one hour.

### **“Master Harold” ...and the boys**

Wednesday, January 28 @ 9:45 AM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades 9-12

Winner of the 1982 Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards, “*Master Harold*”...and the boys is playwright Athol Fugard’s (2011 Tony® Award winner for Lifetime Achievement) brilliant masterpiece set in 1950s apartheid South Africa. Willie and Sam, black waiters in a restaurant in Port Elizabeth, are discussing Willie’s upcoming dance competition when they are joined by Hally, the 17-year-old son of the restaurant owner. The three are familiar and affectionate. Willie and Sam are closer to Hally than he is to his own bigoted father. Tragically, an ugly outburst threatens to end their long friendship, uncovering the cruel power of language, revealing dark secrets and speaking words that cannot be unsaid. As the *Los Angeles Times* said, “the play’s potency is its universal invitation to face racism within ourselves as a measure of just how far we have to go.”

Run time approximately ninety minutes.

### **Cuentos: Tales from the Latino World** featuring David Gonzalez

Friday, February 6 @ 9:45 AM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades K-2

Friday, February 6 @ 12:30 PM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades 3-6

With colorful tales from the Caribbean, South America, Spain, and the Bronx, renowned storyteller David Gonzalez paints a vivid picture of the people and rich cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. From the enchanting Puerto Rican magician Milomaki to the friendship between young Delgadina and a magical snake, these stories are filled with memorable characters, fantastic plots, and positive messages. Spanish words spice up the stories and songs so that children can repeat and retain their sound and meaning. **Please note that this show will have two performances, geared to different age groups – choose the one most appropriate for your family.**

Run time approximately one hour

### **The Spirit of Harriet Tubman** featuring Leslie McCurdy

Thursday, February 19 @ 9:45 AM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades 4-8

For a breathtaking hour, Leslie McCurdy embodies the “spirit” of Harriet Tubman and shares Harriet’s empowering story woven with words said to have been Harriet’s own. Leslie takes the audience through Ms. Tubman’s childhood, her harrowing solo flight from slavery, her dedicated involvement with the Underground Railroad, her victorious rescue mission during the Civil War and her commitment to others in her later years. This inspiring performance displays the faith and conviction that drove Harriet Tubman to follow her dreams. Her spirit inspires young people to have the courage to do the same in envisioning their future.

Run time approximately one hour.

### **The Gruffalo’s Child** performed by Tall Stories Theatre Company of London, England

Friday, March 20 @ 12:30 PM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades K-3

The Gruffalo said that no Gruffalo should ever set foot in the deep dark wood...but one wild and windy night the Gruffalo’s child ignores her father’s warning and tiptoes out into the snow. After all, the Big Bad Mouse doesn’t really exist...does he? Tall Stories Theatre Company, the acclaimed creators of *The Gruffalo*, return with the musical sequel, *The Gruffalo’s Child*, based on Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler’s award-winning picture book. Tall Stories’ staging of this classic is “everything good children’s theatre should be” –The List.

Run time approximately one hour

### **Fly Guy and Other Stories** performed by Theatreworks USA

Friday, May 1 @ 12:30 PM \* Pasant Theatre \* Grades K-5

This inventive musical revue is based on favorite children’s books and may include *Fly Guy meets Fly Girl*, in which Fly Guy has met his match, and he is totally impressed...and totally smitten. In *Fluffy the Classroom Guinea Pig*, Fluffy enters a Best Pets Contest, but a pesky flea threatens to derail the entire competition. Three mice promise to be best friends forever in *Horace & Morris But Mostly Dolores*; and hungry and inquisitive Kitten has a busy night in *Kitten’s First Full Moon*. Lilly’s teacher is getting married in *Lilly’s Big Day*; and Princess Elizabeth comes to the rescue in *Paper Bag Princess*. Don’t miss these charming renditions of contemporary storybooks.

Run time approximately one hour.

**2014-2015 Wharton Center Tickets Purchased**  
(for your records)

<b><u>Show</u></b>	<b><u>Date &amp; Time</u></b>	<b><u># Tickets</u></b>
Dance Theatre of Harlem	Thursday, November 13, 10:00 AM	_____
Nutcracker	Monday, December 1, 10:00 AM	_____
Soul Street Dance Company	Friday, December 5, 12:30 PM	_____
“Master Harold” ...and the Boys	Wednesday, January 28, 9:45 AM	_____
Cuentos (grades K-2 performance)	Friday, February 6, 9:45 AM	_____
Cuentos (grades 3-6 performance)	Friday, February 6, 12:30 PM	_____
The Spirit of Harriet Tubman	Thursday, February 19, 9:45 AM	_____
The Gruffalo’s Child	Friday, March 20, 12:30 PM	_____
Fly Guy and Other Stories	Friday, May 1, 12:30 PM	_____

**2014-2015 Wharton Theater Ticket Reservation Form**

NAME: _____	
ADDRESS: _____	
CITY: _____	ZIP CODE: _____
PHONE: _____	E-MAIL: _____

<b>Wharton Productions 2014-2015</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Day/Date/Time</b>	<b># of Tickets</b>
Dance Theatre of Harlem	4-8	Thursday, November 13 @ 10:00 AM	
Nutcracker	3-12	Monday, December 1 @ 10:00 AM	
Soul Street Dance Company	K-6	Friday, December 5 @ 12:30 PM	
“Master Harold” ...and the boys	9-12	Wednesday, January 28 @ 9:45 AM	
Cuentos: Tales from the Latino World	K-2	Friday, February 6 @ 9:45 AM	
Cuentos: Tales from the Latino World	3-6	Friday, February 6 @ 12:30 PM	
The Spirit of Harriet Tubman	4-8	Thursday, February 19 @ 9:45 AM	
The Gruffalo’s Child	K-3	Friday, March 20 @ 12:30 PM	
Fly Guy and Other Stories	K-5	Friday, May 1 @ 12:30 PM	
<b>Dates and prices are subject to change. Tickets sold on a first-come basis. Subject to availability.</b>		<b>Total Number of Tickets</b>	<b>#</b>
		<b>(Non-member \$7) X \$6.00 each</b>	<b>X \$</b>
		<b>Total Payment Due</b>	<b>\$</b>

Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check enclosed (make payable to CHESS)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Sent payment to CHESS via Paypal (date paid: \_\_\_\_\_)

Send order to: Diane Constan, 5900 Laporte Drive, Lansing, MI 48911 **by Monday, August 25.**