

2015-2016 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 Saturday, August 15. In order for us to be included in the school shows and receive the group discount, we have to reserve and pay for seats in late August. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Payment: Payment is due with your order form. Prices for all seats (students and parents) are \$7 for CHESS members and \$8 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 when 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 2015-2016 Theater Productions for Students

“Educators are always looking for unique ways to engage their students and entice them into a higher order of thinking. This is exactly why the arts play such a vital role in the education of our young people. On so many levels, the arts are extraordinarily engaging and serve as a profound learning opportunity. The arts put the world in context, give perspective, invite discussion, provoke laughter (and boy, do we need that these days) and, most importantly, invite questions.”

~ From the Wharton Center Act One School Series Brochure

The Mayhem Poets

Friday, October 23 @ 12:30 PM * Pasant Theatre * Grades 4-6

The Mayhem Poets are on a mission to change your perception of what poetry is all about. These theatre-trained, comedically gifted, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend raw elements of hip hop, theatre, improvisation and stand-up comedy to tell powerful truths that leave audiences wanting more. Performance poetry is an accessible, appealing art form that can motivate students to foster an appreciation for both classic and contemporary poetic/theatrical expression. The Mayhem Poets' unique approach to spoken word has landed them feature spots on the *TODAY* show and *Eyewitness News* after winning first place and a grant for \$100k in the Microsoft Idea Wins Challenge in 2006. Since then, they've been touring internationally and spreading their mission to reshape society's view of poetry.

Run time approximately one hour.

The Shape of a Girl featuring Paige Hernandez

Wednesday, December 9 @ 9:45 AM * Pasant Theatre *
Grades 7-12

The Shape of a Girl returns by popular demand! Braidie, a teenager struggling both at home and in school, tells her story about making the tough choice between standing by while her best friend bullies another student or standing up for what's right. *The Shape of a Girl* is a dynamic one-woman play performed by extraordinary actress Paige Hernandez. The play examines the frightening realities of teenage relationships, aggression and a young woman's battle with inaction. Originally inspired by a 1997 murder of a Canadian high school student, playwright Joan MacLeod's beautiful and tightly written play looks at the way little incidents of childhood cruelty can escalate, and the role an individual can have in stopping it.

Run time approximately 75 minutes, including post-show Q&A with Paige Hernandez and experts on the issue of bullying.

Jaws, Paws and Claws! – Animal Wisdom Tales from Around the World featuring storyteller Luann Adams

Wednesday, January 20 @ 12:30 PM * Pasant Theatre * Grades K-3

Jaws, Paws and Claws! features crocodiles, tigers, bears, and more! Animals in folklore talk and teach us through their stories, the wisdom ancient peoples wished to pass to their listeners about how day came to follow night, how to resolve conflicts peacefully, and how the animals can teach human beings about appreciating one another. Gifted storyteller LuAnn Adams has created and performed thousands of storytelling programs for children and adults across the country, inspiring young people through multicultural stories that resonate in their lives as they come of age in the 21st century.

Run time approximately one hour.

The Monster Who Ate My Peas performed by Arts Power National Touring Theatre

Monday, February 1 @ 9:45 AM * Pasant Theatre * Grades K-3

Wednesday, March 16 @ 12:30 PM * Pasant Theatre * Grades K-3

Based on the multi-award story by Danny Schnitzlein, this musical tells the funny and poignant story of a young boy who doesn't want to eat his peas. When a fiendishly funny and crafty monster appears underneath his kitchen table, the boy is ready to make a deal: if the monster eats his peas, the boy will give the monster any of his possessions. First, it's a soccer ball, then a bike. But when the monster raises the stakes, will the boy refuse and make the difficult decision to face his fears? Children and adults alike will be entertained and engaged by this wonderfully written tale about the value of willpower. **Please note that this show will have two performances. Both performances are identical – please choose the one that fits your family's schedule.**

Run time approximately one hour

Peter Rabbit Tales: A Celebration of Beatrix Potter performed by Enchantment Theatre Company

Friday, February 26 @ 12:30 PM * Great Hall * Grades K-4

“The Tale of Peter Rabbit” has enchanted young audiences for over one hundred years with the exploits of a charming hero who, going against his mother's wishes, has adventures (and misadventures) in Mr. McGregor's garden. Beatrix Potter created an instant classic with the little blue-coated rabbit whom we recognize as both boy and rabbit, wild and civilized, and who has become an icon of childhood since he first hopped out of the pages of a storybook and into children's hearts. Celebrate Beatrix Potter's 150th birthday year with Enchantment Theatre Company's *Peter Rabbit Tales*. Using fantastic masks, whimsical puppets, gorgeous scenery and original music, the magic of Beatrix Potter comes to life onstage! Meet Peter Rabbit and Benjamin Bunny, Beatrix Potter's beloved characters, as they escape from Mr. McGregor, outfox Mr. Tod and rescue the Flopsy Bunnies from the disagreeable badger, Tommy Brock.

Run time approximately one hour.

Bash the Trash

Tuesday, May 3 @ 9:45 AM * Pasant Theatre * Grades K-6

Bash the Trash builds, performs and educates with musical instruments made from reused and repurposed materials. The group combines science, music and environmental awareness through their performances, programs and social initiatives, always focusing on how art and science work together. They are not just a percussion group that plays on odd things, but scientists and musicians who have invented and composed for an entire orchestra of strange-looking but great-sounding musical instruments, including brass, woodwinds, strings and percussion. Over the years, *Bash the Trash* has done some unique stuff. They've jammed with artists including Yo-Yo Ma and Max Roach; performed on straw oboes at Carnegie Hall; led environmental parades through Washington, D.C.; and annually reach out to over 50,000 students through live performances and web-based interaction.

Run time approximately one hour

NOTE: We are not offering a group trip to *Nutcracker* this year. Please watch the CHESS classifieds and Monday Memo this fall for how you can order tickets to *Nutcracker* for your family.

2015-2016 Wharton Center Tickets Purchased
(for your records)

<u>Show</u>	<u>Date & Time</u>	<u># Tickets</u>
The Mayhem Poets	Friday, October 23, 12:30 PM	_____
The Shape of a Girl	Wednesday, December 9, 9:45 AM	_____
Jaws, Paws and Claws	Wednesday, January 20, 12:30 PM	_____
The Monster Who Ate My Peas	Monday, February 1, 9:45 AM	_____
Peter Rabbit Tales	Friday, February 26, 12:30 PM	_____
The Monster Who Ate My Peas	Wednesday, March 16, 12:30 PM	_____
Bash the Trash	Tuesday, May 3, 9:45 AM	_____

2015-2016 Wharton Theater Ticket Reservation Form

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

Wharton Productions 2015-2016	Grade	Day/Date/Time	# of Tickets
The Mayhem Poets	4-6	Friday, October 23 @ 12:30 PM	
The Shape of a Girl	7-12	Wednesday, December 9 @ 9:45 AM	
Jaws, Paws and Claws	K-3	Wednesday, January 20 @ 12:30 PM	
The Monster Who Ate My Peas	K-3	Monday, February 1 @ 9:45 AM	
Peter Rabbit Tales If a pre-show educational program about this play was offered at 11:30 AM, would you attend?	K-4	Friday, February 26 @ 12:30 PM _____ Yes _____ No	
The Monster Who Ate My Peas	K-3	Wednesday, March 16 @ 12:30 PM	
Bash the Trash	K-6	Tuesday, May 3 @ 9:45 AM	
Dates and prices are subject to change. Tickets sold on a first-come basis. Subject to availability.		Total Number of Tickets	#
		(Non-member \$8) X \$7.00 each	X \$
		Total Payment Due	\$

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 Saturday, August 15.**