



Act One School Series performances provide the perfect opportunity to introduce young people to the performing arts. Shows are specifically designed by national and international touring youth theatre production companies to appeal to young audiences.

Price: \$6.00 per student and up to 4 teacher/chaperones per class can attend at no charge. You can hold a reservation with a \$20.00 refundable deposit.

Run times are approximately one hour. All dates, times and prices are subject to change.

For show information, contact Laurie Briseño at 517-884-3141 or [laurie.briseño@whartoncenter.com](mailto:laurie.briseño@whartoncenter.com).

To order tickets, contact Jenny Noteware at 231-941-8082 ext. 206 or [boxoffice@cityoperahouse.org](mailto:boxoffice@cityoperahouse.org).

## AESOP BOPS

Featuring master storyteller David Gonzalez and jazz virtuoso pianist Daniel Kelly

Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at 10:30AM • City Opera House • Grades Pre-K through 3

A zoo full of animals comes alive in this fast-paced, funny, and audience participation packed production of *Aesop Bops*. The show teaches children about sharing, friendship and literature through a potpourri of Aesop's classic stories including *The Lion and the Mouse*, *The Fisherman and His Wife*, and *The Turtle's Shell*. Nationally acclaimed master storyteller and performer David Gonzalez has performed from Broadway to London's West End.

"With speech, sound, mime, dance and above all, inspired imagination, Mr. Gonzalez has the gift of creating magical worlds and drawing his audience into them." – *The New York Times*

Curriculum connections: Communications, Literacy, Music, Performing Arts, Stories/Fables, Storytelling

Running time approximately one hour.

## MYTHOJAZZ

Featuring master storyteller David Gonzalez and jazz virtuoso pianist Daniel Kelly

Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 10:30AM • City Opera House • Grades 6 through 12

*MytholoJazz* adds a musical twist to Greek myth as David Gonzalez conjures a jazz-infused journey into the underworld, accompanied by the hard-hitting original compositions of jazz piano virtuoso Daniel Kelly. Loss, struggle, redemption, and artistic courage run through this production as Orpheus scats, swings and serenades his way through a gauntlet of ordeals in search of his beloved Eurydice. The antidote to Orpheus is "*Three Whiskers of the Lion*," a poignant Korean story of a stepmother's difficult, but rewarding journey in building a new family. Peppered with sassy street vernacular and modern-day references, Gonzalez makes this ancient story come vividly to life for contemporary youngsters.

Curriculum connections: Language Arts, Multicultural, Music, Myths, Storytelling

Running time approximately one hour.

## THEORY OF MIND

A play by Ken LaZebnik

Produced by the MSU Federal Credit Union Institute for Arts & Creativity at Wharton Center

Monday, March 19, 2012 at 10:45AM • City Opera House • Grades 7 through 12

*"I always try to act normal but my normal isn't always normal."*

*Theory of Mind* is a sensitive, yet un sentimental, portrait of a young man with Asperger's Syndrome. Bill is a college bound seventeen-year-old, equipped with scholastic brilliance, but low emotional intelligence; keen self awareness, yet an inability to read social cues; and a charming directness. He is also uncertain about relationships, anxious about dating, and prone to taking everything he hears literally. His outing with Hilo, a girl from his youth group, becomes a memorable, insightful look at tugs, shifts, and about faces found on the autism spectrum and challenges awaiting young people as they look to their uncertain futures.

Curriculum connections: Communications, Current Affairs, Life Skills, Performing Arts, Psychology, Science

Running time approximately one hour.

