

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY





## DEAR FRIENDS,

When I first came to Zoellner Arts Center as its new Executive Director in 2020, our stages were dark and it was unclear when we would resume live performances again. Now, over a year later, I am thrilled to write these words: We are back and excited to open our doors to you!

I can remember the first live concert that I attended as a young

boy in Chicago in the late 70s — *The Wiz*. It was great hearing the wonderful singing, seeing the beautiful costumes, and sharing a space with people who loved to see live arts and entertainment.

Now, you will have a story to tell about the first live performance you see at Zoellner Arts Center after the pandemic. Do you feel the excitement and anticipation moving in the air...will it be for when Acrobuffos' silks soar over the audience, Terence Blanchard brilliantly trumpets the music of Wayne Shorter, the 200 singers of Choral Arts harmonize to Tchaikovsky, or as everyone taps along to the Department of Theatre's uplifting presentation of *Godspell's* memorable songs?

We all want to come back together, reconnect and celebrate the arts through live performances. Are you ready? Are you excited?

We can't wait to see you-soon!

Mark Fitzgerald Wilson Executive Director

# **COVID-19 INFORMATION**

The health and wellness of our community is our top priority. Please review these guidelines.

#### **MASK POLICY**

In accordance with Lehigh University policy, masks are required at all times for all patrons and visitors regardless of vaccination status, for those aged 2 and up, in all indoor spaces at Zoellner Arts Center. **Patrons who do not comply with this policy will not be admitted or asked to leave.** 

Be advised that it is the responsibility of the ticket purchaser to communicate these rules to whomever they may be providing tickets.

For your information, artists who are fully vaccinated are permitted to remove their masks only while performing on stage. They will remain masked at all times otherwise.

#### **OUR STAFF IS THERE TO HELP**

Ushers and event staff are available to assist in any way they can. Please see Ticket Services if you want to change your seat.

#### **KEEP YOUR SEAT**

We strongly encourage you to remain in your seat unless you need to use the restrooms. Please remember that masks are mandatory at all times.

#### **FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE**

Food and beverage service is eliminated for the time being.

#### AT THE END OF THE SHOW

At the end of the performance, please allow extra time to exit in an orderly fashion and avoid crowding. Once you have exited the theater, we ask that you promptly move away from the doors.

> VIEW COVID-19 WEBSITE PAGE

# 2021 FALL SEASON



## **GUEST ARTISTS -**

Acrobuffos	FAMILY-FRIENDLY!	SUN SEP 26
Attacca Quartet		FRI OCT 1
The Weeklings		SAT OCT 9
Terence Blanchard		FRI OCT 15
Caleb Teicher & Company		FRI OCT 29
Million Dollar Quartet	BROADWAY	SAT NOV 6
Academy of Vocal Arts		SUN NOV 14
Westminster Concert Bell Choir		FRI DEC 17
MUSIC DEPARTM	ENT —	
Bill Warfield & The Hell's Kitchen Funk	Orchestra	SAT SEP 11
Lehigh University Faculty Recital		SUN SEP 19
		3011321 13
<b>Lehigh University Choral Arts</b>		OCT 23, 24
Lehigh University Choral Arts Lehigh University Jazz Orchestra		
	et	OCT 23, 24
Lehigh University Jazz Orchestra	et	OCT 23, 24 SAT OCT 30
Lehigh University Jazz Orchestra Lehigh University Faculty String Quart		OCT 23, 24 SAT OCT 30 SUN NOV 7
Lehigh University Jazz Orchestra  Lehigh University Faculty String Quarte  Lehigh University Philharmonic		OCT 23, 24 SAT OCT 30 SUN NOV 7 NOV 12, 13

## DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

**GPS** OCT 1-3, 6-9

**Open Up!** NOV 12-14, 17-19

# SEP 26 Sun 4pm | Baker Hall

# **ACROBUFFOS**

AIR PLAY



This engagement of Acrobuffos is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.













### **AIR PLAY PROGRAM**

#### Credits:

Writers and Creators Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone

Performers Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone

Kinetic Sculptor Daniel Wurtzel

Director West Hyler

Technical Director Todd Alan Little

Stage Manager Flora Vassar

Lighting Design Jeanne Koenig

Costumes Ashley Dunn Gatterdam

Sound Design Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone

Additional Sound Design Phil Ingle

Props Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone

Representation Boat Rocker Entertainment

and Aurora Nova

Air Play has been made possible with support from:

Playhouse Square New Victory Theater Zoellner Arts Center Flushing Town Hall



The 1PM performance of Acrobuffos is a sensory-friendly show specially adapted for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other sensory processing challenges. This was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors and community partners who recognize the importance of the arts and sensory-friendly theatre.

### NOTES FROM THE CREATORS

Our home of New York City has a long history of artists from different genres collaborating, most notably dancer Martha Graham and sculptor Isamu Noguchi. We followed suit, curious to see what combining our physical comedy with the air sculptures of Brooklyn based artist Daniel Wurtzel would create. Over five years we worked together, developing new sculptures and object manipulations to create the genre-bending *Air Play*.

Is *Air Play* theater, comedy, sculpture, or circus? Yes! Our show is rooted in our love of circus, clowns, aerialists, acrobats, and jugglers. Real people doing real things — defying gravity. If you tilt your head you'll see the circus in *Air Play* — the fabrics become our aerialists, helium balloons become juggling props, and the powerful fans gracefully defeat the same gravity circus performers work so hard to overcome.

Air Play is a visual poem, using no words. Just as a poem may have no literal story, Air Play is open to interpretation. We've performed across the USA and around the globe, from the southernmost opera house in the world in Chile, to London's Royal Festival Hall, Melbourne's State Theater, and Shanghai's Grand Theatre. Around the world, audiences tell us that the wonder and discovery of Air Play are bold reminders of their own childhood and growing up, of friendship, sibling rivalry, loss, and memory.

We invite you to breathe deeply, laugh, gasp, and find your own story.

-Seth and Christina

## **AIR PLAY TEAM**

The Acrobuffos — Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone — are the creators, writers, and performers of Air Play. Seth and Christina met at a circus in Afghanistan, became engaged while street performing in Scotland, married in China, and occasionally go home to New York City. Specializing in non-verbal physical theater and comedy, Seth and Christina have created seven shows together, competed in international circus festivals, performed in over 28 countries, headlined at the Big Apple Circus, and were even featured on a postage stamp. acrobuffos.com

Seth Bloom (creator and performer) grew up in India, Kenya, and Sri Lanka. Seth spent many years touring the USA as a professional juggler and silent comedian, and worked extensively in Afghanistan with the Mobile Mini Circus for Children. Seth studied circus clowning at Ringling Brothers Clown College, Lecoq theater at LISPA (MFA), and commedia at Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Seth has performed in 30 countries and 49 US States.

Christina Gelsone (creator and performer) grew up in Texas and has worked in 40 countries as a non-verbal clown, stilt walker, mask performer, juggler, puppeteer and acrobat. Previously a ballet dancer, Christina majored in Shakespeare at Princeton University and studied corporeal mime at

the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre. For years, Christina worked in multiple postwar zones with New York City-based Bond Street Theatre. Other professional adventures include starting a social circus program in Egypt and teaching at universities.

Daniel Wurtzel (air sculptor) is a New York artist best known for his kinetic sculptures using air and lightweight materials that fly. Daniel's sculptures have been featured on Broadway, Cirque du Soleil, the Olympics, and with theater directors such as Julie Taymor, Diane Paulus, Robert Lepage, and Zhang Yimou. Museums around the world, including the Musee Rodin, Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, and the Museu do Amanha in Rio de Janeiro, display Daniel's work, danielwurtzel.com

West Hyler (director) is a theater director equally at home in the circus or on Broadway. In circus, West was story writer and scene director for *Paramour*, Cirque du Soleil's first Broadway musical, and twice directed Big Apple Circus. As Associate Director for *Jersey Boys*, he staged the show on five continents. West is the Producing Artistic Director of the New York Musical Festival and continues to develop new work. westhyler.com

Jeanne Koenig (lighting designer) is Associate Lighting Designer for *The Lion King* and has worked worldwide with more than 20 companies and in 14 countries. Jeanne's other Associate Lighting Design works include Broadway productions of: *Side Show*, Twyla Tharp's *Movin' Out* and *Come Fly Away*, *Leap of Faith*, *Ragtime*, *The Times They Are A-Changin'*, *All Shook Up*, *Bells Are Ringing*, *Juan Darien* and *Hughie*.

Todd Alan Little (production manager) has production managed more than 40 musicals for the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut with several productions continuing to Broadway. Todd assisted the creation of critically-acclaimed Japanese Kabuki shows for Western audiences: Kabuki Medea, Kabuki Othello, and Kabuki MacBeth. Todd also managed a record-breaking around-the-world solo balloon flight and writes new plays.

Flora Vassar (stage manager and lighting supervisor) is a stage manager, lighting supervisor, and prop maker. Flora serves on the board of directors for The Resource Exchange, Philadelphia's creative reuse center, and helped pilot Pop Up Repair, a theater-based intervention in the cycle of use-and-discard consumer goods.

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# INFORMATION

# CAN'T MAKE IT? EXCHANGE OR DONATE YOUR TICKETS.

Contact us before the show to either **exchange** for another event, or convert the value of your tickets to a **charitable contribution** to Zoellner Arts Center. Friends may exchange for free, just \$1 per ticket for all others. Patrons are responsible for any difference in ticket price, exchanges must occur within event category (e.g., Music Dept. ticket for Music Dept. ticket). Excludes rental events. **No refunds.** 

**PARKING IS FREE** in the garage attached to the center for all Guest Artists, Notations, LU Music Dept. and Dept. of Theatre events (excluding Christmas Vespers in Packer Chapel and some school shows). Please note, there may be a parking charge for non-Zoellner sponsored events.

**GROUPS SAVE UP TO 15%** Just buy 10 or more tickets to a performance. Orders incur a one-time per-performance fee of \$6 per group order in lieu of per-ticket fees.

### **TAXES AND FEES**

Tickets ordered by phone or online carry fees ranging from \$3.00-\$8.50 per ticket. Tickets purchased in-person may carry fees of up to 50 cents per ticket. The City of Bethlehem Amusement tax is 5% on tickets above \$10, with a cap of \$2 per ticket. Additional delivery charges may apply, check online for details.

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# **HOUSE** NOTES

**PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT:** Check the "Know Before You Go" email sent to ticket holders the week of the show. Be sure to give Ticket Services your email.

PLEASE SILENCE ALL MOBILE DEVICES UPON ENTERING THE THEATRE.

**TO LEAVE THEATRES DURING PERFORMANCES,** use the rear doors, if you are able, to minimize disruption of performance.

### LATE SEATING OCCURS AT SUITABLE INTERVALS.

While waiting, you may watch performance on lobby monitors.

**LOST & FOUND:** Contact Ticket Services. Not responsible for lost or stolen items.

#### **FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:**

<u>Visit the Education page</u> on our website to learn which events are family friendly. Children under the age of four are not recommended, unless the performance is noted as a Family-Friendly event. Please no babes in arms.

**ADA SEATING** can be requested when purchasing tickets. ADA parking on levels 1 and 3 in the parking garage.

**FREE ASSISTIVE-LISTENING DEVICES** are available through Ticket Services.

**CLICK FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR TICKETS** 

All programs and artists are subject to change. In the event of a cancellation or material change, we will make every effort to contact all ticket holders. We must reserve the right to make any changes whatsoever in the event owing to any unforeseen or unavoidable cause or to cancel the event for any reason beyond our control without being liable to pay any ticket holder compensation for damages other than a ticket of comparable value to an event (based on availability).

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