

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists

the
LEGEND
of
**GEORGIA
McBRIDE**

written by
MATTHEW LOPEZ

directed by
ERIC SCHMIEDL

MAY 27 - JUNE 26, 2022 | STUDIO THEATER

17801 DETROIT AVENUE, LAKEWOOD, OH 44107
THEATER | EDUCATION | EXHIBITIONS | OUTREACH
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Act one begins



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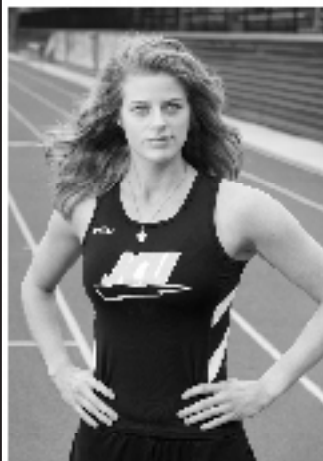


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“...All the best performers bring to their role something more, something different than what the author put on paper. That’s what makes theatre live. That’s why it persists.”

Stephen Sondheim

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Assistive Listening Devices @ BECK CENTER

Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs) amplify and clarify sound by cutting down or eliminating ambient noise. Assistive Listening Systems are installed in both the Senney Theater and the Studio Theater and were completely overhauled during the summer of 2021 to improve sound quality and performance. Headsets may be used at any seat and, with the upgrade, induction neck loops are also now available for patrons who use hearing aids and cochlear implants with a "T" switch. Ask your audiologist whether your hearing aid or cochlear implant has a "T" switch (telecoil) and how to use it with an assistive listening headset.

Who can use an Assistive Listening Device?

Everyone! While induction neck-loops are only compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants that include a "T" switch, the ear speaker can be used by anyone who wants a little volume boost.

Will the patrons next to me be disturbed by the Assistive Listening Device?

ALDs are designed to deliver sound directly to an individual and work using specific reserved radio frequencies so as to not conflict with any other devices or equipment in use by the theatre or our patrons. In addition, the ear speakers and the neck loops are designed to be as inconspicuous as possible. It's likely no one will even know you're using one.

Are Assistive Listening Devices available for every show and event at Beck Center?

YES! As long as the event is held inside the Senney or Studio Theater.

Do I need to request an Assistive Listening Device in advance?

You do not need to request an ALD in advance of arriving at the theatre and an ALD can be requested at any time during an event. ALDs are distributed on a first-come-first-served basis free of charge. You may request your ALD at the Customer Service desk in the Beck Center lobby.

Is there a cost for using an Assistive Listening Device?

No, ALDs are distributed free of charge on a first-come-first-served basis.

Do I need to sit in a specific place to use an Assistive Listening Device?

No, all of our ALDs will work from any seat in any of our three theatres.

Do you clean your Assistive Listening Devices?

Yes, we follow the manufacturer's maintenance recommendations and use antimicrobial wipes to clean all earpieces and neckloops when they are returned before placing them back into storage.

Do I need to arrive early to obtain an Assistive Listening Device?

While obtaining an ALD will not take very long, we strongly recommend that all patrons arrive AT LEAST 20 minutes before the performance to allow time to park, get to the theatre, and find your seat.

I have a hearing aid or cochlear implant, will an Assistive Listening Device work for me?

Induction neckloops are also now available for patrons who use hearing aids and cochlear implants with a "T" switch. Ask your audiologist whether your hearing aid or cochlear implant has a "T" switch (telecoil) and how to use it with an assistive listening headset. Patrons find this to be the best way to use the ALD's.

I have severe hearing loss, will an Assistive Listening Device work for me?

ALDs will generally help anyone who can understand normal conversation either without aid or with a hearing aid. For more severe hearing loss, an ALD alone may not be enough.

**Questions? Just call Customer Service at
216.521.2540 x10 or email boxoffice@beckcenter.org**

House Information

USE OF CAMERAS OR RECORDING DEVICES DURING THE PERFORMANCE IS PROHIBITED.

ACCESSIBILITY – Wheelchair ramps, an elevator, and accessible restrooms make all areas of Beck Center accommodating to all patrons. Theatergoers in wheelchairs should request seats in Row J.

BOX OFFICE HOURS – 12pm - 8pm Monday through Thursday; 12pm - 5pm Friday; 9am - 5pm Saturday; 12 pm - 4pm on Sundays during performance times; and open through intermission on performance dates. For ticket information visit beckcenter.org or call 216.521.2540 x10.

CELL PHONES – Please turn off all cell phones and audible devices as the sound and screen light are distracting to the audience and especially the cast. Texting is not permitted during performances. Copyrights strictly prohibit the photographing, audio or video recording of all productions. Cameras and cell phones may be confiscated.

LARGE PRINT PLAYBILLS – Are available upon request at our Customer Service desk.

FIRE – Exits indicated by red lights are the shortest route to safety. In case of an emergency, please walk to the nearest exit.

LOST & FOUND – Customer Service maintains a Lost & Found service as a courtesy to our patrons. Please report any misplaced items, lost or found, immediately.

PARKING – Convenient, free, on-site parking.

RECYCLING – Beck Center believes in recycling. If you decide to discard your playbill, bottles or cans, please do so in the designated recycling receptacles.

RESTROOMS – Restrooms are located on the ground floor near the garden court at the west end of the Galleria and on the second floor just outside the elevator.

SMOKING – Beck Center is a non-smoking facility. Smoking is permitted outdoors.

About Beck Center

Beck Center for the Arts is proud to be a part of Northeast Ohio's professional theater landscape. Like our colleagues Playhouse Square, Cleveland Play House, Dobama Theatre, and Great Lakes Theater, Beck Center has a letter of agreement with Actors' Equity Association. We hire professional actors from the Northeast Ohio region, including members of Actors' Equity. Specifically, we are a Small Professional Theater (SPT) based on the number of seats, number of our performances, and the maximum weekly hours of work we provide to actors. We are also a producing theater. We produce every show on our stages. Meaning we choose the play, cast and rehearse it, build the sets, props, and costumes, direct and perform the music, and design lights and sound, utilizing regional resources and talent, all for you, our valued patron of the arts. Thank you for supporting live theater!

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“Drag is a raised fist inside a sequined glove.”

Rexy, THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA McBRIDE

Like many, my introduction to drag was the artist Divine. It was the summer of 1988. I was in a theatre company in rural Illinois and one of the volunteers, I believe his name was Richard, invited a couple of us over for dinner. He lived in a meticulously decorated mobile home on a gentle slope surrounded by miles of cornfields. He provided the dinner. We brought the beer. As the sun faded we sat outside and talked about the production and theatre and our homes. Two of us were from Chicago. I was from Cleveland. Richard shared the challenges of a gay man living in a small rural community. It was 1988. He masked the pain with razor sharp wit and bravado and beer. Someone brought up Divine. I said, “Who’s Divine?” Richard’s face snapped in my direction. “I know exactly what we’re doing tonight.” We watched his VHS copy of the John Waters classic, PINK FLAMINGO, and laughed and screamed and laughed some more. It was great fun. The thing I remember most about that evening was the sense of community in that little mobile home in the middle of nowhere. It was irreverent. It was inclusive. It was fun. These are the aspects of drag culture that have touched me most deeply and are key components that everyone in our production of Matthew Lopez’s lovely play has embraced from the beginning. We explore. We laugh. We cheer. And our leader in this generous process has been Cleveland’s iconic drag performer Veranda L’Ni, our Director of Drag. Veranda has skillfully guided us as we’ve explored the protest and the pizzazz of drag always stating “This is who I am” and asking “Who are you?”

Eric Schmiedl

Beck Center for the Arts
17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, OH 44107

Lucinda B. Einhouse, President & CEO

Scott Spence, Artistic Director

Presented by special arrangement with Dramatists

the
LEGEND
of
**GEORGIA
McBRIDE**

written by
**MATTHEW
LOPEZ**

directed by
ERIC
SCHMIEDL

production stage manager
JOY
DeMARCO

set design by
TRAD
BURNS

costume design by
SUWATANA (PLA)
ROCKLAND

lighting design by
TRAD
BURNS

sound design by
ANGIE
HAYES

director of drag
VERANDA
L'NI

This play will be performed WITHOUT an intermission

Sponsored by



Video or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Actors and Stage Managers

Setting

Florida.

Cast of Characters

Jason Eno*Miss Tracy Mills
Matt Gittins* Casey/Georgia
Bryce Evan Lewis Jo
Brian Pedaci.....Eddie
Zak Tahsin Jason/Miss Anorexia Nervosa

* Actor appears courtesy of the Actors' Equity Association (AEA)

Production Staff

Artistic Director Scott Spence
Director Eric Schmiedl
Production Stage Manager Joy DeMarco
Assistant Stage Manager Jamie Benetto
Technical Director Mark DeVol
Associate Technical Director Simon Sedmak
Scenic Designer..... Trad Burns
Lighting Designer..... Trad Burns
Costume Designer Suwatana (Pla) Rockland
Sound Designer Angie Hayes
Wardrobe Supervisor..... Betty Pitcher
Follow Spot Mary Kahelin
Master Electrician/Asst. to Mr. Burns Andrew McDaniels
Stage Crew/Dressers..... Julia Aylward, Ryan Foster and Bob Wachsberger

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- modernize the lobby
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Future

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Who's Who in the Company



SCOTT SPENCE

(Artistic Director) is enjoying his 31st season at Beck Center! Since 1990, he has produced over 200 shows, directing over 100 himself. He is very

proud of the awards and acclamations Beck Center has received over the past decade, and is especially grateful for having won the Northern Ohio Live Award for Achievement in Theatre in 2006. Outside of these walls, Scott's directorial assignments have included a remounting of Beck Center for the Arts' hit production of ALTAR BOYZ at Playhouse Square's beautiful Hanna Theatre, DAS BARBECÜ at Opera Cleveland, THE LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO at Case Western Reserve University's Eldred Theatre, OH DAD POOR DAD.... at Cleveland State University (where he is an adjunct faculty member) Summer Stages, and NOISES OFF at both Weathervane Playhouse in Akron and Berea Summer Theatre. Scott holds an MFA in Directing from Western Illinois University and is a trained stage fight choreographer, having studied extensively with the SAFD. As always, he dedicates all the work he does to his two extraordinarily talented leading ladies, Rachel and Carleigh. You both amaze me every day.



ERIC SCHMIEDL

(Director) is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, and a graduate of Kent State University and the University of Hawai'i. As a playwright and director he

has worked with theatres around the country including the Denver Center for Performing Arts, the Cleveland Play House, the Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Cleveland Public Theatre, the Idaho Shakespeare Festival, the Oregon Children's Theatre, the Honolulu Theatre for Youth, the Lantern Theatre, and Great Lakes Theater. He has had the privilege of directing Beck Center productions including THE VELOCITY OF AUTUMN, THE YOUNG MAN FROM

ATLANTA, WAITING FOR GODOT, and KING LEAR. Eric is the recipient of a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, a Creative Workforce Fellowship, an Aurand Harris Fellowship, and a Sloan Foundation Commission. His work has also received three Edgerton Foundation New American Play Awards. Eric is a theatre artist with the Let It Ride program for youth and a faculty member at Spalding University in Louisville.



VERANDA L'NI (Director of Drag)

Cleveland's Tallest Drag Entertainer and creator of the Drag Pride flag. Veranda is an accomplished emcee, hostess of many shows,

including Drag Bingo. Her goal is to host her own game show. Veranda also helps raise awareness within the LGBTQIA community.

JOY DeMARCO (Production Stage Manager) Beck Center credits include MARY POPPINS, BILLY ELLIOT, RUTHLESS, CITY OF ANGELS, ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST, GYPSY, SHREK, and MATILDA. Joy also stage manages for Beck Center Youth Theatre. Other area stage management credits include PICASSO AT THE LAPIN AGILE and SIDE SHOW at Blank Canvas Theatre, MAN OF LA MANCHA and SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD at Academy for Dramatic Arts, and MY WAY, THE 39 STEPS, and THE ADDAMS FAMILY at Huntington Playhouse. Joy received a Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Certificate of Merit for her dramaturgy work. Endless thanks to her family for all of their support.

CAST



JASON ENO* (Miss Tracy Mills) is humbled and ecstatic to return to the Beck in **THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE!** Credits include *The First*

National Tour of *The Wedding Singer!* NYC: *FATTY FATTY NO FRIENDS!* A dark operetta, *Tink! The Musical* (NYMF) Cleveland/Regional Theatre Highlights: *BLUESMAN* (Breen Center) *ON THE LINE/NOTHING TO SEE HERE* (Rubber City Theatre) *JOSEPH.../Smokey Joe's Cafe* (Stages St. Louis) *ELF*, *The Full Monty* (Arkansas Repertory Theatre) *Spelling Bee* (Porthouse Theatre) and *Aida* (VMT). *BWMT ALUM.* Immense gratitude to this entire creative team and cast especially Veranda L'Ni. For my heart, my Mom! #LeadwithLove #BLM #216pride Enjoy the show!



MATT GITTINS* (Casey/Georgia) Recent credits include: *NEWSIES* (Jack Kelly) Porthouse Theater, *OKLAHOMA!* (Curly) Porthouse Theater, *ANYTHING*

GOES (Billy Crocker) Porthouse Theater, *HEARTBREAKERS IN HELL* (Glutton/Sky/David/Geryon) Rubber City Shakespeare, *9 TO 5* (Dwayne/Ensemble) Porthouse Theater, *DEATH OF A SALESMAN* (HAPPY) *FRENCH CREEK.*



BRYCE EVAN LEWIS (Jo) is excited to be on stage at the Beck Center for the first time. Most recently they appeared as Moxie at Cleveland Public Theatre for the

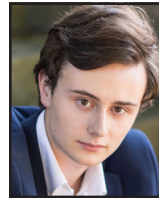
full length version of *THE WITCHES.* Other credits include *THE OBA ASKS FOR A MOUNTAIN* (Agiri Asasa) & *A SONG IN THE FLAME* (Leah) at

Talespinner Children's Theatre, and *WE WILL ROCK YOU* (Ensemble) at Blank Canvas Theatre. They'd like to thank their family, friends, and pets for their continued support. Most of all they'd like to thank the audience because without you all we'd just be talking to ourselves.



BRIAN PEDACI (Eddie) made his first Beck Center appearance in 1991's *HOW I GOT THAT STORY* but has more recently been seen in *GLENGARRY*

GLEN ROSS (Dave Moss), *WAITING FOR GODOT* (Pozzo), *AN ACT OF GOD* (Gabriel), *THE LITTLE MERMAID* (Grimsbey), *RACE* (Charles Strickland) and 33 *VARIATIONS* (Anton Diabelli). Brian has also appeared in productions at Cleveland Public Theater, Blank Canvas, Playwrights Local, Western Reserve Playhouse and the Cleveland Shakespeare Festival.



ZAK TAH SIN (Jason/ Miss Anorexia Nervosa) Zak is beyond excited to be a part of this company bringing to life these two fun and unique characters,

but even more excited to make his first proper return to the stage since Covid. Zak is currently a student at Cleveland State University's school of Film and Media arts where he studies acting and directing. After college Zak plans to continue his life long quest of making a career out of being an actor, director, writer, producer and animator and hopefully owning his own production studio one day. Some of Zak's previous acting credits include: *Macbeth* in *Macbeth*, *Wadsworth* in *Clue: On Stage*, *Jack* in *Into The Woods*, *Johnny Pateenmike* in *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, *Rodorigo* in *Othello*, *Tim* in *Noises Off*, *Orlando* in *As You Like It*, *Peter Shaw* in *Silent Sky*, and *Fredrick Frankenstein U/S* in *Young Frankenstein* just to name

a few. Zak would like to give a special thanks to his Mom and Dad for their constant support and encouragement in following his passion, as well as a special thanks to Derdriu Ring for introducing him to Eric and allowing him to discover this opportunity. He hopes everyone has fun at this show and is having a great summer!

PRODUCTION

TRAD BURNS (Scenic & Lighting Designer) has been designing scenery and lighting professionally since 1989 for theatre, dance, and amusement parks. Recent designs include ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S Nest at Beck Center for the Arts, the regional premiere of ROCK OF AGES at Cain Park. Upcoming designs include the premier of Devon Carney's ROMEO & JULIET for Kansas City Ballet, and world premier ballet, THE WONDERFUL WIZARD OF OZ choreographed by Septime Webre. His theatre designs include works for New York Theatre Workshop, The Public Theatre, Playwrights Horizons, HERE, Classic Stage Company, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Cleveland Public Theatre, Dobama Theatre, Beck Center for the Arts, and Cain Park. Trad spent over 20 years designing for theme parks around the world, including Cedar Point, Knott's Berry Farm, Walt Disney World, Disneyland, Disneyland Japan, Tokyo Disney Sea, and Universal Studios.

SUWATANA PLA ROCKLAND (Costume Designer) is delighted to join Beck Center for the Arts as a costume designer for The Legend of Georgia McBride. She is currently resident costume designer, professor, and costume shop supervisor at The College of Wooster. SUWATANA is originally from Thailand. In addition to her full-time employment, she finds time to freelance as a costume designer and guest lecturer for universities and theatres in the US and Thailand. Her credits included Emilie La Marquise Du

Chatelet, (2019 costume design winner of the Regional Awards for Broadway World), All Shook Up (Kent State), The Nerd (Kent State - Stark Campus), Shrek the musical, Sister Act, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Rock of Ages, and A Christmas Carol (The Players Guild Theatre), BKLYN the musical (Porthouse Theatre), The Member of the Wedding and The Legend of Georgia McBride (Beck Center of The Arts), and Cinderella (Ohio Light Opera).
www.plarocklanddesign.com

ANGIE HAYES (Sound Designer) has designed and mixed sound for productions at many area theaters, colleges, and high schools. She has also recorded and sound designed for several podcasts, including SIDEWALK, MUNCHEN, MN, and a radio play series for The Endangered Species Theatre Project of Frederick, MD. She has a Bachelor Degree in Music from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, with an emphasis in Recording Technology and Music Business.

BETTY PITCHER (Wardrobe Supervisor) is the Wardrobe Manager and Costume Rental Coordinator at the Beck Center. Her Beck Center credits include: MATILDA, SHREK, GYPSY, LITTLE MERMAID, TRIALS OF ROBIN HOOD, SEUSSICAL, CINDER-ELLA, LARAMIE PROJECT, ALL GREEK TO ME, SNOW WHITE'S ADVENTURES, and SCHOOL HOUSE ROCK LIVE. She has been a costume designer for more than 12 years and has created custom costume pieces for Beck Center for the Arts, Player's Guild, Chagrin Valley Little Theatre and North Canton Playhouse. Betty would like to thank her son, Jeremy for "volunteering" her to "help" all those years ago. Betty's Costume Creations & Rentals (BCCR)

*Members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Actors and Stage Managers

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The current listing includes donors of \$250 or more as of May 17, 2022. We greatly appreciate all of our supporters and apologize for any errors or omissions. For any corrections or more information on the benefits of these giving circles, please contact our Director of Development, Megan DeFranco, at mdefranco@beckcenter.org 216.521.2540 x18.

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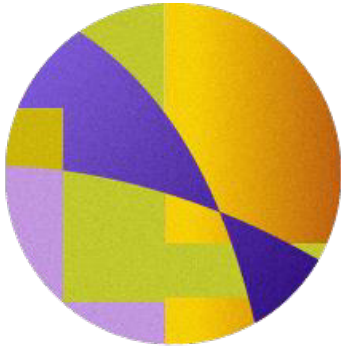
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Creating Our Future Campaign Contributors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following individuals, corporations, foundations, government grants and organizations that have contributed \$1,000 or more to Creating Our Future: The Campaign for Beck Center. For information on naming opportunities and touring our renovations, please contact our Director of Development, Megan DeFranco, at mdefranco@beckcenter.org. We have raised \$5.5M of our \$6.7M goal and have \$1.2M left to raise. We are eager to finish our fundraising in the near future so that our renovations can be complete in our 90th season in 2023. Please visit beckcenter.org/give for more information and make a lasting impact for families in our community.

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This is the first history book about **Beck Center for the Arts** covering the organization's nearly 90 years of existence.

Available for **\$29.95** exclusively on **Amazon.com**, the book is printed and delivered on-demand, with all profits going to an endowment for Beck Center for the Arts. This collectable coffee table paperback book is 196 pages in length, with full-color photos starting with an explanation about the country's "Little Theatre Movement," the early days of the organization as "The Guild of the Masques," to the evolution of Lakewood Little Theatre and the education programs, through today. Vital collaborations and historic news articles are included along with vibrant production shots of plays and musicals throughout the years. Stories of challenges and triumphs abound, and the birth of many of Beck Center's stars, especially in theater and dance, are regaled.



ALL EVENT LISTINGS JUNE 4 - 13, 2022

SUPER SATURDAY @ BECK CENTER will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2022, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. This free event invites young families to join in on the fun, creativity, and excitement at Beck Center as they explore music, dance, theater, and the visual arts at this free experience for children ages 1 to 8 years. Beck Center collaborates with community partners to bring the arts alive with featured musical guest **Kraig Brock**, a steel drum player and percussionist who will perform and share hands-on music-making experiences with all. Please **RSVP** for your free “ticket” today.

POETRY READING & STORYTELLING will take place Saturday, June 4, 2022 from 2:30-4:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public. All readers, poets, writers and listeners are welcome, as well as all ages and experience levels to take part in an afternoon of poetry and storytelling at Beck Center. Bring your favorite poem and/or your original poems to share. Numerous poetry texts and passages will be on hand for you to find a piece that may fit you as well if you choose to read a loud. All topics are welcome; for the purpose of this celebratory event we invite all participants to share a piece about diversity, and what that means to you. Please **RSVP** in advance for a timeslot during this free event at SignUpGenius.com.

‘THE LEGEND OF GEORGIA MCBRIDE,’ by Tony Award® winning playwright Latinx playwright **Matthew López**, directed by **Eric Schmedt**, with **Verauda L’Ni** serving as Director of Drag, runs May 27 to June 26, 2022 in the intimate Studio Theater as part of the 2021-2022 Professional Theater Season. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets range from \$10 Smart Seats @ to \$34 each, plus a \$3 per ticket service fee. Group and student discounts are available at 216-521-2540 x10. Tickets are on sale now. This production of *The Legend of Georgia McBride* will include a special post-show reception immediately after the matinee on Sunday, June 5, 2022 hosted with Plexus, The LGBT + Allied Chamber of Commerce for Greater Cleveland. With special guest Senator **Nickie Antonio**.

The Legend of Georgia McBride will include a free post show talk back discussion on Friday, June 10, 2022, immediately following the 7:30 performance. Attend and take part in a post-show discussion on the History of Drag which will be hosted by **Dr. Lady J** of the **W. 117 Foundation** and sponsored by the **LGBT Community Center of Cleveland**.

MADJAX DANCE COMPANY will perform on Sunday, June 12, 2022 at 2:30 PM. MadJax Dance Company creates movement full of power, passion, and reflection on the human experience. Furthering the community is as much a priority to MadJax Dance Company as getting on stage; making its mission to foster growth in others through training, performance, and interconnection. It is considered an all-level, multi-generational dance company allowing for inclusivity to all technical skill sets and abilities. The afternoon’s performance will be newly created pieces and dances from their ever-expanding repertoire. For tickets and more information please visit beckcenter.org.

WHEN ART COMES TO LIFE: A CONVERSATION WITH DONTÉ WOODS-SPILES AND RICHARD DUARTE BROWN on Monday, June 13 at 7:00 PM in the Studio Theater. Spend an evening in conversation with artists, authors, educators, and community influencers **Donté Woods-Spiles** and **Richard Duarte Brown** as they discuss their artistic relationship, overcoming creative differences, and finding ways to connect with everyone through art. At 14 years of age **Richard “Duarte” Brown** promised himself he’d become a world-renowned artist so he could support his family with finances and happiness. After 50 years, Duarte has painted and mentored many artists. In 2015 Duarte painted a picture of **Donté Woods-Spiles** entitled *Pass The Brush*, with hopes of passing on his legacy of artistic and community-based engagement to **Donté**. From TEDx talks, working with children, and sharing the power of the arts and involvement, both Duarte and **Donté** have brought painting to life in ways neither of expected. Mr. Brown will receive the Governor’s Awards for the Arts in Arts Education on May 11, 2022, and **Donté’s** film, *As A Man of Black* was screened at Sundance in 2021.

Students of all ages are welcome to begin Beck Center Summer Camps and classes starting June 13, 2022. All are invited to participate in the Community Art board on the theme of “Celebrating Diversity.”



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