2015

2015-2016 Season Brochure

Center for Performing Arts

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2015 - 2016 SEASON

MUSIC
dance
THEATRE
OPERA
FAMILY

Celebrating 20 Years of Great Entertainment

CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
Governors State University
For 20 years, the Center for Performing Arts has presented diverse, high quality and affordable cultural and arts education experiences for the Southland community.

With free parking, a convenient location accessible to major highways and presentations ranging from theatre and concerts to opera and family programs, the Center continues to serve as a gathering place for all generations.

Come see why we’ve been recognized as “the best of the Southland” for entertainment.

Season At A Glance

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

Sunday, September 20
4 p.m.
**Opera: Viva Italia!**

**OCTOBER 2015**

Friday, October 16
8 p.m.
**Whose Live Anyway?**

Saturday, October 17
11 a.m.
**Curious George**

Saturday, October 24
8 p.m.
**Philadanco Dance Company**

**NOVEMBER 2015**

Saturday, November 7
7:30 p.m.
**Fahrenheit 451**

Sunday, November 8
2 p.m.
**presented by TAPS**

Saturday, November 21
8 p.m.
**Chévere de Chicago**

**DECEMBER 2015**

Saturday, December 5
1 & 5 p.m.
**The Nutcracker**

Saturday, December 12
8 p.m.
**Take 6**

**JANUARY 2016**

Sunday, January 24
4 p.m.
**Opera: Seasons of Song**

Saturday, January 30
8 p.m.
**Aint’ Misbehavin’,**
**presented by Porchlight Theatre**

**FEBRUARY 2016**

Saturday, February 6
8 p.m.
**Spanish Dance Theater**

Saturday, February 20
8 p.m.
**Seussical The Musical**

**MARCH 2016**

Saturday, March 5
8 p.m.
**Sweet Home Chicago Blues**

**APRIL 2016**

Saturday, April 2
7:30 p.m.
**TAPS Spring Theatre Production**

Sunday, April 3
2 p.m.
**Ensemble Español**

Thursday, April 7
8 p.m.
**TAPS Dance**

**MAY 2016**

Sunday, May 1
2 p.m.
**SLATE**

*Southtown Star*
Dear Friends,

Welcome to Governors State University’s Center for Performing Arts as we celebrate our 20th anniversary season.

This season we present a stimulating variety of productions that can happen only when a public university works together with a vibrant community.

At GSU, you’ll get more than just a show. Immerse yourselves in the performing and visual arts. Stroll through the world-renowned Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park; visit the Visual Arts Gallery; enjoy literary discussions. You can sample Italian culinary and operatic treasures at our Viva Italia presentation, experience a night of Spanish culture with Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theatre, celebrate a longstanding love of Broadway musicals with Southland Area Theatre Ensemble, and ring in the holidays with Take 6 or The Nutcracker.

Our MADE IN CHICAGO series, generously supported by The Chicago Community Trust, highlights over 60 diverse artists in four signature events. You can enjoy the hottest Latin Jazz band, three generations of blues artists, passionate Bolero by Maurice Ravel, and award-winning Aint’ Misbehavin’.

GSU’s Theatre & Performance Studies (TAPS) program presents two literary masterpieces: Ray Bradbury’s Fahrenheit 451 in the fall, and Sarah Ruhl’s Eurydice in the spring.

A special thank you to the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read program for supporting an array of literacy programs associated with Fahrenheit 451. (See page 2 of this program for more information.)

Twenty years ago, a group of philanthropists in neighboring southland communities donated their time, talent, and resources to build the Center, which today illuminates the lives of over 70,000 patrons annually. Please consider honoring their dedication by making a contribution to support our Arts In Education program, which opens the theater free of charge to thousands of underserved students to see their first live performances. Your donation will provide life-changing experiences for students in our community.

The Center for Performing Arts is essential to our concept of living in the midst of art. As a full-service public university, GSU brings art to the public square for students, faculty, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Elaine P. Maimon, Ph.D.
President
Fahrenheit 451 is a powerful drama about the inner struggle of a firefighter who has worked as a civil servant for ten years burning books. Increasingly dissatisfied with his vegetable-like existence, he meets a 16-year old who sees the world differently. Now he must choose between the status quo and risking everything for the right to think.

November 7, 2015
7:30 p.m.
November 8, 2015
2 p.m.
In Eurydice, Sarah Ruhl reimagines the classic myth of Orpheus through the eyes of its heroine. Dying too young on her wedding day, Eurydice must journey to the underworld, where she reunites with her father and struggles to remember her lost love. With contemporary characters, ingenious plot twists, and breathtaking visual effects, the play is a fresh look at a timeless love story.

“Rhapsodically beautiful. A weird and wonderful new play” - an inexpressibly moving theatrical fable about love, loss and the pleasures and pains of memory. – The New York Times

GSU Dance Company’s spring production features an eclectic mix, including musical theater, jazz, afro-modern, hip-hop and contemporary styles.

CenterTickets.net • 708.235.2222
Join the cast from the Emmy-nominated TV Show Whose Line Is It Anyway for 90 minutes of hilarious improvised comedy and song. See some of your favorite Whose Line games plus some new ones. Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, Jeff B. Davis and Joel Murray leave audiences gasping with the very witty scenes they invent before your eyes. They might even ask you to get in on the act, so bring your suggestions and you might just find yourself on stage.

October 16, 2015
8 p.m.

CenterTickets.net
Philadanco at 45:
Celebrating Joan Myers Brown and James Brown - Pioneers in Dance and Music. This performance will include two incredible experiences. Philadanco will honor Joan Myers Brown’s phenomenal contribution to contemporary African-American dance by performing the company’s signature work “Enemy Behind the Gates,” by the exquisite dance maker and former Ailey dancer Christopher Huggins.

The program includes a selection of dances from the Apollo Theater’s 2013 production honoring the “king of funk” James Brown.

Excerpts from James Brown: Get on the Good Foot, A Celebration in Dance

October 24, 2015
8 p.m.

It is fun, it is funky, and when the tunes get rolling, we dare you to stay in your seat. Includes remixes of hits “Think (About It)”, “Get on the Good Foot”, and “Down and Out in New York City”. Choreography from Ronald K. Brown, Thang Dao, and Abdel Salaam.
As winners of 10 Grammy Awards and 10 Dove Awards, the multi-platinum selling a cappella group, Take 6, is beloved throughout the musical universe. These six virtuosic voices unite in crystal clear harmony for an intoxicating brew of gospel, jazz, R&B, and pop. With praise from such luminaries as Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Brian Wilson, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston, the multi-platinum selling sextet is recognized as the pre-eminent a capella group in the world.

Come early for a pre-show holiday cocktail party, and get your SIX SIP PASS of tasting martinis or wine!
February 20, 2016
8 p.m.

Warm up with Southland Area Theatre Ensemble, as your favorite performers take to the stage to celebrate the Broadway musicals The Center has produced over its first 20 years! A magical trip down ‘The Great White Way’ featuring music from *A Chorus Line, 42nd Street, Phantom, HAIR, Annie, Miss Saigon, Into the Woods, The King and I, Joseph, Ragtime, Company, In The Heights, Legally Blonde* and many more!

A delightfully lush evening highlighting iconic songs from legendary composers like Rodgers and Hammerstein, Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Jerry Herman, Marvin Hamlisch, Ahrens & Flaherty. One Night Only! A Broadway lover’s must see event!

CenterTickets.net
Chévere de Chicago

November 21, 2015
8 p.m.

Chévere is Chicago’s leading Latin/Jazz/Funk/Blues Band, mixing Afro-Cuban, Brazilian, Jazz, Blues, and just about everything else together into an exciting and unique collage of sound.

Alejo Poveda (Drums, percussion & leader), Howard Levy (Piano, harmonica, & music director), Ruben Alvarez (Timbales, percussion, drums & vocal), Chris “Chicago Hambone” Cameron (Hammond B-3 Organ, Fender Rhodes, Moog & keyboards), Ernie Denov (Guitar), Steve Eisen (Saxes, flute, & percussion), Eric Hochberg (Bass & vocal), Victor Garcia (Trumpet), Joe Rendon (Congas, percussion & vocal)

CenterTickets.net
Winner of the 2014 Joseph Jefferson Award for “Best Production – Revue,” “Best Direction – Revue” for Brenda Didier, “Artistic Specialization” for conductor/pianist Austin Cook and one of Porchlight’s biggest hits ever returns with the original cast! Set in the jazz age when nightspots like the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom were the playgrounds of high society, this tribute to the Harlem Renaissance is a rowdy, raunchy and humorous evening of fun that reflects an era of social change and Fats Waller’s view of life as a journey meant for pleasure and joy.
Go on an epic journey through Spain, with Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater’s celebration of Flamenco, classical, folkloric, and contemporary dance, set to traditional Spanish rhythms. In this 40th anniversary tribute, the company highlights Maurice Ravel’s most popular work, the Bolero, which premiered in Paris in 1929. Combining flamenco and contemporary dance styles, choreographer and rising star Ron de Jesús creates “Mil Clavos – One Thousand Nails.” Mil Clavos presents traditional Spanish dance in a modern context, referencing the clavos, or the nails that are pounded into the bottom of the dancer’s shoes. It affirms that the “nail” that holds time-honored traditions and modern sensibilities together is found in the artists’ dedication to their craft.

Credit: Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, Dame Libby Komaiko, Founder & Artistic Director, in residence at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago IL
Chicago blues is like no other. It has a distinctive soul that resonates with a city known for great music. Join three-time Grammy nominee BILLY BRANCH, formerly of the Willie Dixon All-Stars, and the “Big Blues Band” (Billy Branch-harmonica; Sumito Ariyoshi-keyboards; Andrew “Blaze” Thomas-drums; Dan Coscarelly – lead guitar, Marvin Little-bass, horns and singers) in an unforgettable celebration of sound. Billy Branch is the winner of multiple W.C.Handy Awards from the Blues Foundation in Memphis, an Emmy, an Addy Award and two Chicago Music awards. Rarely ever seen in the south suburbs, this lineup will be the hottest blues ticket in town!

March 5, 2016
8 p.m.

Special guests include:
Eddy” The Chief” Clearwater (guitar and vocal)
Jimmy Burns (guitar and vocal)
Eddie Shaw (saxophone, formerly of Howlin’ Wolfe)
Zora Young (vocal)
Demetria Taylor (daughter of the late Eddie Taylor)
Jamayah On Fire (guitar and vocal)
Tail Dragger

* artists subject to change

CenterTickets.net
December 5, 2015
1 and 5 p.m.

A magical tale featuring Tchaikovsky’s enchanting score, a **brand new set & costumes** – along with waltzing flowers, giant mice and the Sugar Plum Fairy. **A delightful holiday tradition for all ages!**
October 17, 2015
11 a.m.

Join the inquisitive, lovable little monkey Curious George, star of books, movies, and the award-winning PBS television show in this delightful new musical. With every swing and flip, George takes the audience through a fun filled adventure, in which he learns more about Rome, meatballs, and the “secret ingredient” to cooking than he’d ever imagined!

May 1, 2016
2 p.m.

Adapted from the Broadway musical, The Cat in the Hat is the host and emcee (and all-around mischief-maker) in this romp through the Seuss classics. Beloved classic characters find themselves intertwined in an incredible crazy-quilt adventure, in which the power of imagination and the most miraculous “think” ever save the day! Will the planet of Who survive?
Viva Italia!

September 20, 2015
4 p.m.

Travel with us to ITALY, the birthplace of opera, as we celebrate the wide array of Italian operatic music. Our program will feature five singers performing Act 3 of La Boheme, Puccini’s timeless love story, as well as Neapolitan songs, arias, duets and ensembles from operas by Verdi, Donizetti and Rossini. Featuring sopranos Desiree Hassler and Carla Janzen, mezzo soprano Pamela Williams, tenor John Concepcion and baritone Michael Cavalieri.

Seasons of Song

January 24, 2016
4 p.m.

Spring flowers, the vibrant colors of fall, sultry summer nights and romantic winter snowfall. The change of seasons has inspired composers for centuries. Explore the connection between music and nature, set against the spectrum of the four seasons.

CenterTickets.net • 708.235.2222
ARTS ON CAMPUS
GSU is a living-learning arts community.

The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park provides the Chicagoland region with a premier presentation of large-scale contemporary sculpture set in the midst of natural prairieland. Programs and events present the landscape and sculpture in new and unexpected ways, showcasing nature and monumental art. The Park is open dawn until dusk, 365 days a year. Call 708.534.4486 or email sculpture@govst.edu for details on tours, events. Visit www.govst.edu/sculpture.

The GSU Visual Arts Gallery is committed to creating an intellectually stimulating and visually compelling experience for the entire region through dynamic exhibitions of established, emerging and student artists’ work. Exhibitions such as those in the ”Ways of Making” series feature professional artists and curators. The “Art on Campus” program adorns the walls around campus with student and professional work. For information on complimentary receptions and artists talks, visit www.govst.edu/gallery.
To Place Your Ticket Order
CALL 708.235.2222 or stop by during
Box Office hours:
Mon-Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
The Box Office will stay open late on
Thursdays until 6 p.m.

Performance Days
The Box Office is open two hours prior
to curtain and through intermission.
Please note that one hour prior to curtain,
only tickets for current show will be available
at the box office window.

Online
Tickets are available 24 hours a day,
7 days a week through our website.
CenterTickets.net. Online fees apply.

Ticket Policies
All sales are final. There are no refunds or
exchanges on single tickets or group sales. All
dates and performances are subject to change.
Ticket exchange policy for Flex Package buyers
is at least 72 hours in advance. Ticket
protection may be purchased; ask the Box
office for details.

Discounted tickets are available
through the box office for:
• Seniors over 65
• Students with valid i.d.
• Group of 10 or more
Some seating restrictions and limited
quantities may apply. Discounted tickets are
not available online. Purchaser must inform
the box office that a discount may apply when
ordering. Discounts may not be combined.

Flex Package Benefits
For purchases of 4 or more shows, you’ll
receive:
• Priority seating
• Savings of up to 20% off regular priced
tickets
• Ticket exchange privileges
• Discounted prices on additional tickets
purchased throughout the season

Visit CenterTickets.net and sign up for
our email list for program updates and
exclusive offers and promotions.

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Like us on Facebook -
facebook.com/centeratgsu

Directions & Parking
From I-57, exit at Sauk Trail. Travel east ½
mile to Cicero Ave. (Route 50). Drive south to
University Parkway (Stuenkel Rd) and turn left.
The GSU entrance is located ½ mile on the
right. For more directions, visit our website at
Centertickets.net.

Parking is free.
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**Total Number of All Tickets and Total Cost**

# # $
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60484
www.CenterTickets.net
708.235.2222