



TENNESSEE
PERFORMING
ARTS
CENTER



SEASON FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

25-26 SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE



Reservations open August 4, 2025

TPAC.ORG/SeasonForYoungPeople



SEASON FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

For the 2025-26 school year, Tennessee Performing Arts Center offers exceptional performances for students, available in-person and digitally. Discover how the performing arts brings high quality instructional opportunities to inspire and connect, from theatre, music, and literature, to history, geography, and science.

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCES



FULL STEAM AHEAD LIVE!

AIR IS EVERYWHERE

October 21-24, 2025

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

October 27-31, 2025

BILLY GOATS GRUFF & OTHER TALES

November 6-7, 2025

123 ANDRÉS - ACTÍVATE

November 17-19, 2025

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

December 4, 5, 9-11, 2025

CUENTOS: TALES FROM THE LATINO WORLD

February 2-6, 2026

FISK JUBILEE SINGERS™

IN CONCERT

February 17, 2026

CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM: THE MUSICAL

February 26-27, 2026

LOOK OUT! SCIENCE IS COMING!

March 16-20, 2026

DIGITAL PERFORMANCES

WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN:

The 150th Anniversary of the Fisk Jubilee Singers®

September 2, 2025 - February 27, 2026

AIR PLAY

September 15 - October 3, 2025

123 ANDRÉS - AROUND THE AMERICAS

October 27 - November 21, 2025

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A Solo Performance by Mark Cabus

November 17 - December 12, 2025

VELVETEEN: A NEW MUSICAL

February 2-27, 2026

STAND

February 2-27, 2026

DR. KABOOM'S LOOK OUT! SCIENCE IS COMING!

February 2, 2026 - May 1, 2026

HAVANA HOP: A CHILDREN'S TALE OF CULTURE AND CONFIDENCE!

March 2 - April 3, 2026

IN SCHOOL TOUR

A Christmas Carol

November 24 - December 12, 2025

2025-26 School Year

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- TENNESSEE
STEAM!
FESTIVAL
OF BRILLIANCE

GRADES
3-6

FULL STEAM AHEAD LIVE! VOL. 1: AIR IS EVERYWHERE

OCT 21-24, 2025

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE

Are you ready for some hair-raising science and fun? Join Mister C for an amazing day of learning in the lab as he explores all things AIR while integrating STEM into everyday life. Kevin Cornell, ED.S. the creator of "Mister C", has spent more than 20 years as a classroom teacher, principal, curriculum specialist and district administrator. His specialty is knowing how to inspire and engage learners of all ages using humor, media, and the engineering design process to make the ordinary EXTRAordinary!

Run Time: 65 minutes
- GRADES**
3-6

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

OCT 27-31, 2025

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE

Journey into the Wild Wood on this multi-media adventure based on Kenneth Grahame's beloved children's novel. *Wind in the Willows* mixes classic storytelling with projected illustrations to tell the trials of Mole and Rat on an all-night race against time as they venture through the hidden wonders of the forest to find the young Otter before it's too late. Join in an imaginative journey through the sights and sounds of the forest as award winning actor Noel Gaulin plays all the fabled characters.

Run Time: 55 minutes
- GRADES**
PREK-2

BILLY GOATS GRUFF & OTHER TALES

NOV 6-7, 2025

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE

Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia's newest production features original puppetry and narration in a fresh reimagining of three cherished children's stories—Goldilocks and the Three Bears, The Three Little Pigs, and The Three *Billy Goats Gruff*. Filled with adventure, humor, and heroism, the story follows a brave raccoon and clever mouse who are on a journey to collect treasure. Along the way, they unknowingly help the goats, bears, and pigs, preventing disaster—without any of the animals ever encountering a true villain. This imaginative retelling seamlessly interweaves three classic tales into a heartwarming adventure that celebrates friendship and courage.

Run Time: 60 minutes
- GRADES**
PREK-3

123 ANDRÉS ACTÍVATE

NOV 17-19, 2025

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE

Packed with positive vibes and high-energy Latin beats, *Actívate* features the Grammy Award-winning duo, 123 Andrés, for catchy songs and lively dual-language performances, and their educational YouTube channel with over 6 million subscribers. "Actívate" means "get active," and true to that spirit, the audience participates every step of the way- helping recover some missing birds, untangling hilarious mishaps, contributing ideas, and more. *Actívate* promotes self-esteem and creativity, blending Spanish language, rhythms, and lots of opportunities to move.

Run Time: 60 minutes
- GRADES**
8-12

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

DEC 4, 5, 9-11, 2025

IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE

One fateful Christmas Eve, George Bailey stands on the edge of despair—until an angel named Clarence takes him on a journey through a world where he never existed. What he discovers is nothing short of a miracle. *It's a Wonderful Life* is a heartwarming tale about purpose, community, and the extraordinary impact of an ordinary life. This heartwarming stage adaptation of the classic holiday film reminds us that no one is truly alone and that the smallest acts of kindness can make the biggest difference. Directed by Alica Fuss, performed by Nashville Repertory Theatre.

Performance includes one 15-minute intermission & Mature Content.

Run Time: 2hr 45 minutes with intermission

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- GRADES**
2-5

CUENTOS: TALES FROM THE LATINO WORLD
IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE
Storyteller David Gonzales, accompanied by live piano, paints a vivid picture of the people and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world with colorful tales from all over the globe! From the silly antics of the Puerto Rican anti-hero "Juan Bobo" to the mysterious dealings and powers of the Orishas in a suite of Afro-Cuban stories, these tales are filled with fun characters, plots, and positive messages. Spanish language words are sprinkled throughout the stories and songs in such a way that young audiences can repeat and retain their sound and meaning.
Run Time: 60 minutes

FEB 2-6, 2026
- GRADES**
5-12

FISK JUBILEE SINGERS® In Concert
IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE
Experience the beauty and legacy of the world-renowned Fisk Jubilee Singers® in a blissful choral performance under the direction of Dr. G. Preston Wilson. The a cappella choral ensemble brings its storied heritage and youthful vitality to the TPAC stage for a meaningful connection with student audiences. The concert includes traditional Negro spirituals introduced by Dr. Wilson, followed by an interactive discussion with the dedicated and talented ensemble.
Run Time: 60 minutes

FEB 17, 2026
- GRADES**
PREK-2

CHICKA CHICKA BOOM BOOM: THE MUSICAL
IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE
Join us for an unforgettable adventure with *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom: The Musical*, where the beloved children's book springs to life on stage! This production features vibrant songs, energetic dancing, and whimsical puppets, ensuring a joyous experience for kids and adults alike. With plenty of audience interaction and lively performances, this show is not just entertainment, it's a fantastic way for children to explore sound, rhythm, and reading in a fun, engaging spectacle.
Run Time: 60 minutes

FEB 26-27, 2026
- GRADES**
3-8

LOOK OUT! SCIENCE IS COMING!
IN-PERSON PERFORMANCE
Meet the one and only Doktor Kaboom in a lively and educational exploration of the modern scientific method! Doktor Kaboom brings his signature sense of humor and deep respect for learning with spectacular demonstrations of the physical sciences. Topics covered include: safety; pressure and force; simple machines; velocity; application of science to everyday life; the scientific method; multiple experimentation; mass; air pressure; demonstration vs. experimentation and more!
Run Time: 60 minutes

MAR 16-20, 2026

- GRADES**
5-12

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
IN-SCHOOL TOUR
In his action-packed staging of Charles Dickens' classic, Mark Cabus plays eighteen different characters at a whirlwind pace. The result is an acting tour-de-force as he vividly recreates the haunting, compelling, and often humorous novella. His high-energy performance includes audience participation to capture student interest and imagination from start to finish. Using only Dickens' text, the performance brings energy and joy to the classic story's enduring message.
IN SCHOOL TOUR Morning and afternoon performances are available and can take place in the school auditorium or library or other suitable space with a maximum audience of 250. Limited regional availability. Flat fee is \$900.
Run Time: 75 minutes

NOV 24 - DEC 12, 2025

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- GRADES**
5-12

**WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN:
The 150th Anniversary of the Fisk Jubilee Singers®**
DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
Former director Dr. Paul T. Kwami and his students pay tribute to the original nine members of the Fisk Jubilee Singers®, who were organized as a choral ensemble in 1871. As today's singers explore the stories of the trailblazers who paved the way, they reflect on their roles as students and preservers of the choral group's rich legacy. Inviting viewers to learn the significance of the Negro Spirituals and their value in today's culture, the film honors the 150th Anniversary of the Fisk Jubilee Singers®.

Created in collaboration with Dr. Kwami and director Jon Royal, the film is produced by Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC).

Run Time: 60 minutes

SEP 2, 2025 - FEB 27, 2026
- GRADES**
2-12

AIR PLAY
DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
In this filmed performance, umbrellas fly, colorful fabrics soar, balloons swallow people, and snow swirls, filling the stage. With stunning images and gales of laughter, *Air Play* delights with comedy, sculpture, circus, and theater. Viewing this performance opens opportunities to explore air movement, color, methods of non-verbal communication, partnership and kindness. Created by circus performers Seth Bloom and Christina Gelsone in collaboration with kinetic sculptor Daniel Wurtzel, *Air Play* was devised through years of experimentation with simple materials, movement, and technology.

Run Time: 60 minutes

SEP 15 - OCT 3, 2025
- GRADES**
PREK-3

123 ANDRÉS - AROUND THE AMERICAS
DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
¡Bienvenido a las Américas! Let's travel *Around the Americas* virtually with Andrés and Christina to meet a musician in different countries of Latin America: Argentina, Mexico, Guatemala, and Puerto Rico. At each stop, friends will teach us about the style of music they play. This four-episode program produced by 123 Andrés includes challenges that your students can do -- such as learning a dance step or creating an instrument with household objects.

Run Time: Four 20-min episodes

OCT 27 - NOV 21, 2025
- GRADES**
5-12

**CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL:
A SOLO PERFORMANCE BY MARK CABUS**
DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
Filmed in TPAC's Polk Theater, actor Mark Cabus portrays eighteen different characters in Dickens' classic tale. This original interpretation vividly recreates the haunting; compelling and often humorous novella celebrated worldwide for its literary and theatrical impact.

A Christmas Carol is produced by Mark Cabus and presented by TPAC Education.

Run Time: 75 minutes

NOV 17 - DEC 12, 2025
- GRADES**
PREK-4

VELVETEEN: A NEW MUSICAL
DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
Inspired by *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams, the magical new musical *Velveteen* introduces us to Lulu, her Gran, her beloved toys, and a nest of legendary rabbits. Lulu confronts big change, having just moved in with her Gran. To make things a little more comfortable, Gran gives her a velveteen rabbit – just like the one her mom had. Velveteen and Lulu form a special bond, making some of the other toys jealous and leaving Velveteen wishing he could live outside with the "real" rabbits he meets through the window. Ultimately, Velveteen discovers the transformative power of loving relationships and what it means to be real.

Run Time: 48 minutes

FEB 2-27, 2026

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| GRADES | STAND | FEB 2-27, 2026 |
| 9-12 | DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
The true story of STAND is a powerful play now recorded on film. Inspired by playwright Jim Reyland's experiences as a volunteer for Nashville's Room at the Inn, the play tells the story of his friendship with a man who spent some 20 years on the streets. Starring Nashville-based actors Barry Scott and Chip Arnold, the production examines addiction and the complicated circumstances around homelessness. <i>Performance includes Mature Content.</i>

Run Time: 75 minutes | |
| GRADES | LOOK OUT! SCIENCE IS COMING! | FEB 2 - MAY 1, 2026 |
| 3-8 | DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
A digital performance in which the good Doktor takes his audience on an educational tour of the modern scientific method. Doktor Kaboom! weaves in humor and respect while demonstrating spectacular applications of the physical sciences. Topics covered include: safety; pressure and force; simple machines; velocity; application of science to everyday life; the scientific method; multiple experimentation; mass; air pressure; demonstration vs. experimentation and more!

Run Time: 32 minutes | |
| GRADES | HAVANA HOP: A CHILDREN'S TALE OF CULTURE AND CONFIDENCE! | MAR 2 - APR 3, 2026 |
| 3-8 | DIGITAL PERFORMANCE
Young Yeila dreams of being a superstar, but her lack of confidence gives her awful stage fright. With advice from her mother and mentors, Yeila begins her journey to find her roots, get confidence and be amazing! Journey with Yeila as she discovers the fun of her multi-cultural heritage. The audience gets to dance along in this dynamic participation play where one actress creates three generations of lively women.

Run Time: 60 minutes | |