

# Electronic Field Trip to the *Kentucky Center for the Arts*

## Introduction

Join KET for a fast-paced *Electronic Field Trip to the Kentucky Center for the Arts*, a tour of Kentucky's largest arts center. During the 60-minute program, our hosts, high school students Ashley Michael and Charlette Speigner, explore the evolution of a performance, taking us back in time to the initial planning of a production, then moving backstage as the rehearsal and preparations begin.

Located in Louisville, the Kentucky Center for the Arts (KCA) is a modern building with multiple theater spaces, presenting diverse, multicultural theater, dance and music performances. Ashley and Charlette introduce us to musicians, actors and dancers as well as the technical crew and KCA staff that support their performances. Later in the trip they reflect on their own experiences as actors—both attend the Youth Performing Arts School in Louisville—and audience.

As the field trip continues to describe the scope of the KCA and the work involved in putting on a show, the tension builds to opening night where the energy and magic of live performance unfold. By the field trip's conclusion, we've had an opportunity to visit with the Louisville Orchestra, the Louisville Ballet, Walden Theatre, jazz artist Cheryl Skinner, Stage One, and the Broadway Series production of "Annie." Enjoy the tour!

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### Special Thanks to:

Becky Bingman, Kentucky Collaborative for Teaching and Learning  
Debbie Shannon, KCA Assistant Vice President and Director of Education  
Ashley Michael and Charlette Speigner, Program Hosts  
The performers, staff, and others who allowed KET to videotape their work for this field trip

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## Program Outline

Here is an outline of the field trip, provided to help you use the program effectively with your students. Each of the program's three segments—or "Acts"—link together to show the skills and talents that go into creating a live performance. But the program was also designed so that each segment could be used and discussed separately. Each "Act" is "color-coded" for teacher convenience: Act 1 graphics and backgrounds are blue; Act 2 in green; and Act 3 in purple. Bulleted points at the end of each section reinforce the content covered.

<b>Act 1:</b>		
<b>Opening</b>	(all times are approximate)	1 1/2 minutes
<b>What is an Arts Center?</b>		3 minutes
Interview with Michael Hardy, President of KCA		
<b>How a production gets started:</b>		11 minutes
Interview with Nancy Sexton, Walden Theatre, and a look at elements of production Rehearsals, visit with Cheryl Skinner, Stage One, the Louisville Orchestra, the Broadway Series "Annie," and the Louisville Ballet		
<b>Diversity of art forms:</b>		3 1/2 minutes
A tour of the three performance venues at the KCA Tour of the sculpture collection in the lobby and overview of the diversity of productions at the KCA		
<b>Act 2:</b>		
<b>Load in:</b>		4 1/2 minutes
Sets, props, costumes arrive for the production of "Annie" and Stage One Helping Technology that is part of a modern theatre		
<b>Revisit the performances</b>		7 minutes
<b>Careers in performance:</b>		3 minutes
Interviews with Producer, Stage Manager, Make-up Artist, and Creative Director		
<b>How to get involved:</b>		2 minutes
Personal experiences as actor and audience		
<b>Act 3:</b>		
<b>Opening night:</b>		16 minutes
Out front as audience arrives Backstage jitters and interviews before the performance Scenes from Cheryl Skinner, Walden Theatre, Louisville Ballet, Stage One, and "Annie" The Payoff		
<b>Closing and review</b>		2 minutes

## **Connections to Academic Expectations & Core Content**

The *Electronic Field Trip to the Kentucky Center for the Arts* can be used to address a variety of Kentucky Academic Expectations. We see how artists, performers, and technicians **make sense of ideas and communicate ideas with the visual arts, music and movement** (1.13, 1.14, 1.15).

The program itself can be used as a prompt for discussion, enabling students to view and use the program as a way to **analyze their own and others' artistic products and performances** (2.23), to **show they understand how time, place, and society influence the arts** (2.25), and to **recognize that although people are different, they share some common experiences and attitudes** (2.26).

Hopefully viewing and discussing the program will also help lead students to a better understanding of and **appreciation for creativity and the contributions of the arts** (2.24).

Specific Core Content for Arts and Humanities Assessment addressed during the field trip fall generally in the category of **Responding** and **Skills and Knowledge**. Here is a sampling of how the program can be used to address specific arts core content:

### **In Theater**

- ⇒ to describe and compare the interactions among performing and visual artists and their audiences in theatre, musical theatre, dance, music, and visual arts.
- ⇒ to know the jobs associated with theatre and the types of training and skills necessary for each.
- ⇒ to know the functions and interrelated nature of scenery, props, lighting, sound, costumes, and makeup in creating an environment appropriate for drama.

### **In Dance**

- ⇒ to describe and analyze the effect of music, lighting, and props/scenery have on the choreographer's idea of dance.

***The stage is not merely the meeting place of all the arts,  
but is also the return of art to life.***

***-Oscar Wilde***

## About the *Kentucky Center for the Arts*

The Kentucky Center for the Arts opened in November of 1993 to promote the growth and development of Louisville in the arts and tourism industries. It was built with money from both private contributions and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Private citizens, corporations, foundations and government agencies continue to give funds to support the Kentucky Center for the Arts.

Caudill, Rowlett & Scott, an architectural firm from Houston, TX, designed the building with assistance from the Design and Construction Department of Humana, Inc. and special consultants in theater design and acoustics.

The Kentucky Center for the Arts has three theaters: the Whitney Hall, seating 2,406; the Bomhard Theater, seating 622; and the Boyd Martin Experimental (MeX) Theater, seating 90 to 135 people. Other spaces in the building are used to hold parties, press conferences, dinners and exhibits as well as arts events. Every year, over 500,000 people visit the KCA.

The five "resident groups" that perform at the Center regularly are Stage One, professional theater for young audiences; the Broadway Series; the Louisville Ballet; The Louisville Orchestra; and the Kentucky Opera. In addition to resident groups, Center staff schedule a diverse array of programs from around the world. There is also a collection of 20th century artwork on permanent display at the Center.

The Kentucky Center for the Arts has a statewide mission that it takes very seriously. It reaches various parts of the state through partnering with arts and education resources around the state, by putting some of their shows on public radio and KET, and by sharing the expertise of their staff with others in the state. In addition, the education department has programs that serve young people from all over the Commonwealth, from Paducah to Ashland and everywhere in-between.

*We look at dance to impart the sensation of living  
in an affirmation of life, to energize the spectator into  
keener awareness of the vigor, the mystery, the humor,  
the variety, and the wonder of life.*

*-Martha Graham*

## Careers at the *Kentucky Center for the Arts*

Many people are employed at the Kentucky Center for the Arts (KCA). It takes a wide range of skills to envision, organize and produce the diverse programming at the Center. In addition to the work involved in staging the performances, many jobs many jobs are needed to support the facility's operation. The following list of job categories will give you an idea about the kinds of work and the skills needed to support KCA activities.

### **Audience Relations**

Audience Relations is involved in providing quality service to all Kentucky Center patrons. Their responsibilities include serving as liaison among patrons, renters and other KCA departments at the time of a performance; managing a staff of 700 volunteers; developing and implementing accommodations for patrons with disabilities; and assuring patrons' safety in the event of an emergency.

### **Custodial**

With over 500 performances and 500,000 people coming to the KCA, the custodial staff has the important job of keeping the building clean and inviting. They are responsible for the public lobby and theater areas as well as offices and backstage areas.

### **Development**

The purchase of tickets does not cover all the costs of operating the KCA. The KCA is a non-profit organization that must raise additional funds to finance all the programming. The people working in Development must have good writing and people skills; their job is to seek funding from individual donors, corporations, foundations, and public agencies.

### **Education**

The KCA is involved in many aspects of education, with programs operating at the Center as well as across the state. Programs include the Governor's School for the Arts, Arts Education Showcases, and the Kentucky Institute for Arts in Education. The people who work in this department have a broad knowledge of the arts and education.

### **Executive**

This department is responsible for the overall management of the Center. They are the people who guide the organization in its mission of providing an opportunity for the public to view diverse high quality performance arts both in Louisville and throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

### **Finance**

Within any organization, no matter what size, the finance department is critical to that organization's success. They are responsible for all aspects of taking in and paying out money.

## The Kentucky Center for the Arts Art Collection

The Kentucky Center for the Arts has a distinguished collection of 20th century artworks made possible by generous donations. Large scale sculptures can be viewed both outside and in the main lobby at no charge. In the front of the KCA facing Main Street are three sculptures.

First trained as an engineer, **Alexander Calder** was a self-taught sculptor. Perhaps best known for his suspended, wind-driven, abstract forms called "mobiles," the *Red Feather* is one of his later works called "stables." Constructed of heavy gauge steel and firmly bolted to the ground, the perpendicular painted red and black planes create an illusion of motion that is typical of Calder's work.

Alexander Calder (1908-1976, American)

*The Red Feather*, 1975 Black and red painted steel (11' x 6'3" x 11'2")

*Faribolus* and *Perceval* are sculptures by artist **Jean Dubuffet** described as *Hourloupes*. Dubuffet was a prolific and inventive artist who fought against the pretensions of a too-cultured society. Inspired by doodles in red ballpoint pen done while on the phone, these jigsaw-like figures are boisterous and fun.

Jean Dubuffet (1908-1985, French)

*Faribolus*, 1973-1982 Epoxy painted polyurethane, stainless steel armature (126" x 82" x 44")

*Perceval*, 1973-1982 Epoxy painted polyurethane, stainless steel armature (119" x 82" x 44")

On the Belvedere side of the KCA is the largest sculpture in the KCA Collection.

*Gracehoper* is an abstract construction of geometric shapes large enough to walk under and through. Artist **Tony Smith**, an apprentice to Frank Lloyd Wright, wanted his sculpture to serve as springboard for the imagination. The complexity and scale of the sculpture allows the viewer to make an infinite number of associations based on their own experiences and invent their own meaning. The title *Gracehoper* is from a line of poetry by James Joyce.

Tony Smith (1912-1980, American)

*Gracehoper*, 1961-1972 Black painted steel (23' x 22' x 46')

Inside the KCA dominating the lobby wall of Whitney Hall is a large wood sculpture by **Louise Nevelson**, one of America's best known sculptors. Typical of her work, this sculpture is constructed of discarded pieces of wood from carpentry, furniture, and architectural details. She relied on a grid or pillar format for most of her sculptures, but within the order one finds a sense of disorder. The color black, which Nevelson called "the essence of the universe," unifies the scrap components of her art.

Louise Nevelson (1900-1988, American)

*Night Wave: Moon*, 1984 Black painted wood construction (12' x 35' x 20")

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## What's on the Web?

### Performing Arts Centers

The Kentucky Center for the Arts  
<http://www.kca.org/>

Kentucky Arts Organizations  
<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/arts/links/kyorgs.htm>

Kentucky Arts Presenters Network  
(Links to Kentucky performing arts presenters)  
<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/arts/KPAN/welcome.htm>

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
<http://kennedy-center.org>

Tennessee Performing Arts Center  
<http://www.tpac.org>

### Other Leads

*Other performing arts-related sites that include links, lesson plans, and/or other resources*

Arts Edge  
<http://artsedge.kennedy-center.org/artsedge.html>

Association for the Advancement of Art Education  
<http://www.aaae.org/index.html>

EDSitement: National Endowment for the Humanities  
<http://edsitement.neh.fed.us/>

National Endowment for the Arts  
<http://arts.endow.gov/>

Theatre: Best of the Web  
<http://www.sau.edu/CWIS/Internet?Wild/Majors/MassCom/Theatre/theindex.htm>

### Television Resources

*For information about other televised performances*

KET, The Kentucky Network  
<http://www.ket.org>

KET's "Humanities Through the Arts" Distance Learning Course  
<http://www.dl.ket.org/humanities/>

PBS  
<http://www.pbs.org>

### Keeping Up-to-Date

*To stay current on performing arts nationally and in-state*

The Lexington Herald Leader  
<http://www.kentuckyconnect.com>

The Louisville Courier Journal  
<http://www.courier-journal.com/>

New York Times on the Web  
<http://www.nytimes.com>

*Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.*  
-Red Auerbach

## Visit an **Arts Center** Near You

Kentucky has many arts centers and other facilities that have performing arts programs. Check out the one nearest you. See if they have performances or other activities appropriate for you and your students ... there's nothing like seeing a performance live and in person!

Below is a list of performing arts spaces from the *1997-1998 Kentucky Presenters Directory* compiled by the Kentucky Arts Council. Information about many of these venues can be accessed via the Internet at the Kentucky Arts Presenters Network website: <http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/arts/KAPN/welcome.html>

In addition to the arts presenters listed here, there are other presenting organizations in the state. Kentucky private, public and community colleges and universities frequently sponsor series of arts performances for the public. Local arts councils and community organizations are also often sponsors. For assistance in locating sponsoring organizations in your area, contact:

Lori Meadows  
Kentucky Arts Council  
31 Fountain Place  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
888/833-2787

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### Kentucky Arts Presenters

Artists in Concert  
Ashland Community College  
1400 Community College Dr.  
Ashland, KY 41101  
606/324-1646

Paramount Arts Center  
1300 Winchester Avenue  
P.O. Box 1546  
Ashland, KY 41105  
606/324-3175

Meade Co. Museum and Arts  
Center  
2775 Big Bend Road  
Battletown, KY 40104  
502/597-4637

Capitol Arts Center  
416 East Main Street  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
502/782-2787

Public Theatre of Kentucky  
545 Morris Alley  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
502/781-6233

Central Kentucky Arts Series  
Cambellsville College  
Box 1319, 200 W. College St.  
Cambellsville, KY 42718-  
2799  
502/789-5270

Wolfe County Arts Asso.  
Box 1003  
Campton, KY 41301  
606/725-4860

Carnegie Arts Center  
Box 12025, 1028 Scott Blvd.  
Covington, KY 41012-0025  
606/491-2030

Harlan Area Performing Arts  
Appalachian Center Theatre  
Southeast Community  
College  
700 College Road  
Cumberland, KY 40823  
606/589-2145

Norton Center for the Arts  
Centre College  
600 Walnut Street  
Danville, KY 40422  
606/236-4649

BarnLot Theatre Inc.  
P.O. Box 639  
203 South Main St.  
Edmonton, KY 42129  
502/651-5740

Boone County Arts Council  
7431 U.S. 42  
Florence, KY 41042  
606/371-5491

# Louisville Ballet



315 East Main Street  
Louisville, KY 40202-1215  
Ph. 502/583-3150, Fx. 502/582-0006

For reservations contact the Louisville Ballet reception desk at 502/583-3150 x 10  
For more information contact Louisville Ballet public relations at 502/583-3150 x 52

## Your students will like the ballet.

### Yes, *your* students.

**G**etting young people interested in the ballet is easier than it might seem. The key is to present this sophisticated art in a fun way that is relevant to them.

Sharing the art form of dance with the children of Kentucky and Southern Indiana is a long standing tradition of the Louisville Ballet. Over the years, we have developed three distinct types of education programs designed to help you incorporate the ballet experience into your classroom activities.

Best of all, each program has a companion KERA-based study guide called *Getting the Pointe*. These contain background information on the work being performed, information on ballet in general and, most important, lots of open-ended and problem-solving questions which correspond to KERA expectations.

*Getting the Pointe* is mailed to you when you make your reservation, allowing you plenty of time to integrate the information into your teaching plan. And if you have any questions, we're always here to help you.

**In-Theater:** These programs allow your students to gain the full experience of attending the ballet in the theater. Held in Whitney Hall at Kentucky Center for the Arts or the newly renovated European-style Brown Theatre, student matinee performances offer all the magic and excitement of an opening night show.

**Tickets are \$5-6 per student, depending on production.**



One free adult chaperone will be admitted for every ten paid students.

**In-Studio:** What makes these programs unique? The Louisville Ballet Center rehearsal studio has a capacity of 200, providing an intimate setting where the performance is in no more than 15 feet away. Children can hear the dancers breathe and see exactly how they use their bodies. Plus, all Louisville Ballet Center performances include a question-and-answer session with the dancers for a more detailed explanation of the production.

**In-School:** Not able to come to us? Let us come to you. These innovative programs allow your students to experience the ballet at your school. A small group of dancers will visit your school to teach students the fundamentals of what it means to be a full time dancer. *Leaps and Lifts* and *The Artist/The Athlete* show children how dance relates to our daily routine. Each program contains information about ballet and the importance of physical activity and stresses building self-confidence and self-esteem.

You may also ask one or more of our dancers to be an Artist in Residence at your school. We'll tailor a unique dance learning experience especially for your students.

To schedule in-school programs, contact our Ballet Master directly at 583-3150 x 30.

*Shall we pencil you in?* To find out about our upcoming performances just give us a call and request our Education Brochure.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVE**

The Louisville Orchestra seeks to educate students and teachers about classical music through orchestral concert experiences that are of a creative and interactive nature. Each concert is designed to enrich students and teachers about symphonic music as well as address other academic needs in correlation to KERA Learning Goals and Academic Expectations.

## **MAKING MUSIC CONCERT SERIES**

### **GRADES 3-5**

This program has had a long standing tradition in the Louisville community for over 30 years. Under the direction of Associate Conductor Robert Franz, The Louisville Orchestra offers curriculum-based programs that bring the world of classical music to your students. The Orchestra addresses KERA Academic Expectations and Learning Goals. by specific and direct applications in pre-concert materials, commentary at the concert and through suggested post-concert activities. Past

programs have included Building An Orchestra, A Musical Tour of America and Fantastic Symphonies: Stories of Dreams, Drama and Danger. Tickets are \$6 per student. Teachers and chaperones attend free of charge.



## **MAKING MUSIC IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS CONCERT SERIES**

### **GRADES 6-8**

This is a new program that was launched in 1998 to provide quality artistic programming for grades 6-8. Under the direction of Associate Conductor Robert Franz, students and teachers can participate in a fifty minute program that will connect classical music selections to other curriculum areas such as architecture, government studies and literature. The Orchestra addresses KERA Academic Expectations and Learning Goals by specific and direct applications in pre-concert materials, commentary at the concert and through suggested post-concert activities. Last year, the Orchestra launched Making Music in the Middle Schools with a program entitled "The Jefferson Era." This program incorporated the music of Beethoven with architecture and government studies. Tickets are \$6 per student. Teachers and chaperones attend free of charge.

\*In addition, if your school purchases tickets before September 30, 1999, Associate Conductor Robert Franz will lead a FREE clinic for your school's band or orchestra.

## **COFFEE CONCERT SERIES**

### **GRADES 6-12**

These full-length symphonic programs, appropriate for high school students, showcase a new program each month prepared by The Louisville Orchestra and featured guest artists. Plus, one hour prior to each concert, Associate Conductor Robert Franz offers a free lecture that is specifically designed for high school students. Tickets are \$6 per student. Teachers and chaperones attend free of charge.

## **SMALL ENSEMBLES PROGRAM**

The Louisville Orchestra Small Ensembles Program is available to your school for assembly programs or classroom settings. This program provides a live, musical experience in a more intimate setting. Students will have the opportunity to increase their listening skills, develop finer music appreciation skills, and encounter classical music's ability to integrate with math, language arts and humanities. The cost of this program is \$140 per musician (\$175 per musician past a 20 mile radius from the Kentucky Center for the Arts). These ensemble performances are limited and are on a first come, first serve basis.

**For more information:  
Jane B. Hahn  
Director of Education  
The Louisville Orchestra  
300 W. Main St. #100  
Louisville, KY 40202  
(502) 587-8681**

## Electronic Field Trip to the *Kentucky* Center for the Arts Evaluation

Please take a few minutes to help us evaluate the electronic field trip to the Kentucky Center for the Arts. Please return this form to Liz Hobson, 600 Cooper Dr., Lexington, KY 40502-2296 or FAX (606) 258-7390. We appreciate your suggestions, criticisms and ideas for future electronic field trips. Thanks!

1. Which segments of the program did you and your students like the most?

(Check all that apply)

- Interviews with performers, production staff, KCA personnel
- Visits to see performers getting ready, rehearsing
- Tour of the performance venues
- Tour of the KCA sculpture collection
- Load in of sets, props, and costumes before a performance
- Helping technology
- Careers
- Opening night (audience, backstage, scenes, payoff)
- Other, please describe

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2. How could this electronic field trip have been improved?

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3. How did you use the program in your curriculum?

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4. Did you use the materials in the teachers packet?       yes       no

5. If you used the teacher materials, which ones were most helpful and how did you use them?

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6. Did you and your students watch the electronic field trip:

- when it was broadcast live in March?
- on videotape at a later time?

7. What type of follow-up to this program are you considering or have you done?

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8. Have you or your students accessed the KET field trip page on our Web site (<http://www.ket.org>)?       yes       no

9. What other places in Kentucky would be good sites for future electronic field trips?

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**Thank you! Please use the back of this page to make any additional comments.**