



Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque

Yamoussa Bangoura, Founder and Artistic Director

Friday, January 30, 2026
7:30pm

Tryon Festival Theatre



PROGRAM

Cirque Kalabanté

Yamoussa Bangoura, Founder and Artistic Director

Afrique en Cirque

Afrique en Cirque is a show by Yamoussa Bangoura, inspired by daily life in Guinea. A colorful show beyond its scenery, costumes, and staging, it makes any theatre vibrate with energy and represents the strength, agility, and life joys of young Africans. Acrobats execute gravity-defying moves and human pyramids accompanied by the contemporary sounds of live Afro-jazz, percussion, and kora. Welcome to the universe of Kalabanté Productions and prepare for an unforgettable journey!

Artistic Team

YAMOUSSA BANGOURA, juggling/cyr wheel/
kora/percussion/singing
MOHAMED KEITA, acrobat/dancer
MOHAMED LAMINE CAMARA, acrobat/dancer
DAOUDA SYLLA, acrobat/dancer
M'MAHAWA SOUMAH, contortionist/dancer
MAMA ADAMA SOUMAH, contortionist/dancer
YAMOUSSA SOUMAH, acrobat/dancer
ALYA SYLLA, acrobat/dancer
MOHAMED BEN SYLLA, contortionist/dancer
LOU GAEL KONE FERLAND, bassist

Technical Team

MARIE-CLAUDE PARENT, immigration
JEANNE BELIVEAU, administration
OLIVIER BELIVEAU, soundtracks
LENA BASSET, coordination

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CONSEIL
DES ARTS
DE
MONTRÉAL

"Explosive drumming and dance routines, the group delivered mind-blowing acrobatic sequences with extraordinary precision." (*Vice Magazine*)

"A kind of daredevil circus, full of astounding leaps, rolls, and drum music, Kalabanté offers high-flying, jaw-dropping performances that will amaze the whole family." (*The Georgia Straight*)

This 90-minute performance is presented without an intermission.

THE ACT OF GIVING

Thank you for sponsoring this performance.

With deep gratitude, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts thanks all 2025-2026 Patron Sponsors and Corporate and Community Sponsors, and all those who have invested in Krannert Center.

In addition to performance sponsors, Krannert Center is deeply grateful for the generosity and steadfast support from our season-long patrons and corporate and community partners showcased in the Philanthropy & Advocacy section of our program book. These relationships form the cornerstone of our ability to bring unforgettable performances and enriching experiences to our audiences.

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PROFILES



YAMOUSSA BANGOURA

Founder and Artistic Director

A pioneer of Guinean circus arts, Yamoussa Bangoura propels his country toward a new future. Since his international launch with the Guinean troupe Circus Baobab,

many have followed in his footsteps. Yamoussa was trained in dance, kora, juggling, strap, acrobatics, and singing by several masters throughout his multidisciplinary career. Today, he is the stage master of Cirque Kalabanté's main show, *Afrique en Cirque*, in addition to being its creator. Recipient of the Circus Arts Recognition Award from the Conseil des arts de Montréal in 2023, Yamoussa Bangoura is leading Kalabanté Productions toward a grandiose future.

KALABANTÉ PRODUCTIONS

Kalabanté Productions was created by Yamoussa Bangoura, a multidisciplinary artist of Guinean origin. Yamoussa dreamed of founding a school of circus arts, and today he directs his own multidisciplinary company specializing in the African arts.

Yamoussa first became interested in the circus arts as a young man growing up in Conakry, Guinea, in the 1990s. He studied the circus performers he saw on European TV and practiced on the beach and dirt around his home. He also studied the Nyamakala tradition of circus, practiced by the Fula people of West Africa. Eventually, he joined Guinea's original circus company, Circus Baobab, with which he toured Africa and Europe.

In the early 2000s, Yamoussa was recruited to Canada by Cirque Éloize, a Montréal-based Canadian cirque company. While in Canada, he also performed with Cirque du Soleil and Cavalia (cirque with horses). In 2007, Yamoussa realized his dream and opened his own company, Kalabanté Productions, in Montréal Canada. He recruited many of his extended family members to join the company, including his twin sisters, brothers, and cousins.

The company began doing shows in Québec, and over the years expanded to all of Canada, the United States of America, and now performs all over the world. In 2018, Kalabanté opened its own studio and school in Montréal, where classes in African dance, cirque, and drumming are offered.

Kalabanté Productions is proud to share its work, achievements, and skills, and to inspire others to assist with its humanitarian mission to help the Guinean community from which Yamoussa Bangoura and many of his company members come.

KALABANTÉ'S HUMANITARIAN MISSION

Every year, Kalabanté Productions donates part of its profits to the construction of an artistic school in Guinea in Conakry. Believing that every individual deserves a chance to shine, regardless of their origin, Kalabanté welcomes all talents within its multidisciplinary artistic training established in Lansanayah. Since 2015, Kalabanté has professionally trained several artists, including six who appear in *Afrique en Cirque*, our internationally-touring show. The next generation of artists is housed and fed during their training. They then volunteer to train other young people during their artistic careers.



STUDENT TICKETS FOR ONLY \$10

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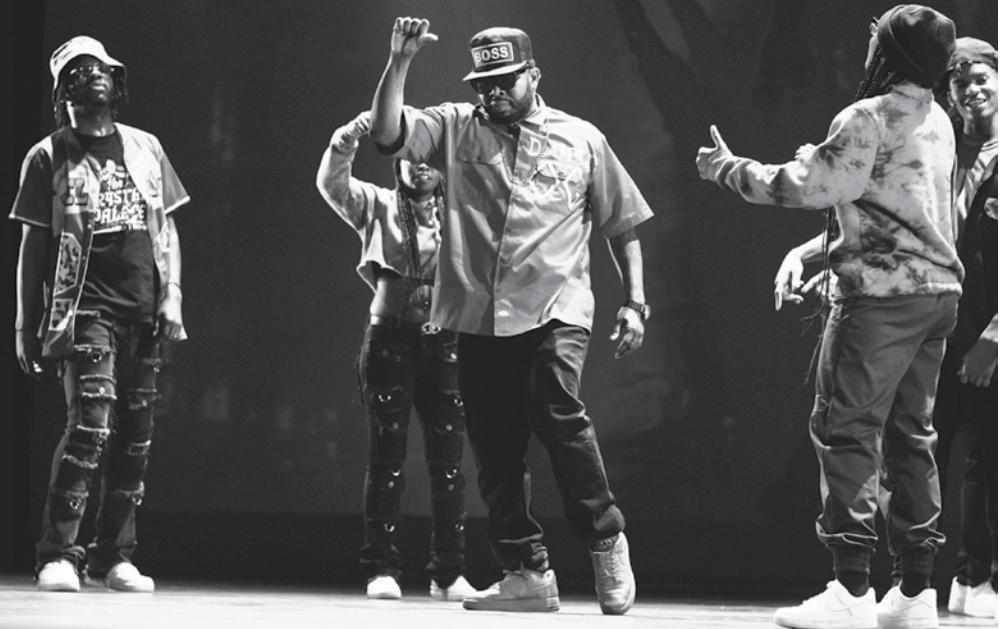




KRANNERT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

2025–26 SEASON

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krannert center

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The University of Illinois System carries out its mission in its namesake state, which includes the traditional territory of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, Menominee, Ho-Chunk, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity.

As a Land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge the peoples of these lands, as well as the histories of dispossession that have allowed for the growth of this institution. We are also obligated to reflect on and actively address these histories and the role that this university has played in shaping them. This acknowledgement and the centering of Native peoples is a start as move forward.

Krannert Center affirms the commitment by the university to move beyond these statements, toward building deeper relationships and taking actions that uphold and preserve Indigenous rights and cultural equity.

As we gather to experience this performance, we have an opportunity to reflect on the ways that systems of oppression have shaped our society. We can work together to create systems that support human dignity, establish equity, strengthen cross-cultural relationships, and draw upon the creative capacity of all people that make up this community, state, nation, and world.



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of the performing arts.



Krannert Center is a place of renewal—a space where the performing arts bring fresh perspectives, new energy, and moments of individual and collective healing. Through music, movement, and storytelling, we rediscover hope, embrace transformation, and celebrate the endless possibilities of artistic expression.

The generosity of our donors and friends makes this renewal possible. Your support sustains the Center's commitment to enriching lives, fostering creativity, and ensuring that all who enter our doors can experience the rejuvenating power of the arts.

Please consider making a gift to Krannert Center today. Your contribution is essential in maintaining the high standards of excellence that define us while expanding the Center's enduring impact for seasons to come.



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This passionate group of arts advocates assists Krannert Center staff in expanding the Center's leadership and financial resources.

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"80 years ago, in 1945, members of the United States Armed Forces liberated my father, Rabbi Isaac Neuman, from Ebensee, Austria. If US soldiers had not been there, I would not be here."



Phyllis Robeson & Family

"An awe-inspiring environment for amazing performances."



Anonymous

"Krannert Center, a great asset to the community!"



Jo & Thomas Emerson

"Discovering the Sunday Salon Series opened our eyes to a new way of experiencing the profound intimacy of chamber music—where every note connects us."

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Through the Campaign for Young Audiences, students at the U of I enjoy \$10 tickets for nearly every event presented at Krannert Center while other college students and children receive significant discounts.

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Phyllis Robeson & Family

Campaign for Young Audiences Sponsors

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2025-2026 KRANNERT CENTER YOUTH SERIES

The Youth Series features daytime performances, online media created by performing artists, and educational activities designed especially for pre-K through high school-aged students. Children who participate learn to appreciate the performing arts, gain knowledge, build social skills, and integrate live performance experiences into classroom work.

Thank You to Our Youth Series Sponsors

Ann H. Bender Youth Series Endowment
Susan Sargeant McDonald Endowed Fund
(Suzi was the founder/developer of the
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The University of Illinois, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Krannert Center are profoundly grateful for the commitment of Krannert Society members. Through a single donation, pledge, or estate gift of \$1 million or more, these open-hearted visionaries help build a thriving community and encourage cross-cultural understanding. Their support sustains the extraordinary vision of Herman and Ellnora Krannert to create a vibrant gathering place like no other.



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(1904-1993) March 1994



CLAIR MAE AREND'S
(1912-2000)
.....
G. WILLIAM AREND'S
(1914-1997) March 2000



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ZIMMERMAN**
(1929-1995)
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(1928-1996)
November 2003



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.....
JAMES FARMER
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ANONYMOUS
July 2025

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Members of the Foellinger Society show their enduring commitment to the arts through a single donation, pledge, or estate gift of \$500,000 to \$999,999. Because of their generosity, everyone in this community can unite in joyful and engaging experiences. These magnanimous arts lovers celebrate the spirit of Helene Foellinger, whose memorial gift honored her sister, Loretta Foellinger Teeple, and established the Marquee Performance Endowment.



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(1915-2004)



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(1933-2020)



CAROLYN G. BURRELL
April 2012



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April 2014

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(1912-2006) April 2000

MARY ANDERSEN
August 2009

FOELLINGER SOCIETY



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(1946-2022)
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(1930-2022)
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University of Illinois President Emeritus and First Lady Stan and Judy Ikenberry have long demonstrated their love for the arts and their deep commitment to enhancing learning experiences for all University of Illinois students. Krannert Center gratefully acknowledges their steadfast support by recognizing donors who make a single donation, pledge, or estate gift in the amount of \$250,000 to \$499,999 as members of the Ikenberry Society.



STANLEY IKENBERRY
(1935-2025)



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(1946-2024)

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HELEN RICHARDS
(1936-2023)



**HOLLY & KURT
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JUDITH IKENBERRY
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March 2016

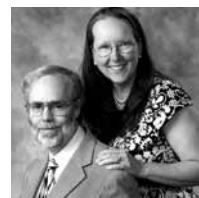
DANIEL RICHARDS
June 2016



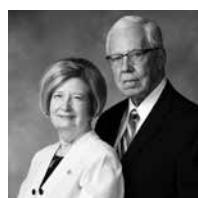
ANONYMOUS
May 2018



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June 2022



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September 2023



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(1922-2018)



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QUISENBERRY**
September 2025

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STEFFENSEN**
(1936-2024)
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Dr. John B. Colwell, Pauline Groves Colwell, and R. Forrest Colwell provided critical funding for the Marquee Performance Endowment, and the Colwell Society gratefully acknowledges their invaluable assistance. Members of this society may make a single donation, pledge, or estate gift of \$100,000 to \$249,999 for celebrating, preserving, and exploring the arts right here and around the globe.



DOLORIS DWYER
(1918-1997)
April 1996



EMILY GILLESPIE
(1909-2000)

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(1905-1999)
December 1996



ROSANN NOEL
(1932-2018)

RICHARD NOEL
April 1997



JAMES W. ARMSEY
(1917-2008)

BETH L. ARMSEY
(1918-2019)
February 1998



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(1912-1999)

LOUIS KENT
(1914-1994)
October 2000



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(1928-2020)

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ANNA MERRITT
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(1935-2017)

ALICE PFEFFER
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ANONYMOUS
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October 2007



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(1936-2023)

JON LIEBMAN
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The Susan Sargent McDonald Endowed Fund for Youth Programming

Suzi was the founder/developer of the Krannert Center Youth Series
July 2010



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(1932-2014)
.....
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ANONYMOUS
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HEILES**

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LEBENSON**
December 2017



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(1939-2020)

IRIS SWANSON
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ENGLAND**
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KYLE ROBESON
(1929-2021)



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January 2023



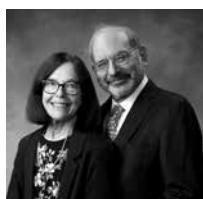
**SELMA K.
RICHARDSON**
(1931-2019)
March 2023



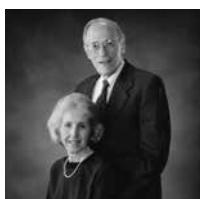
WILLIAM K. ARCHER
(1927-1997)
.....
FOROUGH ARCHER
July 2023



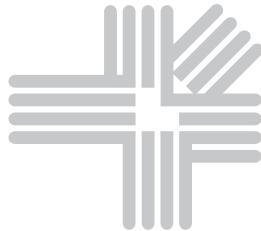
**KENNETH
BENGOCHEA**
(1937-2022)
.....
NANCY L. JOHNSON
September 2023



**MELANIE LOOTS &
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March 2025



LOIS RESEK
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(1935-2024)



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Chamber
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The Illinois Arts Council Agency provides general programming support to ensure that audiences of all ages have direct access to world-class theatre, dance, and music.

The Augustine Foundation

The Augustine Foundation provides continued major support for ELLNORA | The Guitar Festival.

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The Balourdet Quartet is the recipient of Chamber Music America's 2024 Cleveland Quartet Award. The quartet's performance has been made possible by the Cleveland Quartet Award Endowment Fund.

The Student Sustainability Committee

The Student Sustainability Committee provided funding for the Krannert Center Audiences Lighting Retrofit Project, which continues to increase energy efficiency, decrease labor requirements, and improve safety conditions.

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Jastina Washington	
Trey Weitner	

KRANNERT CENTER STAFF

Mike Ross, Director

Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement

Terri Anne Ciofalo, Associate Director for Production

Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for Administration and Patron Experience

Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations

Julieanne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming and Engagement

Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and Communications

EVENTS

Andrew Almeter, Senior Production Coordinator for Events

Bree Brock, Production Coordinator for Events

Rebecca Russell, Assistant Technical Director for Events

Rachel Gladd, Performing Arts Events Coordinator

PROGRAMMING AND ENGAGEMENT

Julieanne Ehre, Assistant Director for Programming and Engagement

Jason Finkelman, Artistic Director of Global Arts Performance Initiatives

Emily Laugesen, Director of Community Engagement

Sam Smith, Director of Civic Engagement and Social Practice

Nick Wurl, Engagement and Programming Coordinator

ADVANCEMENT

Cheryl Snyder, Director of Advancement

David Drake, Advancement Team Assistant

Frank Niemeyer, FAA Annual Giving Officer

OPERATIONS

Lindsay Dalrymple, Assistant Director for Operations

Director's Office

Vanessa Lane, Office Manager

Zia Moon, Krannert Center Showcase Director, Office and Communications Support Specialist

Building Operations

John O. Williams, Facility Manager

Tony Mapson, Assistant Facility Manager

Joe Butsch, Building Electrician

Steven Lessor, Assistant Chief Building Operations Engineer

Scott Butler, Eric Carr, Emmett Catlin, Austin Dearth,

Sara Dietrich, John Ekstrom, Jessica Fancher, Bryan

Franzen, Salatheo Kindle, Jacob Lerch, Chabu Nsokoshi, Chad Schwenk, Robert Shaw, Attendants

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Craig Miles, Assistant Director for Marketing and Communications

Sean Kutzko, Assistant Communication Director

Nicholas Mulvaney, Art Director

ADMINISTRATION AND PATRON SERVICES

Maureen V. Reagan, Associate Director for Administration and Patron and Patron Experience

Food Services

Amy Thomas, Food Services Director
Michael Bunting, Hospitality Supervisor
Elizabeth Henke, Stage 5 Bar Manager
John Ingalls, Intermezzo Kitchen Lead

Ticketing and Patron Services

Whitney Havice, Ticketing and Patron Services Director
Ann-Marie Dittmann, Patron Services Assistant Director
Ty Mingo, Assistant Ticket Services Director
Jon Proctor, Ticket Sales Supervisor
Adrian Rochelle, Front of House Performance Supervisor

PRODUCTION

Terri Anne Ciofalo, Director of Production
Maria Miguens, Production Manager

Audio Department

Rick Scholwin, Audio Director
Alec LaBau, Associate Audio Director and Video Director
Tyler Knowles, Assistant Audio Director, Live Stream
Engineer

Costume Shop

Andrea Bouck, Costume Director
Richard Gregg, Costume Rentals Director and Associate
Costume Shop Director
Paige Stewart-Rankins, Hair and Makeup Supervisor
Julianna Steitz, First Hand
April McKinnis, EB McTigue, Cutters/Drapers

Kari Little-McKinney, Theatrical Stitcher
Chantel Renee, Costume Crafts

Lighting Department

Lisa Kidd, Lighting Director
David Krupla, Associate Lighting Director
Nicole Rataj, Assistant Lighting Director

Properties Department

Adriane Binky Donley, Properties Director
Kira Lyon, Assistant Properties Director

Scene Shop

Ryan Schultz, Technical Director
Tatsuya Ito, Associate Technical Director
Bill Kephart, Office Administrator
Bobby Reynolds, Theatrical Scene Shop Coordinator
Anna Atkinson, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant
Rebecca Russell, Acting Crew Head
Kayley Woolums, Theatrical Scene Shop Assistant

PERFORMING ARTS BUSINESS SERVICE CENTER

Jenell Hardy, Director of Business Services
Macauley Allen, Business Services Specialist
Debbie Delaney, Accounting Staff
Angela Wang, Business Services Specialist

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE AT THE CENTER

We work to create the best possible setting for the experiences you seek and find here.

Necessaries

Restrooms are located in the foyers of Foellinger Great Hall, Tryon Festival Theatre, and Colwell Playhouse; the east entrances on the Lobby level; and in each elevator lobby on Level 1 and Level 3. Lobby restrooms and one restroom in each elevator lobby are fully accessible and contain baby-changing stations.

Ushers will be happy to provide you cough drops courtesy of St. Joseph Apothecary, or disposable foam earplugs if the place starts rockin'.

If you or a companion needs medical assistance, contact an usher or other staff member.

Please take a moment before the performance to note the theatre exits nearest to you. If it becomes necessary to evacuate the theatre, please remain calm, follow the instructions of the house staff, and exit in an orderly fashion to the appropriate safe meeting location which will be announced to you.

Phones and Devices

The use of cell phones, cameras, and recording devices during performances is prohibited unless otherwise announced from the stage.

Late Arrivals

As a courtesy to performers and audience members, latecomers will be seated only at times selected in advance by the artist. Should you find that you've arrived late to a performance, our Patron Services staff will keep you informed about the earliest seating opportunity.

Lost Items

If you are in need of Lost and Found, please visit the Patron Services counter. We will do our best to reunite object and owner!

Ticket Returns

If you find you can't attend a performance, please contact the Ticket Office in advance, preferably by 6pm the day before the performance (kran-tix@illinois.edu or 217.333.6280). We never charge a handling fee on ticket transactions.

Accessibility

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is committed to making experiences accessible for all patrons, and we are delighted to provide a number of services to assist you. Krannert Center is equipped with an assisted listening system, wheelchair-accessible and no-step/few-step seating, and large-print programs, Braille programs, and American Sign Language interpreters are available with three weeks' advance notice.

For assistance regarding your visit please contact patronservices@krannertcenter.illinois.edu or 217.333.9716 or visit go.KrannertCenter.com/Accessibility.

Para ayuda en relación con su visita, favor de enviar un email a:

Pour vous aider dans votre visite, prière de nous envoyer un courriel à:

欢迎! 如若您对您的造访需要帮助, 请发送电子邮件至:

स्वागत हे! आगर आपको अपने रहने के लिए मदद चाहिए, ईमेल कीजिए:

환영합니다! 방문에 관해 도움이 필요하실 때에는...
에게 이메일로 문의하시기 바랍니다:

PATRONSERVICES@KRANNERTCENTER.ILLINOIS.EDU
217.333.9716



COME BE MOVED.

Art at Krannert Center isn't something you just watch—it's something you feel.

COME ON IN.
WE'LL SAVE A SEAT FOR YOU.



krannert center

SAT FEB 07 AT 7:30PM



**ILLINOIS SOUL
2ND ANNIVERSARY
FEATURING
MAYSA**



krannert center