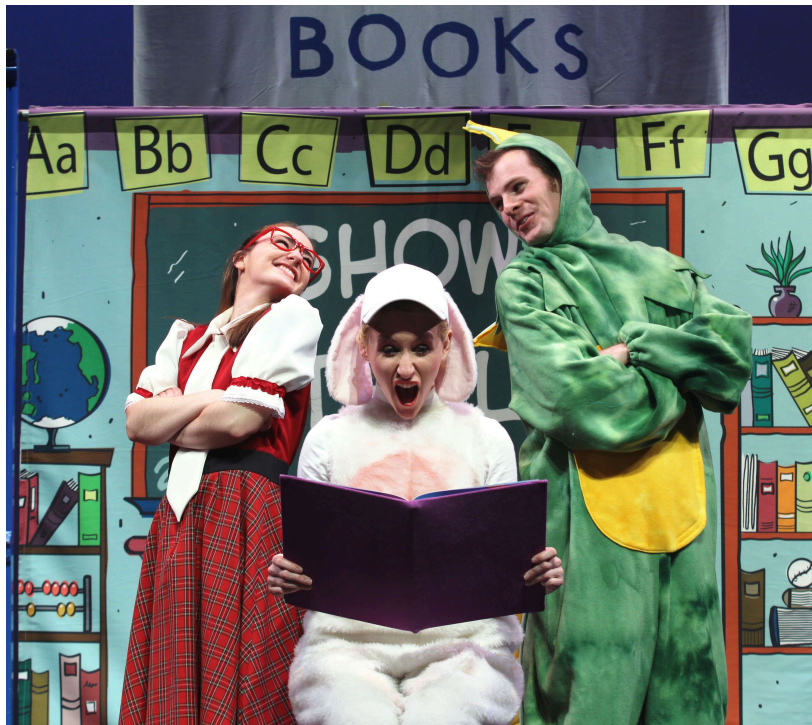


# TillesCenter

for the Performing Arts LIU Post



## Study Guide

### *Dog Loves Books*

# ATTENDING A PERFORMANCE

The concert hall at Tilles Center seats 2,242 people. Hillwood Recital Hall seats 490 people. When you attend a performance at Tilles Center, there are a few things you should remember:

## ARRIVAL

- Plan to arrive approximately 30 minutes prior to the show.
- Performances cannot be held for late buses.
- LIU Post Public Safety will direct buses to parking areas.
- Remain seated on the bus until instructed to unload.
- Please stagger chaperones throughout the group to help keep students in line and moving quickly to the seating area.
- Groups are directed into the theater in the order that they arrive.

## BEING SEATED (IMPORTANT!)

- Upon entering the theater, ushers will direct students and teachers to sit row by row. **Students will be seated in the order which they enter the building. Groups from your school may be seated separately from one another throughout the theatre. We ask that at least one chaperone is assigned to every 15 students for grades Pre-K- 5, and one chaperone to every 30 students for grades 5-12. We recommend that a teacher or chaperone sit at the end of each row of students in the theatre. With adequate adult supervision, students which may be seated in different sections of the theatre will have enough chaperones to ensure safety.** We ask for your full cooperation with this procedure in order to start the show on time!
- Please allow ushers to seat your group in its entirety before making adjustments within the row. This allows us to continue seating groups that arrive after you. Once the entire group is seated you may rearrange students in new seats and use the restrooms.
- Schools are not allowed to change their seats.
- **All students must be supervised by a teacher at all times including when going to the restroom - high school students are no exception.**

## **DURING THE SHOW**

- There is no food or drink permitted in the theater or lobby areas.
- Photography and audio/video recording are not permitted during the performance.
- *Please turn off (or leave behind) all electronic devices, including cell phones, portable games, cameras, and recording equipment. Keep them off for the entire performance.* The devices may interfere with the theater's sound system as well as being disruptive to both the audience and the actors. And please – no texting or checking messages during the show!
- Please do not disturb the performers and other members of the audience by talking.
- If something in the show is meant to be funny, laughter is encouraged!
- Please do not leave and re-enter the theater during the performance.
- **There is no intermission; visit the restroom prior to the start of the show. Performances generally run 50 - 60 minutes.**

## **EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS**

If schools throughout the area are closed due to inclement weather, Tilles Center performances will be cancelled. If, on the day prior to a performance, it appears that inclement weather may cause a performance to be cancelled, all schools will be called by our staff to alert them to this possibility. School representatives should periodically check the Tilles Center website ([tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org)) when winter weather advisories and warnings are in effect. Updates will be posted regularly on the home page. On the morning of the performance a message will be posted on the website no later than 6:30 AM indicating if the performance has been cancelled.

If a performance is cancelled, Tilles Center will attempt to reschedule performances on a date mutually agreeable to the artists and the majority of ticket buyers.

# YOUR ROLE AS AN AUDIENCE MEMBER

## **TO THE TEACHER:**

An essential component needed to create a live performance is the audience. Please talk with your students about what it means to be an audience member and how a “live” performance is different from TV and movies. Please share the following information with your students prior to your visit to Tilles Center. Some performances may involve audience participation so students should behave appropriately, given the nature of the performance and the requests of the artists on the stage. By discussing appropriate audience behavior, as a class ahead of time, the students will be better prepared to express their enthusiasm in acceptable ways during the performance.

## **BEING AN AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

Audience members play an important role— until an audience shows up, the performers are only rehearsing! When there is a “great house” (an outstanding audience) it makes the show even better, because the artists feel a live connection with everyone who is watching them.

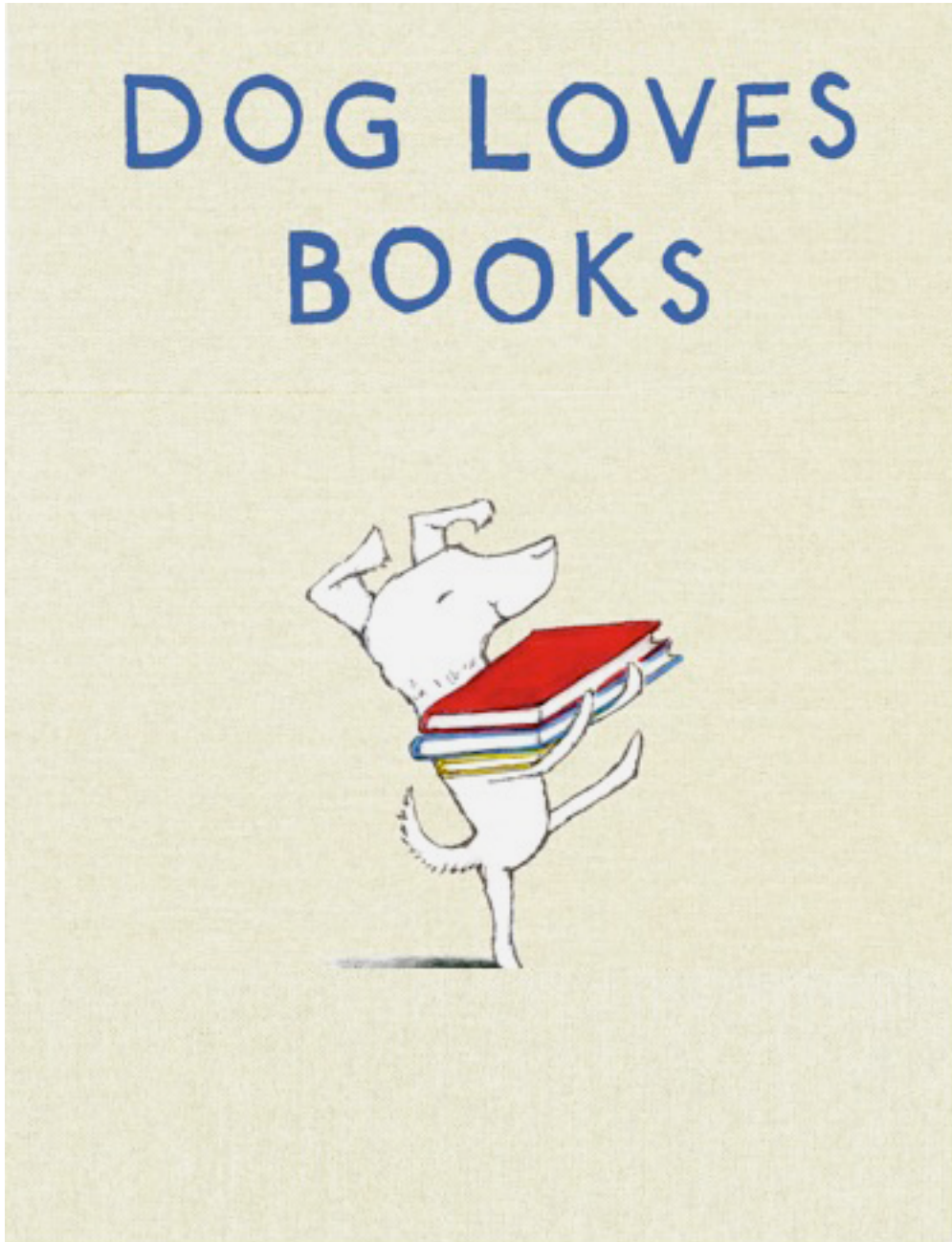
When the “house lights” (the lights in the part of the theater where the audience is sitting) go down, everyone feels a thrill of anticipation. Focus all your attention on the stage and watch and listen carefully to the performance. The most important quality of a good audience member is the ability to respond appropriately to what’s happening on stage... sometimes it’s important to be quiet, but other times, it’s acceptable to laugh, clap, or make noise! If the audience watches in a concentrated, quiet way, this supports the performers and they can do their best work. They can feel that you are with them!

The theater is a very “live” space. This means that sound carries very well, usually all over the auditorium. Theaters are designed in this way so that the voices of singers and actors can be heard. It also means that any sounds in the audience - whispering, rustling papers, or speaking - can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. This can destroy everyone’s concentration and spoil a performance. Do not make any unnecessary noise that would distract the people sitting around you. Be respectful!

Applause is the best way for an audience in a theater to share its enthusiasm and to appreciate the performers, so feel free to applaud at the end of the performance. At the end of the performance, it is customary to continue clapping until the curtain drops or the lights on stage go dark. During the curtain call, the performers bow to show their appreciation to the audience. If you really enjoyed the performance, you might even thank the artists with a standing ovation!



# Study Buddy



Based on the book by Louise Yates



## **ArtsPower National Touring Theatre**

Gary W. Blackman  
Mark A. Blackman

### **Executive Producers**

Based on the book

### **DOG LOVES BOOKS**

By Louise Yates

Published 2010 by

Knopf Books for Young Readers

Presented under an agreement  
with Louise Yates.

All rights reserved.

Script by Greg Gunning

Music by John Forster and Richard DeRosa

Lyrics by John Forster and Greg Gunning

Costume Design and Construction by  
Fred Sorrentino

Set Illustrations by  
Dan Helzer/Blitz Designs



## Teacher Information

This study guide is designed to help you and your students prepare for, enjoy, and discuss ArtsPower's musical play, *Dog Loves Books*, before and after the performance. You may reproduce and distribute this Study Buddy to your students. **Please read this page about ArtsPower's musical to your students before attending the performance.** The main characters appear in boldface type.

## What Happens in *Dog Loves Books*?

*Dog Loves Books* is a musical based on the book by British author Louise Yates. It was published by Knopf Books for Young Readers in 2010.

**Dog** loves books and loves to read any and all kinds. He thinks everyone loves books as much as he does. So, he decides to open his own bookstore.

**Louise**, a young girl who loves to dance, is the first person to visit Dog's bookstore. Much to Dog's surprise, she is not interested in buying a book. To make matters worse, she does not believe that dogs can sell books. So, she challenges Dog: if he can sell three books by the end of the day, she will believe that dogs really can sell books, and she will be Dog's friend.

Dog is then visited by a **Man** who has lost his way and a **Rich Lady** who asks to be served scones and tea. Neither of them is the least bit interested in buying a book. Frustrated, Dog decides that to sell books, he must be familiar with each and every one of them. He believes that if he reads all of the books in his store, he can recommend books to his customers and they would be excited to buy them.

When the Man and the Rich Lady return to the bookstore later that day, Dog is able to make the books he has read come alive on stage. By the end of each story he tells, first to the Man and then to the Rich Lady, he sells each of them a book. Will he be able to convince Louise, the young dancer who challenged Dog to sell at least three books before the end of the day, to buy the book he recommends to her?



## How to Be a Good Audience

In order to be a good audience member, remember to:

- ★ Listen quietly.
- ★ Pay attention to the things the actors say and do – some things might make you happy, and some might be funny. Feel free to laugh at things you think are funny!
- ★ Sit quietly and do not talk during the performance, unless you are requested to do so by the actors onstage.
- ★ If you enjoy the play, you can applaud after musical numbers and at the end.

To purchase the book  
**DOG LOVES BOOKS** on Amazon,  
click here.

(<http://www.amazon.com/Dog-Loves-Books-Louise-Yates/dp/O375864490>)



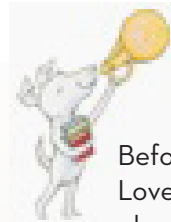
## ArtsPower National Touring Theatre

Please read this page to your students before attending the performance.

ArtsPower is a theatre company that creates musical and dramatic theatre productions for young and family audiences based on books for young readers.

### The four actors and one stage manager:

- present performances all over the United States.
- pack the set, costumes, and sound equipment in their van.
- set up and move the set.
- take care of costumes and props – objects such as the books, the banners, and other things handled by the actors.
- stay in hotels when they travel.
- sometimes present up to 9 performances in a week.



### Learning Activity

Before the performance, read *Dog Loves Books*. After the performance, talk about how the production was the same or different than the book. Discuss the characters, settings, and events in each version.

### What Is a Musical?

A **musical** is a story told through spoken words and songs by live actors onstage. The spoken words are called **lines**. The words that are sung are called **lyrics**. The music that was composed just for this show has been recorded. This music is called the show's **soundtrack**. For this performance, the soundtrack has been recorded on to a CD which is operated by the stage manager.

The musical *Dog Loves Books* is presented onstage with four actors who play some of the characters found in the book. The actors wear **costumes** and perform in front of their **set**.

Because reading a book is different than seeing a live performance on stage, the **playwright**, or the person who writes the lines that the actors speak, must change parts of the story or bring new qualities to the characters that are not found in the book. In other words, the playwright **adapts** the book into a musical play, or changes parts of it to turn the words on the page into a live performance.



### Learning Activity

Why is ArtsPower called a national touring theatre?

If you were an actor, do you think you would like to travel to different places to perform?

Do you think audiences from different parts of the country respond to the performance in the same or in different ways? If so, why?



## Creating Theatre

Please read this section to your students before attending the performance.

Creating a musical theatre production like *Dog Loves Books* takes a lot of time and creative energy from a group of people.

Many people work together to turn a book into a musical. Changes and additions are developed by the theatre company, ArtsPower National Touring Theatre, that help transform the book into an hour-long musical.

- The **playwright** writes lines that the actors speak.
- The **composer** writes the music.
- The **lyricist** writes the words to the songs that the actors sing.
- The **actors** audition for parts and memorize lines and songs.
- The **designers** create sets, costumes, and lighting.
- The **director** rehearses the actors and makes artistic decisions.
- The **stage manager** oversees all backstage elements of a show.
- The **producers** raise the money to create the show and manage all aspects of the production and its tour throughout the U.S.

## The Creative Team for *Dog Loves Books*



**GREG GUNNING (Playwright, Co-Lyricist, and Director)** is ArtsPower's Artistic Director and has written or co-written the scripts to all of ArtsPower's theatre productions. Greg's script for *Lily's Crossing*, based on the Newbery Honor book by Patricia Reilly Giff, is included in Penguin Books' "The Signet Book of Short Plays."



**JOHN FORSTER (Co-Composer, Co-Lyricist, and Co-Orchestrator)** is an award-winning songwriter who has been nominated for four Grammy Awards. John composed the music and wrote the lyrics to ArtsPower's very first musical, *Four Score and Seven Years Ago*, in 1989. He is also the composer of the Broadway musical, *Into the Light*. [www.Johnforster.com](http://www.Johnforster.com)



**RICHARD DEROSA (Co-Composer and Co-Orchestrator)** is presently an associate professor and director of jazz composition and arranging studies at the University of North Texas. Richard has composed and orchestrated the scores to all but three ArtsPower productions. [jazz.unt.edu/derosa](http://jazz.unt.edu/derosa)



**LOUISE YATES (Author)** wrote and illustrated *Dog Loves Books*, which debuted as a New York Times Bestseller and won the Parents' Choice Award in the United States in 2010. In the United Kingdom, *Dog Loves Books* won the 2010 Roald Dahl Funny Prize and was nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal. Louise lives and works in London. [www.louise-yates.com](http://www.louise-yates.com)





## Lines, Lyrics, and Music

Please read this page to your students before attending the performance.

Because *Dog Loves Books* is a musical, the story is told through spoken lines and lyrics that are sung. The lines tell the audience about the characters and the story. The lyrics often tell the audience what the characters are thinking to themselves. Actors work with the director on how to deliver their lines and lyrics with expression.

### Actors' Lines

The words spoken or “delivered” by the actors are written by the playwright. Each actor must memorize the script or “lines” for his or her own character. They must also be familiar with the lines of the other characters.

### Lyrics

Lyrics are the words to the songs. John Forster and Greg Gunning wrote the lyrics to all the songs in *Dog Loves Books*. What do these lyrics that Dog sings tell you about his character?

**Let them say Dog can't sell books.  
They say “No Way!” ‘cause how he looks.  
But they'll see they're wrong,  
When they soon discover:  
You can't judge a book by its cover!**

### Music

John Forster and Richard DeRosa are the composers who wrote and arranged the music for *Dog Loves Books*. John and Richard used electronic keyboards and synthesized music – sounds generated by a special computer – to record the soundtrack. During the performance, the actors sing live to the prerecorded soundtrack on CD that the stage manager operates from off stage.

### Learning Activity

To learn more about Dog, read his lines below. Imagine you are playing the part of Dog and deliver each line aloud with expression.

Hey, that's it! Everybody loves books, so I'll ... I'll open a bookstore! ... My very own bookstore! ... Yeah!

The next person who comes through that door will buy a book. I know it!

I can do this... can't I? ... There's no way I can't sell three books – piece of cake ... right??

I don't get it! How could she not know this was a bookstore?





## All About Dogs

Please read this section to your students before attending the performance.

**Ready for some fun facts about dogs?** (After you read this to your students, ask them to think about what you read. Ask them about some of the special things their pets can do. Remind them to treat their dogs and all animals with care and respect.)

### Do dogs sweat when they are overheated?

Dogs are covered in fur and do not sweat like people do. A dog cools down by panting with his mouth open. Also, dogs sweat through glands that are located around their foot pads. That is why, when a dog is overheated, you will sometimes see a trail of wet footprints that he has left behind as he walked across the floor.

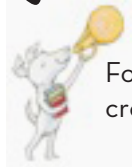
### Can dogs really read?

No, dogs cannot read. But they can understand words they are taught by their owners. Many dogs understand commands like Sit, Stay, and Roll Over. Some have a large vocabulary of words they understand and respond to. Some dogs are trained to be guide dogs for people without sight. These remarkable dogs learn how to lead their owners from place to place.

### Can dogs see colors?

Yes they can. The color range they see, however, is not as broad compared to what people can see. In addition to black, white, and grey, the colors dogs see contain mostly yellows, blues, and violets.

## Learning Activity



Follow the directions below to create your own cartoon dog!



Draw a heart.



Rotate your paper so the heart is upside down.



Draw a loop (tongue) in the base of the heart.



Draw two ears.



Add two eyes and an upside down triangle for a nose.



Shading and color as you like.

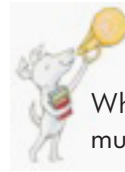


## Some Fun Stuff

J T S V E D U L W B  
 W K U E L I H Y O C  
 E E O V N N O O M P  
 D C Q P R O K D O G  
 W N V C D S C G L M  
 I A B L T A M S G Q  
 K D I O U U F E V T  
 Y U R L V R M Q B Z  
 B E X O W S C A D J  
 Y D A L H C I R N J

Words to find: DOG, MAN, RICH LADY, DINOSAURS, BOOKSTORE, DANCE, SCONES, BUILD.

## Learning Activity

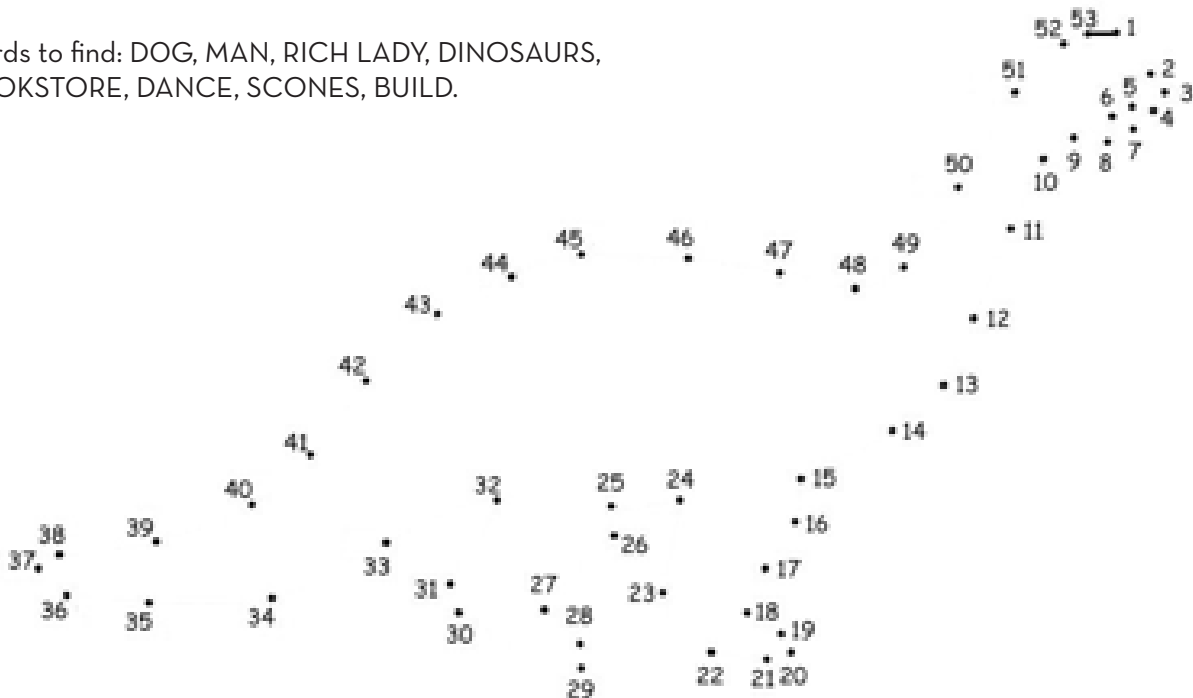


What did you enjoy most about the musical?

Explain why Dog was so excited about starting a bookstore.

Did you think Dog would be able to sell three books before the end of the day?

Do you have family members or friends who work in a store? Explain.





## Let Us Know What You Think!

After you see *Dog Loves Books*, use the space below to write to us OR send us a picture showing your favorite part of the performance. Please send them to **ArtsPower, 9 Sand Park Road, Suite 6, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009**. You may also visit us online at <http://www.artspower.org> and click on "Contact Us." Thanks!

Your School \_\_\_\_\_

School's city and state \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear ArtsPower,

I saw ***Dog Loves Books*** at: \_\_\_\_\_

Here's what I enjoyed about the performance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Here's why: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Here's what I would change about the performance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Here's why: \_\_\_\_\_

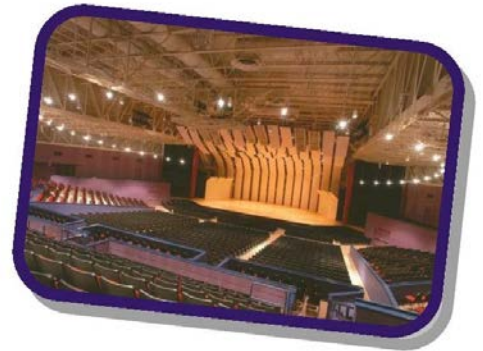
\_\_\_\_\_

From,

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Tilles Center for the Performing Arts,**  
at LIU Post in Brookville, is Long Island's premier concert hall.

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts at LIU Post in Brookville, is Long Island's premier concert hall. For 39 years, Tilles Center has been host to more than 70 performances each season by world-renowned artists in music, theater and dance. Tilles Center was the first to bring the New York Philharmonic to Long Island and Bruce Springsteen's legendary "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" was recorded onsite.



Tilles Center's Concert Hall seats 2,242 and features orchestral performances, fully-staged operas, ballets and modern dance, along with Broadway shows, and all forms of music, dance and theater from around the world. Thanks to the generous support of Eric and Sandra Krasnoff, the Krasnoff Theater, formerly Hillwood Recital Hall, has been refurbished and expanded to include new cushioned seats, a regraded floor for better views and an improved overall layout.



**Council on  
the Arts**

Tilles Center's Education Programs are made possible, in part, with funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

**Arts Education programs are made possible, in part, by the  
Gilbert and Rose Tilles Endowment for Arts Education.**

## **School Partnership Program**

An intensive part of Tilles Center's Arts Education program is the School Partnership program, modeled on the highly acclaimed aesthetic education program that has evolved over a 35-year period at Lincoln Center. The Partnership is a comprehensive approach to teaching and learning about the arts, applicable to all grade levels and academic disciplines. The Partnership inspires students and teachers to approach the arts with an open mind and to gain insights into the creative process. Attendance at professional performances at Tilles Center is combined with experiential in-school workshops. Led by teaching artists and teachers, students explore their own artistic capabilities while strengthening essential skills – abstract thinking, teamwork, critical judgment, and problem solving. Guided to a deeper level of understanding, students learn what to look for, and listen to, in a performance or work of art.

The School Partnership works with students in Pre-K through high school and provides professional development for teachers.

For information about the School Partnership Program and other performances, visit [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or call (516) 299-2752.

### **2019-20 School Partner Districts**

Carle Place	East Meadow
East Williston	Great Neck
Freeport	Glen Cove
	Roosevelt
The Portledge School (Independent)	