Thank you for joining Ordway Education in this special collaboration with the O’Shaughnessy for the performance of *Grey Skies Blue*. This piece was recently performed at the Kennedy Center, on whose website you can find a guide to the performance: https://issuu.com/artsedge/docs/1718cuedesign_tya_greyskiesblue

**Before the Performance:**

- Please include all students, teachers, chaperones, and accommodation requests in your ticket order.
- Order buses to arrive at the O’Shaughnessy 15–20 minutes prior to your performance start time.
- Performance Length: 60 minutes long. Plan bus pick-up time accordingly.
- Inform students that there is no food, drink, or gum allowed in the theater.
- Remember to turn off all cell phones or electronic devices before the performance begins.

**After Leaving the O’Shaughnessy:**

- Please return the survey in the back of the study guide. All comments, feedback, and suggestions are appreciated!
- Fill out and return the bus reimbursement form in the performance study guide or online to receive your schools bus reimbursement. Reimbursement materials can be sent to educationsales@ordway.org.

*The company of SHAPESHIFT.*
Upon arrival:

Grey Skies Blue will be held at the O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, NOT AT THE ORDWAY. The O'Shaughnessy is located at:

2004 Randolph Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55105

IMPORTANT BUSING INFORMATION:
PLEASE READ THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW and call me at 651.282.3170 with any questions

• Bus Drop Off: Buses will enter campus via GATE 4 (on Fairview Ave.) Continue straight ahead to the STOP SIGN. Follow the road around to the left to the next T-intersection. Turn right and proceed to the next STOP SIGN. A crossing guard will be on hand to help direct traffic and ensure your students cross the road safely.

• After drop off, all busses must exit through GATE 3 (On Randolph St.) and park elsewhere. On campus parking for buses is absolutely NOT PERMITTED at any time. Parking on residential streets around campus is also prohibited. Instead, bus parking is available at the Highland Arena (800 South Snelling Ave. St. Paul, MN).

• Bus Pick-Up: Buses will line up in front of the O'Shaughnessy, entering through GATE 4 (on Fairview Ave.) Please instruct all ADA bus drivers to return by 11:00am or 1:00pm, to ensure curbside parking. All other bus drivers should return to the O'Shaughnessy at 11:10 am or 1:10 pm.

• Please coordinate with Bus Drivers to group bus arrival for pickup by school, if possible. This eases our dismissal process, and helps you get on your way in an efficient manner.

• Please plan to arrive 25-30 minutes before your performance

• Upon arrival, an O'Shaughnessy or Ordway staff member will greet you at your bus. Please stay on the bus until you are given directions by your bus greeter.

• Your bus greeter will write down the displayed bus number (including the number painted on the bus or number displayed in the bus window). If your school has their own bus organization system, please have it written out and give it to one of the bus greeters before the performance. This will allow us to best assist you in finding your bus after the performance.
Your Role as an Audience Member

Audience members play a special and important role in the performance. The performers are very aware of the audience while they perform and each performance calls for different audience responses.

Lively bands, musicians, and dancers may desire audience members to clap and move to the beat. Other performers require silent focus on the stage and will want an audience to applaud only when they have completed a portion of their performance.

As you enjoy the show, think about being a part of the performance.

- What are the differences between attending a live performance and going to a movie or watching television?
- What are some different types of live performances?
- What kind of responses might an audience give in each circumstance?
- What are the different cues that a performer will give you so that you know how to respond? For example, might they bow or pause for applause?

Also, remember that a hall is designed to magnify sound, and even the smallest whispers or paper rustling can be heard throughout. When you come to the Ordway, you are part of a community of audience members and you all work together to create your performance experience.

Audience Member Checklist (Review at School)

- Leave your food, drinks, and chewing gum at school.
- Remember to turn off all cell phones before the performance begins.
- When the house lights dim, the performance is about to begin. Please turn your attention toward the stage.
- Cameras and other recording devices are not allowed in the theater.
- Talk before and after the performance only. Remember that not only can those around you hear you, the performers can too.
- Appropriate responses such as laughing and applauding are appreciated. Pay attention to the artists on stage; they will let you know what is appropriate.
- Open your eyes, ears, mind, and heart to the entire experience!
- After the performance, you will be dismissed when your school is called from the stage. Remember to check around your seat for everything that you brought into the theater.

Schools from all over the region attend the Ordway’s student performances. Nearly **60,000** seats were filled by students and teachers last year!
About the Performance

Grey. Dreary. Sad. Kind of empty-like. That feeling when you look out your window and see, ugh, it’s another gloomy day.
But what if you could turn that grey sky blue? Through dance, no less!

ABOUT
Say “Hello, sunny day!” as SHAPESHIFT and its 12 young dancers tell powerful, personal stories about friendship, addiction, social injustice, love, and race. Let the sunshine in as this dance company transforms “understanding” through a combination of HipHop dance and contemporary movement.

SHAPESHIFT includes both self-taught and formally trained dancers, performing a range of dance styles that includes ballet, Latin, African, and modern.

The company began under Creative Director Ashley Selmer, who brings her expertise in jazz, contemporary, ballet, Hip Hop, and African dance into play. By using popular songs and their easily relatable lyrics, Selmer and her dance collective create vignettes—small stories or stories—about life and its many challenges for young people.

As Selmer explains, the dance collective finds that “it’s really important to highlight what is relevant today, what people are really feeling on a day-to-day basis, and so we focus a lot on discrimination, inclusion, sexual identity and the issues that are important to society today.”

BUT FIRST, THOSE GREY SKIES
As the show’s title hints, dancers will express the stories of characters in troubled relationships. For example:

- A young woman battles with her own addiction and struggles with what it means to be sober after the loss of her mother.
- Two friends find what they’ve always been looking for in each other, answering questions about their own identities.
- A promising romantic relationship is destroyed by a friend’s betrayal.

SHAPING AND SHIFTING THE SHOW

STEP ONE:
Focus on current, socially relevant topics.

STEP TWO:
Work together to choreograph, or come up with, moves for the performance. Here’s how the process works:

- The company’s creative team selects a piece of music or provides a storyline idea.
- A cast member takes responsibility for the song or storyline.
- The company uses improvisational dance exercises to form the development of the piece. For example, with “flocking,” members attempt to match each other’s movements, observing the shapes their bodies create.
- Cast members complete each segment. Then, the company collectively weaves the dance into the finished show.
About the Performance

JUST MOVE IT

Hip Hop dance may have started in the streets, but it is a cultural phenomenon that has spread far beyond the Bronx where American kids first began rockin’ and breakin.’ Here are just a few terms every B-boy and B-girl should know about Hip Hop moves:

- **Popping**: Fluid movements of the limbs, such as moving arms like an ocean wave, that emphasize contractions of isolated muscles.

- **Locking**: Snapping arms or legs into held positions, often at sharp angles, to accent a musical rhythm.

- **Power Moves**: Moves that are more acrobatic and require momentum, speed, strength, and control. Often the breaker is supported by his or her upper body, while the lower body spins or turns, as seen in the windmill or the swipe. Some power moves are borrowed from gymnastics or martial arts.

- **Freezes**: Poses that the breaker holds requiring a great deal of control. Often freezes are performed with the upper body or arms supporting the inverted breaker with legs held upward. Freezes often emphasize important beats in the music.

- **Voguing**: Using hard angles, rigid movements or joint “clicks,” and straight formation walking, voguing creates a fashion pose-like move. Hands are often used to “throw shade.”

WHAT TO LOOK AND LISTEN FOR

SHAPESHIFT leaves much to the imagination of audience members, but the group does use a few distinctive elements, such as costumes, props, and lighting, to set the tone for their scenes. For example:

- Watch for large floating stained-glass windows. Where do you think we are?

- Listen for weather-related sounds. What might thunder hint to us about the upcoming scene? What about the sound of birds?

- What specific lighting, costume, or set cues does SHAPESHIFT use to transmit information to audience members.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Why is the performance called Grey Skies Blue? What does the title mean to you?

- If you could collaborate with peers to create a dance performance, what personal or current event storylines would you want to highlight?

- What makes you want to move? To sing? To create?

- In mythology and folklore, a “shapeshifter” is someone who can completely transform their physical form and change their identity at will. Why do you think that Selmer decided to name her company SHAPESHIFT?

Choose a song whose topic or lyrics you especially like or personally relate to.

Create four simple movements or "gestures" to bring the song's story to life.

Then ... keep adding steps.

You’ve just SHAPESHIFTED!
SHAPESHIFT Grey Skies Blue
Performance Evaluation

Thank you for choosing an Ordway school performance for your field trip! Please take a moment to complete this evaluation following the show.

Please return the evaluation as soon as possible. Your comments and suggestions are greatly valued, as they help us offer you and your students better services in the future. Thank you again!

**School Information**

School: ____________________________

Your name: ________________________

E-mail Address: ____________________

Grades of Students attended: _________

Number of Students attended: _________

**Performance Review**

How well did the show connect to the classroom? (i.e. curricular areas, graduation standards, social skills, etc.)

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

I rated it this way because...
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

**Experience Review**

Rate your overall experience at the Ordway, please explain your answer:

☐ Excellent

☐ Good

☐ Average

☐ Poor

I rated it this way because...
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
Performance Evaluation (cont.)

Did you and your students feel that your Ordway experience was inclusive and met your needs?
☐ Yes  ☐ Indifferent  ☐ No

Did you or your students utilize any accessibility services during the performance? If so, please indicate which services:

Please rate the most important factor when deciding to bring your students to the Ordway, **one** being the most important and **four** being the least:

☐ Multicultural performances
☐ Ticket Cost
☐ Bus Reimbursement
☐ Study Guides
☐ Other:

What do you feel the value of Ordway’s programming is to your students?

What overall improvements could be made?

Do you see cultural benefits for students attending the Ordway performances? (i.e. learning about the language, tradition, arts, etc. of other cultures)
☐ Yes  ☐ Indifferent  ☐ No

If yes, what cultural benefits do you see?

Please check here if we **DO NOT** have permission to quote or paraphrase your comments or name in future publications or funding proposals.

Any Additional Comments:

☐Please Return to:

Education at Ordway Center
345 Washington Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Or email to educationsales@ordway.org
NO LATER THAN 6 WEEKS FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE
2019-2020 Ordway Education Bus Reimbursement Form

All schools attending an Ordway Education School Performance* are eligible to receive bus reimbursement!

To receive bus reimbursement, please:

☐ Fill out this form. All lines should be filled in.
☐ Attach a paid copy of your transportation bill. **
☐ Attach a completed evaluation or fill one out online (a link is emailed after the show)
☐ E-mail or mail all documents no later than 6 weeks after your performance to:
  Bus Reimbursements
  Education at Ordway Center
  345 Washington Street
  Saint Paul, MN 55102
  educationsales@ordway.org

Questions? Please call the education hotline at 651.282.3115.

School Name ____________________________________________________________

School Address _____________________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ________ Zip __________

County ________________________________________________________________

School Phone __________________________ Fax __________________________

Order Contact Name __________________________ & E-mail __________________________

Office Contact Name __________________________ & E-mail __________________________

Performance __________________________ Date and Time __________________________

# of students _________ # of buses for which you are requesting payment _________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City/Region/School District</th>
<th>Subsidy amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis Public Schools and Saint Paul Public School Districts</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven County Metro including Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott &amp; Washington Counties</td>
<td>Up to $180.00 per bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Seven County Metro</td>
<td>Up to $450.00 per bus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*An Ordway Education School Performance is defined as any school day matinee, including the Flint Hills Family Festival School Week

**For all schools outside of Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) and Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS), the Ordway Center will send the reimbursement check to your school. SPPS and MPS should request that district transportation forward their bus bill directly to the Ordway.