

## Valley Performing Arts Center 2016-2017 Single Tickets are on sale now for all events Including the Popular Family Sunday Matinees!

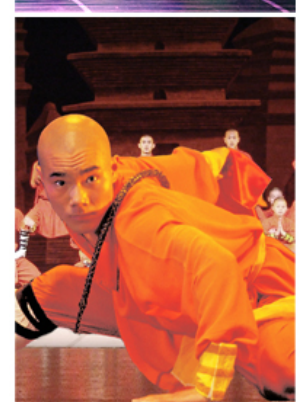
- World-famous **Vienna Boys Choirs**
- Irish Ensemble **Danú** performs *A Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag*
- Acclaimed dance group **Pilobolus' Shadowland\***
- **Chotto Desh** from Akram Khan Company\*
- Original musical production of *Hansel & Gretel\**
- Masters of Kung Fu, **SHAOLIN WARRIORS: THE LEGEND CONTINUES\***
- **The Nile Project**, representing 11 nations
- **Taj Express: The Bollywood Musical Revue**
- Full productions of *WEST SIDE STORY* and *MAN OF LA MANCHA*

(Los Angeles, CA) July 5, 2016 - An original production of the Grimm Brothers' *Hansel & Gretel*, *Shadowland* from acclaimed dance troupe **Pilobolus**, Akram Khan Company's *Chotto Desh*, and **SHAOLIN WARRIORS: THE LEGEND CONTINUES** and full productions of *WEST SIDE STORY* and *MAN OF LA MANCHA* are some of the highlights from Valley Performing Arts Center's newly-announced 2016-17 Season.

The season includes four Family Sunday Matinees\* and a series of world music and dance performances, with a focus on Africa and Asia. "This is a storybook season for VPAC," says VPAC's Executive Director, Thor Steingraber, "We have searched all over the world for these attractions and feel these represent an inspiring and eclectic mix of cultural experiences and compelling narratives."

Single tickets are on sale now at [ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org](http://ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org) or by calling (818) 677-3000. Valley Performing Arts Center is located on the campus of California State University, Northridge (CSUN), 18111 Nordhoff Street Northridge, CA 91330-8448, at the corner of Nordhoff and Lindley. During VPAC's last season, many attractions sold out, so we recommend buying tickets as soon as they go on sale.

Now entering its sixth season, VPAC's mission is to present a wide variety of performances that not only includes new and original work from the Los Angeles region, but also work from around the world that appeals to all of LA's rich and diverse communities. The Valley Performing Arts Center's 2016-17 Season signals a new era for the premiere event venue. Under the leadership of Executive Director Thor Steingraber, VPAC expands its programming and outstanding multi-disciplinary performances. Located on the campus of California State University, Northridge, VPAC's season offers a vibrant and diverse performance program of nearly 50 classical and popular music, dance, theater, family and international events that will serve to establish VPAC as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and further establish itself as one of the top arts companies in Southern California. The award-winning 1,700-seat theatre was designed by HGA Architects and Engineers and was recently cited by the *Los Angeles Times* as "a growing hub for live music, dance, drama and other cultural events." VPAC will present 44



performances in its 2016-2017 season from September 30, 2016 through May 13, 2017.

[Watch the VPAC 2016-17 Season Trailer](#), with highlights including:

- **Shadowland** (October 2) features acclaimed dance group Pilobolus' signature fusion of shadow, theatre, and dance. Audiences will be mesmerized as human bodies transform themselves into faces, cars, buildings, and more, beyond imagination. "Punchy, thrilling, and slick," *The Guardian London*, *Shadowland* follows the surreal experience of a young girl 's sensational world as she comes of age; taking the audience into this universe through its funny and moving tale.
- Akram Khan Company's **Chotto Desh** (November 20) is an imaginative story, brought to life with interactive animations and projection. *Chotto Desh*, meaning 'small homeland', draws on Khan's unique quality of cross-cultural storytelling, creating a compelling tale of a young man's dreams and memories from Britain to Bangladesh. Using a magical mix of dance, text, visuals and sound, *Chotto Desh* celebrates the resilience of the human spirit in the modern world and promises to be a magical, thrilling and poignant dance theatre experience for families to enjoy together.
- Audiences and critics worldwide have praised the talented singers of the **Vienna Boys Choir** (December 2) for their celestial voices, rapturous harmonies, pure tone, appealing demeanor, and, above all, a wide-ranging repertoire spanning centuries. With a rich history dating back more than 500 years, the Vienna Boys Choir has been associated with many of the world's great composers, including Mozart and Bruckner; Franz Schubert himself was a chorister.
- **Danú, A Christmas Gathering: Féile Na Nollag** (December 11) will be an Irish celebration of fancy fiddling and stepping. One of the leading traditional Irish ensembles of today, Danú formed in 1995 as part of Ireland's delegation to Lorient Inter-Celtic Festival in Brittany, France (an annual event that is the biggest gathering of celtic nations in the world). For over two decades, Danú's virtuosi players on flute, tin whistle, fiddle, button accordion, bouzouki, and vocals (Irish and English) have delighted audiences worldwide.
- Original musical production of **Hansel & Gretel** (January 22) by Grammy-nominated 'kindie' Justin Roberts and nationally-produced playwright Ernie Nolan. This wickedly delicious musical treat features stunning animations by Micah Chambers-Goldberg and is directed by Michael Matthews. *The Chicago Tribune* calls the score, "witty, melodic, varied...fresh and alive." This imaginative re-telling puts a rock and roll twist on the classic story of two siblings and their witch hunting adventures.
- Masters of Kung Fu perform a fully-choreographed theatrical production, **SHAOLIN WARRIORS: THE LEGEND CONTINUES** (February 19), bringing remarkable skill and death-defying martial arts to the VPAC stage. Representing over a thousand years of Chinese martial arts culture, *Shaolin Warriors* features many forms of Shaolin Kung Fu as well as a look at the daily life of the warriors and their Zen philosophy. Beginning at a very young age, Kung Fu masters are trained in mental and physical disciplines, perfecting the art of hand-to-hand and weapons combat, which allows them to perform unbelievable feats of athleticism that only seem possible in films. "[Shaolin Warriors] combine the agility and grace of gymnasts with the showmanship of Cirque du Soleil performers," *The Wall Street Journal*.
- A gathering of musicians from 11 countries of the Nile basin, **The Nile Project** (February 24) performs music that combines the region's diverse instruments, languages and traditions. The concert experience inspires cultural curiosity, highlights regional connections and showcases the potential of trans-boundary cooperation. *The New York Times* says, "Euphoric...the Nile Project was a superb example of what I call small-world music, of what happens to traditions in the information age."
- **Taj Express: The Bollywood Musical Revue** (April 19) explodes with the sounds of India and Bollywood, capturing the vibrant, expressive spirit of the world of Bollywood movies that have been

entertaining billions of people in India for generations. Through a fusion of film, dance and music, this dazzling international sensation will take audiences on a live cinematic journey through modern Indian culture and society. The production is a high energy celebration of new India's pop music, Bollywood culture, and deep traditions featuring colorful costumes, joyful dance and thrilling live music.

- Full productions of **WEST SIDE STORY** (March 10-12, 2017) and **MAN OF LA MANCHA**, which tells the story of Miguel De Cervantes and Don Quixote (May 5-7, 2017), round out the season, both co-presented with McCoy Rigby Entertainment. Following their collaboration last season, *Dreamgirls*, VPAC and McCoy Rigby Entertainment team up to present two of the most acclaimed musicals of all time. In *WEST SIDE STORY*, caught between prejudice and warring street gangs, Tony and Maria find love on tough streets of New York City. From the first note to last, composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim crafted an enduring score that includes "Tonight," "Maria," "Somewhere," "Something's Coming," and "America." *MAN OF LA MANCHA*, one of the most popular American musicals, tells the poignant story of Don Quixote and his pursuit of "The Impossible Dream." His dream is Everyman's dream. His tilting at windmills is Everyman's adventure.

For a full list of VPAC's 2016-17 Season offerings, visit [ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org](http://ValleyPerformingArtsCenter.org)

Photos (top to bottom): *Chotto Desh*, *Shadowland*, *SHAOLIN WARRIORS*. [Click here to download.](#)

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