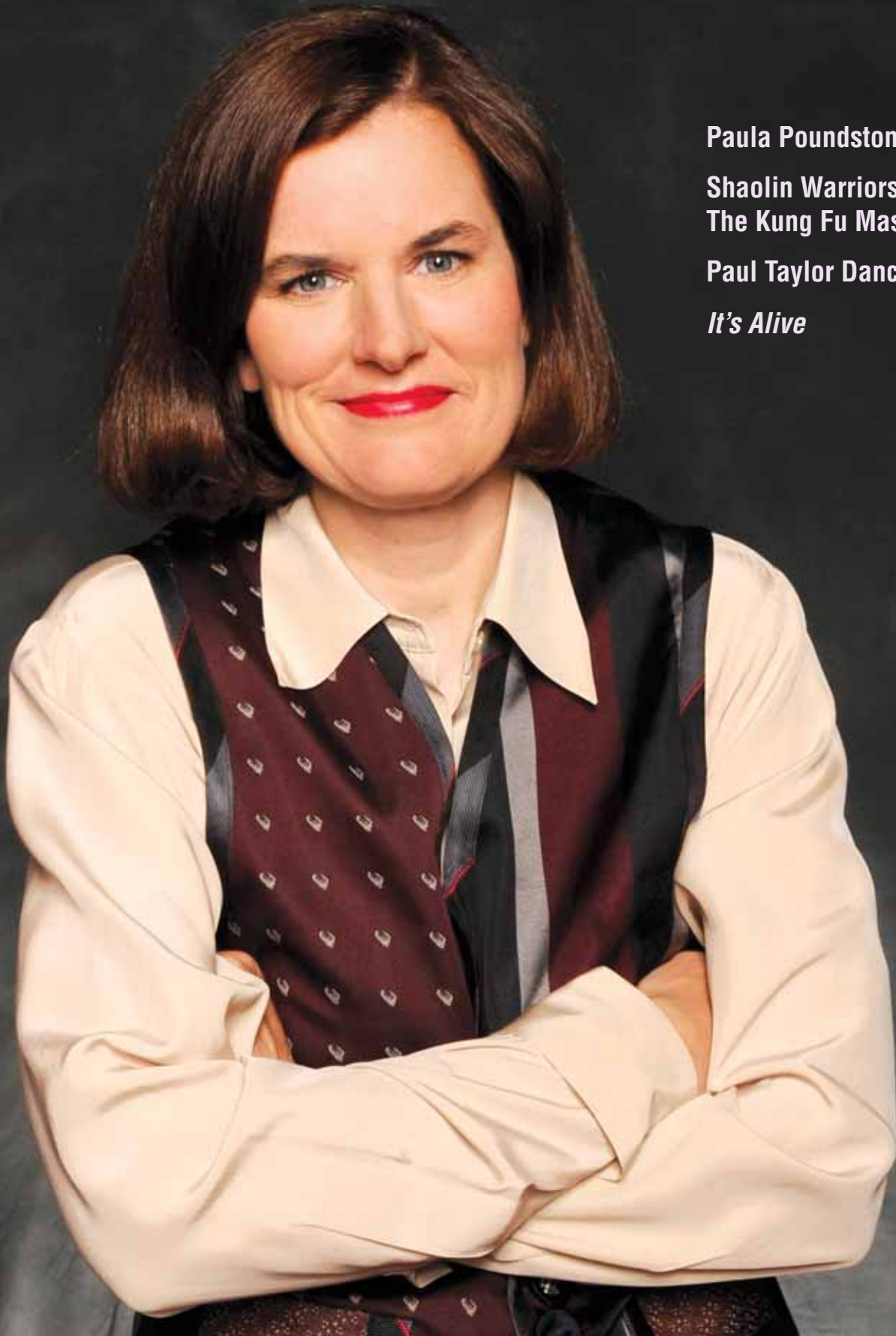


Places

A preview of Performing Arts at
Johnson County Community College

www.jccc.edu/TheSeries

November 2009



Paula Poundstone

**Shaolin Warriors:
The Kung Fu Masters of China**

Paul Taylor Dance Company

It's Alive

Paula Poundstone

Poundstone Is Comedic Gem

Armed with nothing but a stool, a microphone and a can of Diet Pepsi, Paula Poundstone will present her one-woman comedy show filled with razor-sharp wit and audience interaction at 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center.

Poundstone's humor and spontaneity have made her one of the most popular panelists on NPR's weekly news quiz show, *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me*. Her commentaries can be heard on NPR's *Morning Edition* and read on the Huffington Post and its comedy site *23/6*.

Poundstone grew up in Sudbury, Mass., and by age 19 was traveling on a Greyhound bus across the country – stopping at open mic nights in comedy clubs.

In 1979 she began nurturing her stand-up comedy talent as part of the Boston comedy scene, then moved to San Francisco. By 1990 she'd relocated to Los Angeles where she starred in several comedy specials for HBO, as well as appeared on *Saturday Night Live* when friend and mentor Robin Williams hosted the show. Her first one-hour HBO special, *Cats, Cops, and Stuff*, made Poundstone the first woman to ever receive the Cable ACE for Best Stand-up Comedy Special. She also starred in a self-titled talk show series for HBO (for which she won her second Cable ACE Award for Best Program Interviewer).

In 1992, Poundstone forsook what she considered the 'staid' five-minute stand-up set on late-night talk-shows for something she thought would be more real with the audience. So instead, she filed memorable field commentary of the presidential election for the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno. This led to her own show on ABC, *The Paula Poundstone Show*.

By the mid-90s, Poundstone had shifted her performances from comedy clubs to performing arts centers where her interactions with the crowd became legendary. In 1996, Paula taped her second hour-special for HBO, *Paula Poundstone Goes to Harvard*, the first time the elite university ever allowed its name to be used in the title of a television show.

Poundstone's off-kilter sensibility and impeccable timing made her a perfect fit for *Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me*, for which she has been a regular panelist for seven years. The show is broadcast in 50 states and gives Poundstone a chance to match wits with some of today's leading pundits. She published her first book, *There's Nothing in This Book That I Meant to Say*, and released a first CD, *HEART JOKES: Paula Tells Them in Maine*.

Poundstone has made frequent TV appearances on all the major talk shows including Letterman, Leno, Craig Ferguson and Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion*. She is the voice of Judge Stone on ABC's Saturday morning *Science Court aka Squigglevision* and "Paula," the mom in Cartoon Network's *Home Movies*.

An avid reader and author, Poundstone was recently named the national spokesperson for Friends of Libraries U.S.A. She began fostering children in the early 1990s, and went on to become a parent to three children of her own, Toshia 17, Allison 14, and Thomas E., 10. The family lives in Santa Monica, Calif.

Tickets \$40, \$30



Shaolin Warriors demonstrate ‘stillness in movement’



The Shaolin Warriors will bring the remarkable skill, stunning movement and spectacular imagery of Kung Fu to the Performing Arts Series of Johnson County Community College at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 20-21, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center. More than a martial arts exhibition, this performance is a fully choreographed theatrical production.

Performed by disciples of the Shaolin schools, known throughout the world for their disciplined and deadly martial-arts prowess, these Kung Fu masters have trained from a very young age in mental and physical disciplines, allowing them to perform feats once thought only possible in the movies. The production features many forms of Shaolin Kung Fu as well as a look at the daily lives of the warriors and their Zen philosophy. Painted backdrops show the temple and its surroundings. The show has a narrative, but much

like the plot of an old Kung Fu movie, plot is secondary to the action.

Ta Mo, a Buddhist monk from India arrived at the base of Mount Shaoshi in central China in 535 A.D. and founded the Shaolin monastery. Recognizing the need to protect themselves at a time of battle-torn feudal China, the early Shaolin monks embarked on a process to develop a system of defense by meditating on the attack and defense movements of animals that lived near their monastery. The Shaolin monks called their system “wushu.”

Today, the Shaolin monks train in martial arts for several hours every day, perfecting the art of hand-to-hand and weapons combat. There are more than 20 weapons used by the Shaolin monks today – the common axe, cudgel, spear, halberd, sword, three-section staff, dart, dagger, broadsword, tiger hooks and others. In addition to the employment of these weapons, virtually any common object can be used in combat by a Shaolin monk.

Though it is hard to reconcile throwing blades and spears with Buddhism’s philosophy of nonviolence, it would be incorrect to interpret demonstrations of Shaolin fighting techniques as acts of aggression. The Shaolin fight mostly in silence exhibiting what can be described as “stillness in movement,” a stillness resulting from a serene mind, cultivated through the practice of meditation.

After 1,500 years, the monks of Shaolin are still held in great reverence for an art that is half mental, half physical.

Tickets \$40, \$30



JCCC and Paul Taylor make good dance partners

Paul Taylor is without question the greatest living American choreographer. Since choreographing his first dance in 1954, he now has a collection of 131 works, performed by his own celebrated Paul Taylor Dance Company and its offshoot Taylor 2, as well as companies here and abroad.

At age 80, Taylor is not through yet.

The Performing Arts Series at Johnson County Community College has commissioned its fifth Paul Taylor dance, to be performed at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Nov. 13-14, in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center. A company member will give a pre-performance talk at 7 p.m. The new commission will have its world premiere the week before at Syracuse University, N.Y., Taylor's alma mater.

Two entirely different programs will be performed on Friday and Saturday, except for the new piece, a co-commission which appears on the programs both evenings.

Friday's program is the new work, *Scudorama* and *Offenbach Overtures*; Saturday's program is the new work, *Beloved Renegade* and *Changes*.

The new dance, as yet untitled, features music by Debussy, *Children's Corner*; costumes by Santo Loquasto and lighting by James Ingalls.

The legendary *Scudorama* (1963), "a dance of death leavened with light touches," was one of Taylor's early triumphs. With a commissioned score by Clarence Jackson, *Scudorama* was a mainstay of the repertoire for a decade; it now makes a much-anticipated return to the stage.

Offenbach Overtures (1995), set to music by the King of the CanCan, is a comic take on things French.

First performed in 2008, *Beloved Renegade* is a spiritual piece inspired by the life and writings of Walt Whitman set to Francis Poulenc's stirring choral masterpiece, *Gloria*.

Changes (2008), a high-spirited dance set to songs sung by The Mamas and The Papas, revisits the turbulent 1960s and the growing radicalization of young people as they defied authority and embraced liberation movements.

Choreography for both dances is by Taylor, and longtime collaborators Santo Loquasto created the set and costumes and Jennifer Tipton the lighting. The three artists, referred to as "the dream team," completed finishing touches on *De Sueños que se Repiten* in two days of open rehearsals at Yardley Hall for its world premiere here on Nov. 2-3, 2007.

Few artists of our time have had the profound impact on their art form that Taylor has had on dance over the past six decades. The Performing Arts Series at JCCC is proud to have supported Taylor and his dance company through the years, commissioning or co-commissioning four previous dances: *Black Tuesday* (2001), *Dante Variations* (2004), *Banquet of Vultures* (2006) and *De Sueños que se Repiten* (2007). In turn, the Paul Taylor Dance Foundation named Charles Rogers, PAS at JCCC, to the Exemplary Presenters' Coalition because of the Series' support and commissions of Taylor's works.

Beloved Renegade



Taylor first presented his choreography with five other dancers and himself on May 30, 1954, in Manhattan. In the following decades, Taylor has become a cultural icon – dance-maker, naturalist and self-described “reporter,” who takes as much pride in his wildflower gardens, scarab (a kind of beetle) collection, writings, paintings and furniture-making as he does in the dances that bring cheering throngs to their feet.

His two dance companies (Taylor 2 was created in 1993) travel the globe, bringing his ever-increasing repertoire to theaters and venues of every size and description in cultural capitals, college campuses and rural communities – and often to places modern dance has never been before.

Taylor’s choreography, once deemed experimental and avant-garde, quickly became the gold standard of modern dance. And Taylor bridged, as no other choreographer, the once-distant camps of ballet and modern dance by allowing internationally acclaimed ballet companies to acquire the works he creates for his own celebrated troupe.

He has been showered with every prestigious award the United States and France can bestow on an artist including an Emmy Award for *Speaking in Tongues*, Kennedy Center honoree, National Medal of Arts recipient, three Guggenheim Fellowships, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship award for lifetime achievement and France’s highest honor, the Légion d’Honneur, for exceptional contributions to French culture in 2000. Taylor’s works have been licensed for performance by more than 75 companies worldwide. His autobiography, *Private Domain*, was nominated by the National Book Critics Circle as the most distinguished biography of 1987, and Taylor and his company are the subject of *Dancemaker*, Matthew Diamond’s Oscar-nominated film, hailed by Time Magazine as “perhaps the best dance documentary ever.”

Tickets \$35, \$25



Changes

Performing Arts Education has a strong fall lineup

As program director of Performing Arts Education, Angel Mercier is always looking at ways art can enhance learning. In the 2009-2010 season, her focus is on comprehensive residencies.

"With each artist, we are aiming to keep residencies educational and fun and to involve the community and campus at all ages. We are working on very comprehensive residencies where the artists are here three to four days," Mercier said.

The Performing Arts Education fall schedule lists new offerings in addition to the usual solid lineup of school shows, master classes and outreach performances in the schools and community that we've come to expect in the last nine years of the program.

- This month, Jazz Prelude makes its debut Nov. 5-6 – so named as an education program in preparation for the jazz festival, Jazz Winterlude – Kansas City Style, Jan. 8-10, 2010.

Building on five successful years of Up & Coming Jazz Artists, a program for middle- and high-school students led by well-known Kansas City jazz artists for five days each November, Jazz Prelude retains the education, forgoing performances until January.

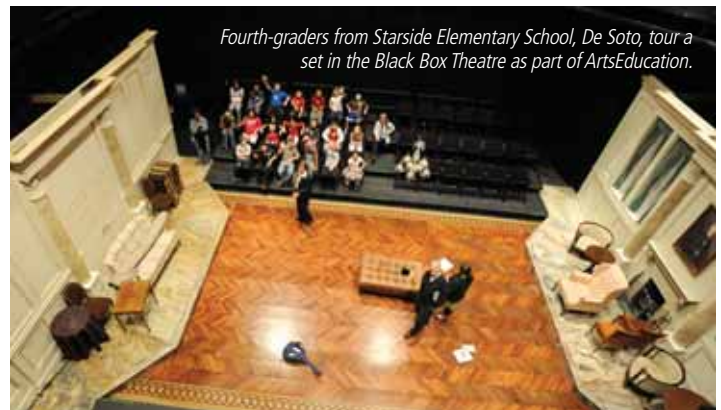
"We are very excited to have two nationally recognized professionals to teach the two-day intensive study," Mercier said. "What will happen in Jazz Prelude is a very intense study of composition and theory offered to four high school bands, selected by invitation only," Mercier said.

A graduate-credit class for band directors, who teach at any grade level, is schedule for Saturday, Nov. 7.

"The hope is that students and directors who take part in the November Jazz Prelude tie into the January festival, which is both performance-based and educational," Mercier said.

- On Nov. 13-14, when the Paul Taylor Dance Company performs, JCCC students and fine arts students from area high schools are invited to a master class and open rehearsal before the Friday performance.

"John Tomlinson, PTDC general manager, gives students background on the performance and explains what they are seeing," Mercier said.



Fourth-graders from Starside Elementary School, De Soto, tour a set in the Black Box Theatre as part of Arts Education.

- In December, JCCC students will have the opportunity to learn about the unofficial 1914 Christmas Day truce through Cantus' performance of *All Is Calm* and history scholars affiliated with the National World War I Museum at the Liberty Memorial.

Earlier fall highlights included:

- Sones de México, Chicago's premier Mexican folk group, was in residency Sept. 22-25, offering special workshops like *The Mexican Corrido* to expose middle-and high-school students to writing folk literature as well as hearing authentic cultural music.
- In a mix of art and healing, Kevin and Cindy Spencer, 2009 Magicians of the Year, were in residency Oct. 6-10. In a partnership between JCCC's Health and Human Services and Arts Education, the Spencers presented a Healing of Magic workshop for occupational and physical therapists. They also were scheduled to make on-site visits to medical centers and conduct a class for teachers of ADD and ADHD students.

Notable for the spring are master classes with the Martha Graham Dance Company and a performance by The Little Theatre of the Deaf, the family/children's theater wing of the National Theatre of the Deaf.

Many of the performing Arts Education offerings are ongoing – school shows and buses are provided for schools to attend one jazz or Ruel Joyce performance each semester.

"I am happy that the artists who are coming here can have an in-depth exchange with students in order to enhance learning. We are using the arts in so many ways – integrating them in new ways to make a difference in education and in the community," Mercier said.



Students dance in Polsky Theatre as part of a Spirit of Uganda residency, sponsored by Arts Education.

Performing Arts Events

Johnson County Community College

November 2009



The ArtsKC Fund



A great nation deserves great art.











AMERICAN MASTERSPIECES




mid-america arts alliance



New England Foundation for the Arts

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<p>1  Mark Gibbs</p>	<p>2 *Mark Gibbs, cello Ruel Joyce Recital noon Yardley Hall</p>	<p>3 *Kansas City Bass Quartet Jazz Series noon Polsky Theatre</p> <p><i>It's Alive!: How Your Organs Work</i> PAS ArtsEducation 9:45 p.m. and noon Yardley Hall</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Jazz Prelude, PAS ArtsEducation 3:30-6:30 p.m. Carlsen Center call 913-469-4221</p>	<p>6 Paula Poundstone Special Event 8 p.m. Yardley Hall \$40, \$30</p>	<p>7  Paula Poundstone</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>9 *Jeff Harshbarger, bass, and guests Ruel Joyce Recital Series noon Polsky Theatre</p>	<p>10 </p> <p>Paul Taylor Dance Company, <i>Changes</i></p>	<p>11 </p>	<p>12</p> <p>*Almost, Maine, JCCC Academic Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Polsky Theatre</p>	<p>13 Paul Taylor Dance Company New work, <i>Scudorama</i>, <i>Offenbach Overtures</i> Dance Series 8 p.m. Yardley Hall \$35, \$25</p>	<p>14 Paul Taylor Dance Company New work, <i>Beloved Renegade, Changes</i> Dance Series 8 p.m. Yardley Hall \$35, \$25</p>	
<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 </p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 </p> <p>21</p> <p>Shaolin Warriors The Kung Fu Masters of China Center Stage Series, 8 p.m. Yardley Hall \$40, \$30</p> <p>*Almost, Maine, JCCC Academic Theatre 7:30 p.m. Polsky Theatre</p>	<p>22 Kansas City Symphony Stern Conducts Sibelius 2 p.m. Yardley Hall \$52, \$42, \$12 youth</p> <p>*Almost, Maine JCCC Academic Theatre 2 p.m. Polsky Theatre</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 </p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27 </p> <p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

For best seats, order early.
Call 913-469-4445
 or buy tickets online
www.jccc.edu/TheSeries
 for tickets and information.

Service fee applicable. 
 Purchase live online

Box Office: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday • Call 913-469-4445
 Tickets are required for most events in Polsky Theatre and Yardley Hall. Programs, dates and times are subject to change. There is a \$1 per ticket handling charge at the JCCC box office. Discounts are available for music, theater and dance students.

Carlsen Center Administrative Office: Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday • Call 913-469-4450
 A request for interpretative services must be made 72 hours before a performance. Call the box office at 913-469-4445 or TDD/TTY 913-469-4485.

Persons with disabilities who desire additional support services may contact services for patrons with disabilities, 913-469-8500, ext. 3521, or TDD/TTY 913-469-3885.

***free-admission event**

www.jccc.edu/TheSeries

Steve Petra & PetraPuppets

IT'S ALIVE!



How Our Organs Work

Body parts perform

It's Alive! How Our Organs Work is a wild science class presented by ventriloquist Steve Petra and Petra Puppets at 9:45 a.m. and noon Tuesday, Nov. 3 (for K-2nd grades) and Wednesday, Nov. 4 (for grades 3-6) in Yardley Hall of the Carlsen Center, as part of the Performing Arts Series school shows.

The show features audience participation, illusions, original songs and music. Student helpers come to deliver messages from the brain to body parts, scratch the nose, watch veins and arteries as the heart pumps the blood through them, stretch 20 feet of intestine across the stage and much more.

Topics include:

- Who's in Charge: The brain and nervous system
- Give Me Some Air: The lungs, breathing, nose, wind pipe
- Pump It Up: The heart and blood vessels
- Guts at Work: The digestive system

Petra trained at the National Theatre of Puppet Arts and Jim Henson Productions, Manhattan, and has been a professional puppeteer since 1990 performing his own scripts, songs and music. Before that, he worked as a professional musician. He now specializes in educational programs.

Petra Puppets is Steve and his wife Jeanie. Steve performs the shows, and Jeanie does the administrative work.

Steve has performed at Puppeteers of America festivals and at Puppet Guild of Long Island events. He's a member of The Puppeteers of America, Union Internationale de la Marionnette, Puppet Guild of Long Island and International Ventriloquists Association.

Tickets \$5