

VIEW THIS EMAIL IN YOUR BROWSER



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millertheatre.com

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“If you’re a fan of the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade, you’ve probably wondered how those amazing puppets are created and brought to life. This is your chance not just to see behind the scenes but also to participate in the process.”

— *The New York Times*

**The Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre
at Columbia University School of the Arts**

present the tenth year of a beloved tradition that connects community through art

MORNINGSIDE LIGHTS

This year’s theme is inspired by the intersection of Shakespeare and Duke Ellington, exploring the spirit of play while finding meaning within collective traditions.

"Play On!"

Free as always • Virtual this year

Concept and direction by **PROCESSIONAL ARTS WORKSHOP**

Through distribution of "make-your-own" lantern kits, plus video tutorials and virtual workshops, the public will collectively illuminate the night with their one-of-a-kind lanterns, bringing light and life back to public space.

September 9-11, 2021

"Create your own lantern at home" kits will be distributed to registrants at a socially-distanced pick-up location outside of Miller Theatre.

Watch the Video Celebration: Tuesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m.

Tune in to morningside-lights.com to watch the live premiere of the video celebration that includes user-generated content of the lantern-making process.

Sign up at morningside-lights.com

**From Melissa Smey, Executive Director
Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre:**

"We started Morningside Lights ten years ago with the goal of bringing communities together through art. This amazing project continues to exceed expectations in facilitating creativity and connections within our neighborhood and beyond. I am thrilled to join in the year-long campus celebration of Duke Ellington's "Such Sweet Thunder" with our own Shakespearean theme of "Play On!" I hope you join us in playing and creating magic together."





Participant photos from Morningside Lights 2020

Morningside Lights returns for its 10th year, and invites the public to come out and PLAY by taking part in the virtual procession of awe-inspiring handmade lanterns. Columbia's ***campus-wide exploration*** of Duke Ellington's Shakespearean suite "Such Sweet Thunder" provides the creative backdrop for the community to explore how one links established literary and cultural canon to personal experience.

This year, the neighborhood tradition again offers FREE kits to make lanterns at home, including video tutorials and virtual workshops. Shakespeare's words will literally be illuminated, bringing light and life back to public space.

A limited number of "create your own lantern at home" kits will be made

available to the general public, with reservations required on morningside-lights.com. Kits will be distributed to registrants outside of Miller Theatre (Broadway at 116th Street) on **September 9, 10, and 11**. Kit recipients will be assisted in the creation of their lantern through video tutorials with **Processional Arts Workshop**, and will have access to virtual workshops to build their lanterns with the rest of the community via Zoom.

There are two additional ways to participate in this year's *Morningside Lights*: Build a mini lantern (aka nano-lantern) with materials available at home (details will be announced later in September); or submit one's recitation of a line of Shakespeare featured on the lanterns.

All participants are encouraged to share video and photos of their experience and progress, culminating in a **video celebration on Tuesday, October 26 at 7PM** that will feature the shared content in a single captivating film.

More information and kit reservations are available at www.morningside-lights.com.

[Click here](#) to watch the video of Morningside Lights 2020.

[Click here](#) to view photos of previous Morningside Lights.

"This twilight parade of handmade paper lanterns is a gorgeous welcome to fall. It's a remarkably creative undertaking—New York's Got Talent!—and everybody is invited to join in. Morningside Lights is magical, even if you're just a spectator."

— ***Time Out Kids***

**Morningside Lights concept and direction by Processional Arts Workshop.
Co-produced by the Arts Initiative and Miller Theatre at
Columbia University School of the Arts.**

Such Sweet Thunder

ELLINGTON PLAYS SHAKESPEARE:

LOVE AND POWER IN ADAPTATION

[Listen to Duke Ellington's work on Spotify](#)

A yearlong campus-wide festival of teaching and learning through classroom curricula, public concerts and performances, lectures, discussions, and an exhibition based on and inspired by *Such Sweet Thunder*, Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's landmark 1957 Shakespearean suite. *An interdisciplinary collaboration by Columbia's Center for Jazz Studies, Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies, Department of English and Comparative Literature, and the Core Curriculum.*

Processional Arts Workshop

www.superiorconcept.org



Alex Kahn and Sophia Michahelles, PAW Artistic Directors
with workshop participants; Photos by Karli Cadel

Processional Arts Workshop (PAW), under the direction of Alex Kahn and Sophia Michahelles, creates site-specific parades, processions, and immersive theatre happenings worldwide. Inspired by diverse, global traditions of Carnavalesque street theatre, largescale puppetry, and ritual pageant, PAW uses processional art as means to build and sustain community spirit and awareness, designing original works for established public events and festivals, as well as seeding site-specific pageant traditions in communities where no such events may have existed before. Drawing on regional cultures, history, folklore, ethnicity, and current sociopolitical concerns, PAW engages local residents in every stage of production, empowering them to identify and express the narratives that uniquely define “local” in their own community, against the modern tide of global homogenization.

The Arts Initiative

artsinitiative.columbia.edu

The Arts Initiative at Columbia University is a pioneering venture to make arts and culture a meaningful part of every Columbian's experience. Founded in 2004, the Arts Initiative's diverse programs encourage students, faculty, and staff to experience the creative life of the campus, engage the cultural riches of New York City and the wider world, and create arts and performance. Under the auspices of the Arts Initiative, Columbia students, faculty, and staff attend cultural events across New York City, benefit from ticket discounts and subsidies, and connect to one another through the Arts Initiative's vibrant programming. At its core, the Arts Initiative creates and facilitates opportunities for cross-disciplinary exchange and is integral to the fabric of campus life. Its programs benefit from engagement

with Columbia's world-class faculty, especially those of the School of the Arts, of which it is a part.

Miller Theatre

millertheatre.com

Miller Theatre at Columbia University is the leading presenter of new music in New York City and one of the most vital forces nationwide for innovative programming. In partnership with Columbia University School of the Arts, Miller is dedicated to producing and presenting unique events, with a focus on contemporary and early music, jazz, opera, and multimedia performances. Founded in 1988, Miller Theatre has helped launch the careers of myriad composers and ensembles over the years, serving as an incubator for emerging artists and a champion of those not yet well known in the United States. A four-time recipient of the ASCAP/Chamber Music America Award for Adventurous Programming, Miller Theatre continues to meet the high expectations set forth by its founders—to present innovative programs, support the development of new work, and connect creative artists with adventurous audiences.

Columbia University's Miller Theatre is located north of the Main Campus Gate at 116th St. & Broadway on the ground floor of Dodge Hall.

Directions and information are available online at millertheatre.com or via the Miller Theatre Box Office, at 212/854-7799.

For further information, press tickets, photos, and to arrange interviews, please contact Aleba & Co. at 212/206-1450 or aleba@alebaco.com.

For photos, please contact Lauren Bailey Cognetti, lrb2113@columbia.edu.



PR for musical trailblazers



8/24/2021

The 10th annual MORNINGSIDE LIGHTS tradition returns virtually this fall

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