

Forbes House Speech

- **Good morning, and welcome to the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.**
- **Please take a moment to locate your nearest emergency exit.**
- **Out of respect for the artists on stage, as well as the other audience members, we ask that you turn off your cellphones now, and refrain from texting during the show.**
- **Federal copyright law prohibits recording or photography of any kind.**
- **This morning's performance will include . . .**
 - **one ten-minute intermission.**
 - **There will also be atmospheric effects.**
 - **Strobe lighting.**
 - **Following the performance, you are invited to stay for a question and answer session with the show's cast and production team.**
- **The College of Visual and Performing Arts begins many events by sharing a land acknowledgment, a traditional custom in many Native nations and communities. In reading our land and enslaved peoples acknowledgment, we seek to honor our shared history and recognize present inequalities that may be experienced by members of our school community:**

“We acknowledge that we are currently on the land of the Indigenous Siouan, Algonquian, and Haudenosaunee communities who lived here for many generations. We pay our respects to their elders, both past and present, and honor their connections, past, present and future, to the Shenandoah Valley.

We acknowledge and pay respect to the enslaved peoples, bought and sold into forced labor. We honor all the descendants of the victims and survivors of the transatlantic slave trade.

We recognize that the painful histories of white supremacy persist in present-day racial realities and privileges at this university and in our communities. We invite all to commit to dismantling racism and oppression by creating change where we live and work.”

- **Thank you, and enjoy the performance.**