



ALL-OF-US EXPRESS CHILDREN'S THEATRE

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT FOR SEASON 28



YOUTH CREATING QUALITY THEATER

Vision: The Vision of AECT is a community that values youth creating art for the benefit of all.

Mission: This vision is accomplished by offering young people of all backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles the opportunity to produce professional quality plays, study many aspects of the dramatic arts, and develop valuable life skills while providing outstanding entertainment to the community.

Anti-Discrimination Policy: All-of-us Express Children Theatre is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation and an equal opportunity employer providing programs and services without regard to age, color, creed, gender identity, disability, height, membership in any labor organization, national origin, parental status, political identification, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or weight.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Letter from the AECT Nonprofit Board of Trustees President | 3 |
| 2016-2017 Season Productions: The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of..... | 4 |
| Young Playwrights Festival | 6 |
| Guild Program | 6 |
| Classes/Workshops/Drama Camp/Lessons | 7 |
| Scholarship Program | 7 |
| AECT Nonprofit Statement of Revenue and Expenses for the Fiscal Year September 2016-August 2017 | 8 |
| 2016-2017 AECT Nonprofit Board of Trustees | 9 |
| City of East Lansing Department of Parks, Recreation and Arts – AECT Program Staff | 9 |
| Thank You to Our Season Grantors and Donors | 10 |
| Membership | 11 |
| 2017-2018 Season Productions: In a World of Pure Imagination..... | 12 |

Numbers Served in 2016-2017

Total Show Attendance: 4,182 community members

Young Playwrights Festival Attendance: 100 community members

Drama Camp Attendance: 175 youth

Total Cast Participation: 116 youth

Guild Participation: 110 youth

Experience Crew (non-Guild) Participation: 106 youth

First Time Participation With AECT: 124 youth

Memberships: 77 lifetime, family and supporting members

LETTER FROM THE AECT NONPROFIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

The 28th season was indeed “The Stuff Dreams Are Made Of”. Many dreams were achieved by the youth at All-of-us Express. This was a season of innovative shows, new opportunities, classic tales, old favorites and stunning musicals.

As the new president of the AECT Nonprofit Board of Trustees this has been a year of learning experiences, creative solutions and collaboration. I want to thank our dedicated board, loyal membership, energetic youth, valued City of East Lansing staff and generous supporters.

The AECT Board and the COEL continue to work together toward fulfilling the mission of AECT. Together we accomplished many “dreams” this season! The grants and fundraising committees exceeded their goals for this fiscal year. Two innovative learning experiences were offered to youth and their families through collaboration with the Holocaust Memorial Center and the East Lansing Library. The third annual Young Playwrights Festival challenged youth with a theatre in the round experience. Additionally, fundraising was brought to a whole new level with the first annual Spring Gala.

The renegotiation of the merger, which was originally established in 2009, between the board and the COEL continues. The renegotiated merger will update and clarify roles of both parties. The board looks forward to the completion of the renegotiation during the 29th season.

The AECT family continues to grow and has achieved amazing success this year. The positive impact this program has on youth is unmeasurable! I look forward to the 29th Season and all it will offer our youth and families!

~Katie Brewer, President, All-of-us Express Children’s Theatre



2016-2017 SEASON PRODUCTIONS: THE STUFF DREAMS ARE MADE OF

Ideally each season productions are chosen by a committee of board members, parents, and youth who read and discuss scripts and select potential shows meeting established criteria, including cast size; potential to attract larger, non-traditional audiences; subject matter suitability; and artistic challenge to participants. Collaborating artists become involved in project planning at pre-production meetings that articulate the director's vision, goals and projects for each production.

Unless noted otherwise, productions are staged at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center Alfred A. White Performing Arts Theater, which features a proscenium style stage. Cast and crew rehearsals also are held at Hannah Community Center.

A Little Princess

November 4-5 and 11-12, 2016; Hannah Community Center, East Lansing
Directed by Amelia Rogocka



Number the Stars

February 3-4 and 10-11, 2017; Hannah Community Center, East Lansing
Directed by Gabe Francisco/Sarah Lynn



Pinocchio – Collaboration with Riverwalk Theatre

April 21-23 and 28-30, 2017; Riverwalk Theatre, Lansing
Directed by Dale Williams

The spring show is annually held at Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing, Michigan. This popular downtown Lansing theater features a thrust stage, providing young actors and actresses the opportunity and challenge of plying their craft on a different type of stage than Hannah Community Center provides.



Shrek

July 28-30 and August 4-5, 2017; Hannah Community Center, East Lansing
Directed by Rick Dethlefsen



Show photos courtesy Melissa Downs

SCHOOL SHOWS

AECT offers one school show for each production in order to enhance field trip opportunities in the arts for local schools, daycares, preschools, and community groups. The AECT Artistic Director prepares and provides curriculum guides to the groups, to increase the learning potential. After each school show AECT also offers a “talk back” opportunity where the audience asks questions of the cast and crew.

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

During May 2017, AECT produced and performed their third annual Young Playwrights Festival (YPF). Two AECT youth writers had their stories selected to be a part of the 2017 YPF. A new format was used this year. The audience was put directly on the stage with the elevated stage for the actors placed in the round. This new format created new and interesting challenges for our AECT youth directors and actors! Limited seating was available resulting in an intimate, up close theatre experience.



GUILD PROGRAM

AECT's unique Guild program is rewarding for our youth participants while they are involved with the theatre and beyond. It affords youth the opportunity to learn and excel at backstage crafts. Adult Guild supervisors mentor young people through the sequential stages of learning each of the non-acting areas of stagecraft, including Director, Management, Set Construction, Props, Costumes, Makeup, and Tech (sound and lights) Guilds. Youth that work and learn on the guild crews experience a sense of accomplishment, increased self-esteem and gain appreciation for all aspects of theatre while having fun. Seeing what they helped to create on stage is very rewarding and many come to love the backstage work and want to be involved with it again. The real-life skills participants learn through this process have practical applications outside the world of theater also. Carpentry, sewing, project planning and management, teamwork, mentoring, design aesthetics, problem-solving, time management, and financial budgeting are some of the many skills they learn and practice on a guild crew.

Guild running crew participants who earned their:

- Apprentice level - 74
- Journeyman level - 6
- Master level - 3

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS/DRAMA CAMP/LESSONS

AECT continues to offer Drama Camps during the summer for ages 6 through 15. Drama Camp consists of 5 days of dramatic instruction and culminates in a performance for family and friends on the last day. AECT offers both one-week and two-week camps as options for parents/caregivers. The two-week camp is a more in-depth study of theater and may include musical content depending on the weekly theme.

New this year Assistant Artistic Director Amelia Rogocka offered acting lessons. Youth ages 9 – 18 had the opportunity to work one-on-one with a professional actress and experienced director. They will be taught the basics of acting and how to prepare for an audition. Twelve youth participated in acting lessons during the pilot year.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The AECT Board continues to administer the scholarship program. Funds raised by the AECT Board allow us to provide scholarships for cast and crew fees to families who complete an application and claim need. Seventeen youth received cast/crew scholarships.



Set Crew



Costume Crew

AECT NONPROFIT STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 2016-AUGUST 31, 2017

| Budget Description | Actual |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue | |
| Donations | \$ 4,582.94 |
| Grants | 20,752.00 |
| Memberships | 3,936.66 |
| Sponsorships | 2,500.00 |
| Fundraising | 6,512.26 |
| Donations In Kind | 6,500.00 |
| Other | 106.39 |
| Total Revenue | \$ 44,890.25 |
| Expenses | |
| Accounting | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Fundraising | \$ 2,537.12 |
| Finance Charges | 3.20 |
| Grant Writing | 1,000.00 |
| Operations | 2,530.66 |
| Outreach | 54.96 |
| Printing | 2,500.00 |
| Production City | 32,000.00 |
| Scholarships | 1,203.75 |
| Webmaster Services | 1,000.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$44,829.69 |
| Net Revenue (Loss) | \$ 60.56 |

The AECT Nonprofit raises funds through grants, fundraising, sponsorships, donations and memberships. Grants and fundraising revenue exceeded the annual goals. Donations, sponsorships, and membership goals were not met. On the expense side of the budget operations, outreach were under budget. Scholarships and fundraising were over budget.

The Production City expense line item is the funds that the AECT Nonprofit contributes to the City of East Lansing on a biannual basis to support the operation of the AECT Program. Funds are used by the City to cover expenses including: theater and rehearsal space fees at the Hannah Community Center, artistic director and theater aide salaries, crew head stipends, show supplies (costumes, props, sets, make-up, tech), publicity, play scripts, and royalties.

As of August 31, 2017, the AECT nonprofit is heading into fiscal year 2017-2018 with a bank account balance of \$28,401.09.

2016-2017 AECT NONPROFIT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The AECT Nonprofit is governed by a volunteer Board of Trustees. All Board officers and members are elected at the annual membership meeting held each September. The Board also consists of voting and non-voting youth members whose input is highly valued, and which offers valuable experience. Every Board member also serves on at least one committee.

Officers:

President: Katie Brewer
Vice-President: Andy Callis
Secretary: Todd Vanderbur
Treasurer: Cynthia Wright-Pratt

Trustees:

Shannon Bowen
Christine Fisk
Sara Frank-Hepfer
Morgan Pohl
Dayna Smith
Adrienne Yates
Shelby Brewer – Voting Youth Member*
Ellison Winterstein -- Voting Youth Member*

Individuals who served partial terms this year:

Melissa Downs

*The AECT Bylaws provide for voting youth members age 16 or 17, as well as an honorary non-voting youth member age 15

CITY OF EAST LANSING DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS – AECT PROGRAM STAFF

Department Director: Timothy McCaffrey
AECT Program Coordinator: Kathleen Miller
AECT Artistic Director: Elizabeth Cooke
AECT Theater Aide: Amelia Rogocka

THANK YOU TO OUR SEASON GRANTORS AND DONORS

The value of donors and grantors to the All-of-us Express Children's Theatre cannot be overstated. Their support is vital to the continued success of AECT, and we extend to them a heartfelt "thank you" for being our partners in providing quality theater to the community.

Grants Awarded:

Arts Council of Greater Lansing
Capital Regional Community Foundation
Ingham County Hotel/Motel Fund
Jackson National Life Insurance Company
Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs

Donors:

Bruce & Diane Cooke
Dorothy Wright
Katie and Ava Brewer
Dana Vigas
In memory of Robert Wright
Deborah Willoughby
Richard and Ruth Brewer
Cynthia Wright
Rae Ann Weymouth
Scott Swinton
James Powers
Paul Carlson
Christina Lance and Franklin Trout
MSU Roial Players
John Goddeeris
Daniel Shangraw
Ella Danrnell
Ellen Ives and Colleen Hohanson
In honor of Mark Willoughby & Tina Newhauser Family
Kyle Dymond
Lisa Lapidus
Tonya Woodrough
Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee
Deb Wiese

MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime Members:

The Bass-Pohl Family
The Brewer Family
The Campbell-Enger Family
Ainsley Coty
The Coy Family
The Downs Family
The Dreger-Sousa Family
Michael and Mian Fisher
The Fitschen-Brown Family
The Hay Family
Paul & Judy Hershkowitz
The Ives-Johnson Family
The Lees Family
Neysa McGarrity
Tom Meyer & Susan Ahrens
The Nash Family
Marsha Parrot-Boyle
The Polinovasteiner Family
Danielle Robinson
The Schlinger & Gerry Family
The Shaw Family
The Sigworth Family
The Ericka Smith Family
The Stamford Family
Will Tieman and Wendy Hart Tieman Family
Dorinda & Gary Vankempen
Eileen Walters
Evelyn Weymouth

Family Members:

The Baer Family
The Baumann Family
The Olivia Beck Family
The Biddngton Family
The Boyan Family
The Broughman Family
Elizabeth Brown & Family
The Canfield Family
Mia Colony
The Darnell Family
The DeRosia-Forman Family
The Dunn Betanzos Family
The Dymond Family
The Gan Family
The Gates Family
The Greenway Family
The Groden-Pager Family
The Hatfield Thornburg Family
The Hawthorne Family
The Hegstrom Villhauer Family
The Hicks Family
The Hogle/Winterstein Family
The Hoogstraten Family
The Hunt Family
Carmede Jackson
The Jarvi Family
The Julie Kilmer & Cheryl Burke Family
The Jun Gan Family
The Lance-Trout Family
The Mims Family
The Moeser Family
The Mullins Family
The Nawyn-Hellingas Family
The Ogilvie-Howard Family
The Reed Family
The Repins Family
The Shangraw Family
The Surline Family
Stephen & Jessica Thompson
The Traven-Schenkers Family
The Tungate Family
The Vanderbur Family
The Winnie Family
The Yates Family

Supporting Members:

Shannon Bowen
Andrew P. Callis
Bruce and Diane Cooke
Dayna Smith
Cynthia Wright-Pratt

**2017-2018 SEASON PRODUCTIONS:
In a World of Pure Imagination**

Season 29
In a World of Pure Imagination





All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

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