

Metro

THEATER
COMPANY

1973 50th ANNIVERSARY 2023



THE SECOND GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH!

APRIL 22 2023

THE BIG TOP

IN GRAND CENTER

6:30 PM



GOOD EVENING FRIENDS!



Tonight is truly an event 50 years in the making. What an honor it is for us both to be leading this organization at such a truly special time.

We stand today squarely on the shoulders of each and every artist, administrator, board member, audience member, teacher, volunteer, and contributor who have each contributed their time, their talent, and their treasure to make MTC the community landmark it is today.

Tonight, we celebrate the movement that each of you collectively helped to start and invigorate over 50 years - a movement that centers young people in our community, a movement that trusts and respects their intelligence and wisdom, and a movement that helps ensure they see a future based in hope, creativity, and appreciation of difference.

Tonight, we also celebrate what is to come thanks to all those hands that reached out across the decades to sustain MTC. As we commit to transforming the lives of every child in our region in the decade to come, we know that the future is bright. We thank you for your generosity tonight in helping to make that future possible for each and every one of those young people - and for our region. Our potential for tomorrow is only as strong as the hope we invest in our young people today.

And of course - we extend our deep gratitude to Lynn and Zaro for joining us together in celebration after their idea for this company was first born 50 years ago. We are humbled by their presence - and by the presence of our two honorary chairs, who each also played a critical role in MTC's founding: John Weil, MTC's first Executive Director and Anabeth Weil, among MTC's first board chairs.

And to those generous and brilliant co-chairs who have made tonight possible - Kathie and Richard Winter and Crystal and Patrick Dallas - thank YOU all for being bright beacons of the future for MTC during this landmark anniversary.

NOW, LET'S CELEBRATE!



JULIA FLOOD
Artistic Director



JOE GFALLER
Managing Director

TONIGHT'S EVENTS

THE LOT AT THE BIG TOP

INTERACTIVE CIRCUS
COCKTAIL HOUR

PASSED APPETIZERS | Ces & Judy's Catering

CIRCUS PERFORMANCES | Kinetic Tapestry

Jaime Zayas, Eleanor Aughey

Photo Opportunities & Open Bar

UNDER THE BIG TOP

MAIN PROGRAM AND DINNER

AERIAL PERFORMANCES

Lulu Geary and Vanessa Waggoner

OPENING NUMBER

"A Million Dreams" by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Jennifer Theby-Quinn & Daniel McGrath

WELCOME & SPECIAL THANKS

Jaime Zayas, *After Dark 2023* Master of Ceremonies

Crystal & Patrick Dallas, *After Dark 2023* Co-chairs

Kathie & Richard Winter, *After Dark 2023* Co-chairs

HONORING MTC'S FOUNDERS, LYNN RUBRIGHT AND ZARO WEIL

Julia Flood, MTC Artistic Director | Joe Gfaller, MTC Managing Director

DINNER SERVICE

AERIAL PERFORMANCE

HONORING PAST MTC BOARD PRESIDENTS

Coleen Trentmann, MTC Board President

HONORING 50 YEARS OF MTC STAFF LEADERS

HONORING 50 YEARS OF MTC ARTISTS

DESSERT SERVICE

Musical Interlude & Photo Memories

"Rainbow Connection" by Paul Williams and Kenneth Ascher

"Our Time" by Stephen Sondheim

"You Will Be Found" by Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Jennifer Theby-Quinn & Daniel McGrath

AERIAL PERFORMANCE

MTC'S IMPACT NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

FUND-THE FUTURE LIVE AUCTION

Fletcher Lane, Auctioneer

CLOSING REMARKS

AFTER PARTY

HOSPITALITY TENT | Spin Society DJs | Open Bar





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Your support from After Dark ensures the longevity of our educational programming, theatrical performances, and solidifies a foundation for the next 50 years of MTC!

AFTER DARK HOST COMMITTEE 2023

JULIUS B. ANTHONY

RACHEL CHRISMAN

CARESSA DAVIS

KATIE DUFFIN

JOE GFALLER
& KRAIG TURNER

KAREN & LAWRENCE
GOERING

CILLAH HALL

AMY & ANDREW
HOGENSON

PEGGY & MARK HOLLY

KATY KAUFMAN

MARCIA KERZ

JANE & KEN JONES

LAURA SIENASKI LANCIA
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ADDITIONAL SPONSORS



GALA CO-CHAIRS

CRYSTAL & PATRICK DALLAS | KATHIE & RICHARD WINTER



CRYSTAL DALLAS is the award-winning Founder and Chief Engagement Officer for Excel Business Concepts. Her firm provides integrated marketing specialties such as public relations, marketing, and brand development to businesses and nonprofit organizations. She is an innovative thinker, dedicated to pursuing excellence in all her endeavors. Crystal is a change agent and sees the arts as a gateway to unlocking the potential of all. She believes in giving back to her community and serves on various boards, ranging from arts and culture to human service. In her down time, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and fashion design.

PATRICK DALLAS is the Associate Director of Research and Development for the Department of Veterans Affairs Human Resources Management and Consulting Services. At a young age, he took an interest in the arts and its power to transform lives. Patrick is a veteran who served his country with distinction. He enjoys giving back to his community and sharing his knowledge with the next generation and is active with several civic and social organizations. When he is not working or volunteering, he enjoys spending quality time with his family. Patrick believes that all youth should have the opportunity to live out their dream. One of his favorite quotes is by one of America's greatest voices, Langston Hughes "Hold fast to your dreams, for without them life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly."



KATHIE WINTER is an unwavering supporter of the arts in St. Louis. Over the years, Kathie has utilized her finance background and fundraising acumen to serve as a board member or special event chair for many organizations, including St. Louis ARC (for which she is a past board president), Springboard to Learning (for which she is a past board president), The Big Muddy Dance Company (for which she is the current board president), Care and Counseling (for which she is the current board president), Women of Achievement (for which she is currently president-elect), Stray Dog Theatre, Circus Flora, Doorways, and Dance St. Louis. The Winter Family Foundation has supported four art exhibi-

tions at the St. Louis University Museum of Art, as well as scholarships in fine arts at UMSL and in mat at SLU. She received the Women of Achievement Award in 2016 and the St. Louis Visionary Award in 2019, and together with her husband Richard received both the Missouri Council's Award for Philanthropy in 2022 and Dance St. Louis's Swan Award for Community Service in 2017.

RICHARD WINTER founded Garden View Care Centers in 1988 when he opened the first location in O'Fallon, Missouri. Since then, Garden View has added locations in Chesterfield and at the intersection of Dougherty Ferry and Big Bend. Garden View Care Centers Activity Based Memory Care Program was first in the market and is recognized as a national model for residents with Alzheimer's and dementia. Richard has held several board and officer positions in Missouri on various arts and business organizations including Dance St. Louis, the College of Fine Arts and Communications at UMSL, College of Arts and Sciences at SLU and the Missouri Arts Council. He is currently a board member for Jazz St. Louis, the Grand Center Arts District, Missouri 100 and the Missouri Health Care Association. Richard has also received for the last two years the St. Louis 100 Titan of Industry Award.



HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

ANNABETH C. & JOHN D. WEIL



ANNABETH C. AND JOHN D. WEIL are steadfast advisors and cherished supporters of Metro Theater Company. John served as the volunteer Executive Director of Metro Theater Circus from its inception in 1973 through 1981, and has remained a member of MTC’s governing board from the beginning. Annabeth served as one of MTC’s first board presidents and was a founding member of the company’s emeritus board. Beyond MTC, they share a deep commitment to Washington University, where Weil Hall at the Sam Fox School is named in their honor, the St. Louis Art Museum, whose expansion campaign John chaired, Forest Park, for which Annabeth served as the city manager

for 25 years, the Central Institute for the Deaf, whose early learning center is named in their honor, and New City School. In celebration of their profound dedication to the community, they have been honored with the Robert S. Brookings Award by Washington University. Their leadership gift has helped launch MTC’s Every Child Fund, which will enable generations of young people in the St. Louis region to have free access to theatrical and educational programs, regardless of the financial means of their districts. Their on-going impact within the company remains as transformative 50 years later as when they first began to make their mark on the fledgling company.



THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS SUPPORTERS WHO MADE ADVANCE GIFTS OR GIFTS IN LIEU OF ATTENDING

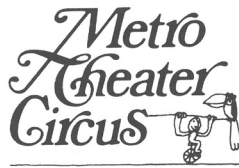
Daniel Ader	Ron Komlos	Sarah Richmond
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Susan Block	Darci Madden	Joan Suarez
Elijah Brown	Rita & Chris Mannelli	James Timmerberg
Kati Guerra & Felicia Foland	Molly Martin & Steve Sexauer	Steve Trampe & Jenny Gupta
Joe Kelly	Jill Susan Meyers	Jennifer Trevinson
	Barbara Pierce	

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS, WHOSE SUPPORT HAS HELPED MAKE TONIGHT POSSIBLE:

Big Blue Spark | Bulrush Restaurant | Ces & Judy’s Catering | Jane & Ken Jones
Jennifer A. Lin Photography | Kranzberg Arts Foundation
Streamline Communications | Switch | Third Degree Glass | Wrenbird Design



METRO THEATER COMPANY CO-FOUNDERS



LYNN RUBRIGHT After co-founding (with Zaro Weil) and performing several years with Metro Theater Circus, Lynn designed and directed Project TELL (Teaching English through Living Language) for Kirkwood School District (MO). She co-produced *Oh Freedom After While*, an Emmy Award-winning documentary, which led to her children's book, *Mama's Window*. Her book, *Beyond the Beanstalk: Interdisciplinary Learning through Storytelling*, is used in arts education worldwide. Her children's opera, *Little Red the Folktale Hen* was performed at Northwestern University in 1991. A professor emerita of Webster University, Lynn is a recipient of both Lifetime Achievement and Circle of Excellence Awards from the National Storytelling Network. She has received a Grand Center Visionary Award and co-founded the St. Louis Storytelling Festival. Lynn currently offers her "Storytelling and Literacy Through the Humanities and the Arts Across the Curriculum" project in University City Schools (MO) on Zoom.

ZARO WEIL has had a varied career after her ten challenging and exciting years at MTC. The most important (to her) has been her work as an author and poet for children. This particular pathway into the hearts and minds of kids was both inspired and forged by the work she did with her wonderful colleagues at Metro during those formative years.

Indeed, her first volume of poetry for kids, *Mud Moon And Me*, published in both the UK and USA in 1989, was originally written as a theater piece for Metro, *Mudweavings*.

She has now written many books as well as being anthologized in numerous poetry collections around the world.

Her most recent books (*Cherry Moon* and *When Poems Fall From The Sky*) have been awarded the prestigious CLIPPA Award for Best Poetry book in the UK (2020) and double nominated for the Carnegie Medal (2023). Zaro has another 3 poetry books due for publication in 2024.

A Brief History of 50 Years of Metro Theater Company

TWO VISIONARIES MEET

In the early 1970s, Lynn Rubright and Zaro Weil stepped into an improvisation workshop one Saturday morning based on the theater games of Viola Spolin. Now recognized as an iconic force in 20th century American theater, Spolin's work would become the foundation of Second City in Chicago and define the very idea of what we now think of as "improv." But when this workshop happened, her iconic book *Improvisation for the Theater* was barely 7 years old.

The exact location of the workshop is lost to history, but it was in a warehouse somewhere in the Central West End or Grand Center. Getting to the class each Saturday involved climbing fire escape stairs - colorful details that may come as no surprise, since at the time, these neighborhoods housed much of the city's bohemia. The St. Louis Symphony had only just moved to Powell Hall a few years earlier; many other historic storefronts were still vacant - or threatened by demolition.

Lynn was a classroom teacher in the Kirkwood School District. Zaro had recently completed her degree at Webster College and was teaching theater there. Until the improv workshop, the two had never met.

Thank goodness for countless generations of young people in St. Louis and beyond that they did!

AN IDEA TAKES SHAPE

Soon, Lynn was welcoming Zaro to her classroom to use theater games as a way to teach. At the end of the school year, Zaro asked Lynn if she would consider leaving her job to start something brand new: a theater company that would use play as a means to teach. Lynn agreed to take the leap. So, over a dining room table in a long-since demolished farm house off Clayton Road, together with John Weil (who would become MTC's first Executive Director), the company was named and Metro Theater Circus was born.

That dining room table would move to the Central West End, to the Weils' home on Pershing Place, becoming where MTC artists would gather to plan the future. To have a place to rehearse, Zaro and John made a deal with New City School, which, at only 4 years old, had just moved into the former Mary Institute building where it still is housed today. At the time, only the first floor was in use for classrooms. So, in exchange for MTC's early ensembles providing arts curriculum for the school's 100+ students, MTC received a classroom on the second floor as their rehearsal studio. There, the company's earliest ensemble-based shows - marrying theater, dance, improv, storytelling, music, clowning, and more - were born, through daily workshops and rehearsals:

The Second Greatest Show on Earth, Alice in Wonderland, Rootabaga Vaudeville Show, Commedia Cartoon, and more.

Zaro led these rehearsals, carefully detailing each day's activities in a notebook that was inseparable from her. After the first year, artists began to be paid a modest fee. As they toured around the St. Louis region and beyond in a grey van, the ensemble would typically do as many as four shows in a day - and after each show, each ensemble member would





A Brief History of 50 Years of Metro Theater Company

visit a different classroom to lead young people in workshops based on what they had just seen. Occasionally, public performances of these tours would be offered, often in the early years at the new Edison Theater on the campus of Washington University.

While the ensemble created these magical plays, John, volunteering his time, would book the troupe to tour to each school. And soon, as an early board president, Anabeth Weil would ensure that there was community support for this burgeoning company to thrive.

MTC was young, scrappy, and hungry. And the country was quickly recognizing its unique impact. A year after its founding, the Children's Theatre Association of America named MTC the country's "Best New Children's Theatre." By 1978, MTC was taking its first tour to the Kennedy Center in Washington DC. (The company would be invited back for countless productions over the decades.) Beloved children's book writer Remy Charlip agreed not only to have some of his stories adapted by MTC (including *Arm in Arm* and *Do You Love Me Still? Or Do You Love Me Moving?*), but to adapt them himself.

NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW VENUES, AND A NEW NAME

Soon, MTC's next chapter would start. By 1980, Lynn had moved onto her next project, returning to her roots as an educator to transform curriculum with arts-based learning in the Kirkwood District, at Webster College, and as co-founder of the St. Louis Storytelling Festival. Zaro was preparing to move to Europe. And Carol North, a supremely talented young actress, who had been with the company as an ensemble member for four years, was asked to consider taking the helm to steer MTC into the future.

Carol became Artistic Director and James Evans, a professor at Webster University, succeeded John as Executive Director. Rita Washington, a beloved former ensemble member, shortly became General Manager. James would remain in his role for four years, expanding MTC's administrative space to include both New City School and the College School. Other than a brief two-year period away in Europe, Carol would continue as Artistic Director until 2013.

It was musician and ensemble member Larry Pressgrove who would steer the ship as Artistic Director during the two years Carol was abroad - succeeding for the first time in MTC history in bringing MTC's operations all into one place, as MTC became one of the original companies in residence at COCA, during COCA's second year of operations. In addition to touring and building classroom curriculum, MTC artists would provide theater-based learning programs for young people enrolled at COCA during this time.

Other changes came after the move to COCA and Carol's return to St. Louis and MTC. Through a technical assistance grant from the Regional Arts Commission, MTC first met strategic consultant Ellen Livingston, who would later become a pivotal board chair. While the name "Circus" conjured the joy of MTC's work, it had also become a source of confusion for some - especially as a new, true one-ring circus was starting up in St. Louis: Circus Flora. While the acronym would stay the same, MTC would now become Metro Theater Company. MTC would also further expand its educational footprint, providing direct training for future teachers, ensuring that kinesthetic learning and arts-based curriculum could be part of how future teachers understood their work and their impact on young people. Visionary educator and MTC board president Mary Ellen Finch would help MTC launch its first significant university partnership, in 1990 - a partnership that continues to this day.



The story continues online. Scan the QR code for more.



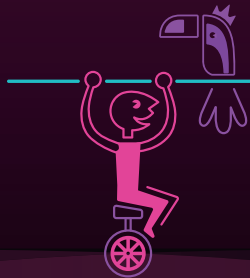


EMCEE

JAIME ZAYAS, KINETIC TAPESTRY

Jaime Zayas is an actor, mime and clown who was born and raised in Ponce, Puerto Rico. He received a B.A in Theater from the University of Puerto Rico. Jaime studied mime and physical theater in The School for Mime Theater in Gambier, Ohio and clowning with the former Cirque du Soleil's clown, Alex Navarro.

He has done specialty character work for the Walt Disney Company and has performed all over the USA, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Nicaragua, Spain, Switzerland, and Egypt. Currently, Jaime is the executive director of Kinetic Tapestry Physical Theatre, performs theatre and circus, and teaches workshops in the USA and abroad.





AFTER DARK 2023 FEATURED ARTISTS



ZACH NEUMANN is a collaborative pianist who has been living in the St. Louis metro area since 2020, playing for singers at Webster, Lindenwood, and UMSL. He has played for many local music theater productions, including *Jersey Boys* at Stages and *Mary Poppins* at the Muny, and recently made his music directing debut with *Ordinary Days* at the Tesseract Theatre Company. Before moving to St. Louis, he lived in Wichita, Kansas, working at Wichita State University and playing for shows in the Wichita area.



DANIEL MCRATH is an educator, and actor, and St. Louis native. He made his Metro Theater Company debut last season as CJ in *Last Stop on Market Street*. Daniel is a graduate of Morehouse College and will pursue a Masters in Drama Therapy in the fall at New York University.



JENNIFER THEBY-QUINN is super delighted to be celebrating Metro Theatre Company, a true favorite! You may have seen her as Abigail Williams in *Afflicted: Daughters of Salem* (St. Louis Theatre Circle Award) or as Katrinka in *Hans Brinker and the Silver Skates*. Other favorite roles include: Effie in *Iphigenia in Splott* with Upstream Theatre (St. Louis Theatre Circle Award), Hope Cladwell in *Urinetown* at Stray Dog Theatre's (St. Louis Theatre Circle Award), Kate Monster (and Lucy the...Lounge Singer) in *Avenue Q* at The Westport Playhouse, and Jerusha Abbott in *Daddy Long Legs* at Insight Theatre. Jen is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.



Tonight's event occurs on the traditional homelands of the Osage Nation, Missouri, and Illini Confederacy. Metro Theater Company pays respect to their elders both past and present and acknowledge the privilege that we carry in now inhabiting the land of their ancestors. If you would like to learn more about the land on which you stand, discover resources at the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.

MENU

HORS D'OEUVRES

THICK CUT CANDIED BACON

CRISPY MAC AND CHEESE BITE
with Tomato Jam

**CHICKPEA AND SPINACH STUFFED
PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM CAP**
Vegan & GF

FIRST COURSE

SPRING FRESH STRAWBERRY SALAD
with romaine, almonds, goat cheese, and white balsamic vinaigrette

SECOND COURSE

SPINACH AND APPLE STUFFED CHICKEN
with Cognac Mustard Sauce

HARICOT VERT

BEE T ROOT DAUPHINOISE

THIRD COURSE

CLASSIC OZARK LEMON VINEGAR PIE
(by Bulrush)

Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free options, where needed
have been made available upon advance request.



FUND-THE-FUTURE

LIVE THEATER AND INTERACTIVE ARTS-BASED LEARNING PROVIDE YOUNG PEOPLE WITH TRANSFORMATIONAL BENEFITS, from the increased development of empathy to new learning strategies to help them succeed academically. As young people continue to recover from the impact of COVID-19, theater serves as a vehicle to process trauma, re-awaken creativity, spark joy, and re-build our community.

Consider joining our community in its efforts to provide the power and magic of live theater to every child in St. Louis.

\$5,000

Metro Theater Company has produced **nearly 50 world premieres** across our history, ensuring the stories young people experience on our stage and elsewhere around the country are grounded in a respect for young people's emotional wisdom and intelligence and are resonant with their needs in the moment. At the \$5,000 level, your gift can help us support the commissioning of the next great new play for young audiences. You will be able to choose which commissioned future new play you'd like to be recognized as helping to support.



Spells of the Sea

\$2,500

Every time a mainstage performance comes to life at the Grandel or elsewhere, MTC covers the costs of venue rental, performance royalties, actors, stage management, backstage crew, front of house staff, and much more. On average, the overhead alone for each performance costs approximately \$2,500. Your gift of \$2,500 helps cover the cost of a single performance. You will be able to choose which performance in the 2023/24 season will be your sponsored performance.



Seedfolks





FUND-THE-FUTURE

\$1,000

Each time MTC tours a production into a school, MTC covers the costs of traveling in our van, performance royalties, actors, stage management, and much more. With a gift of \$1,000, you can help cover the costs of a single performance touring into a school across the St. Louis region and make it possible for a school in need to be able to receive a performance without paying a fee. You will be able to choose which touring performance at which school will be your sponsored performance.



Bold, Brave, Curious!

\$500

MTC's teaching artists bring arts integrated curriculum into classrooms all across the St. Louis region, utilizing kinesthetic learning to teach core curriculum, character development, empathy, and other key social/emotional learning skills. At the \$500 level, your gift makes it possible for one teaching artist to support a week-long residency for one classroom in St. Louis.



In-School Education Programs

\$250

MTC's summer camps provide young people with a space to explore creativity in a safe, joyful environment, teaching them skills about theater, helping them to uncover their own talents, and building community. For many, even MTC's current subsidized camp prices may be out of reach. Your gift at the \$250 can help provide a scholarship for a child to attend a full week of Creative Arts Camp at no cost to the child's family.



Summer Camp

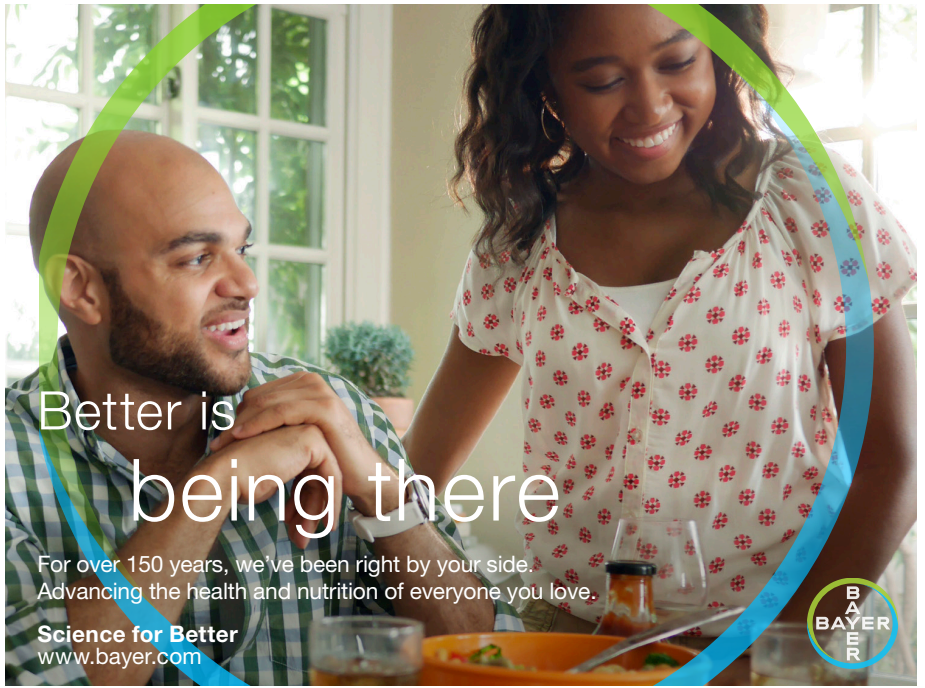
\$100

Gifts at every level make a difference in the lives of young people. At the \$100 level, your gift of \$100 can make it possible for 10 students to attend a school matinee at no cost to them or their school.



Spells of the Sea





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FOUNDATION

Maddi's Fridge

by Anne Negri, Adapted from the book by Lois Brandt

ON TOUR | SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2023

Sofia and Maddi are best friends. They love rock climbing. They would never break a promise. But when Sofia discovers her friend's fridge is empty, she is faced with a difficult choice - to keep the secret or to tell her mom about Maddi's fridge.

Eddie & Vinnie

by Jenny Millinger

THE GRANDEL THEATRE | OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2023

Eddie sees the world a bit differently. It's just how he's wired. And his friend Vinnie the gecko gets him, even if his classmates and teachers sometimes don't. When a final class project about MC Escher teams Eddie up with the overly helpful new girl, they both begin to learn that there's more than one "right way" to see the world.

A Year with Frog & Toad

based on the books by Arnold Lobel, book & lyrics by Willie Reale, music by Robert Reale

THE GRANDEL THEATRE | FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

A three-time Tony nominated musical! Just because Frog and Toad are as different as night and day doesn't mean they can't be best friends. Over the course of a year, their adventures remind us that it's those differences that make a friendship stronger - and life more fun!

Kaleidoscope Crown

by Ashleigh Akilah Rucker, *World premiere co-production with COCA*

THE BERGES THEATRE AT COCA | APRIL 2024

Nia is coming of age. And with that comes a surprising discovery: her hair is changing color with her emotions. What will others think? Is it better to celebrate or hide her remarkable ability? This dance-driven story is a celebration of difference, individuality - and the power of family and community.

Fall Free Family Festival | October 21 & 22

Enjoy performances of *Maddi's Fridge* at The Sun Theater and *Eddie & Vinnie* at The Grandel Theatre, alongside performances, crafts, and activities from a wide range of community arts and education partners. Register now!





MISSION STATEMENT

Inspired by the intelligence and emotional wisdom of young people, we create professional theater, foster inclusive community, and nurture meaningful learning through the arts.

STAFF

Julia Flood Artistic Director

Joe Gfaller Managing Director

Karen Bain
Education Director

Jimmy Bernatowicz
Production Manager

Sarah Thompson
Director of Communications
and Media

Jennifer Lin
Content Marketing
Manager

Gen Zoufal
Education Management
Program Consultant

Julia Hogan Laurenson
Artistic Administration
Coordinator

Sarah Rugo
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Eleanor Marsh
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Aubrey Felty
Teaching Artist Fellow

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Associate Artist

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Anatoli Lataria
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Michael Williams
*ex officio, non-voting

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Camille Greenwald
Marcia Kerz
Daniel Jay
Ken Jones
Ellen Livingston
James R. Moog

Susan W. Naill, Ph.D.
Joseph M. Noelker
Peggy O'Brien
Mary Tonkin
Anabeth C. Weil

FOUNDERS

Zaro Weil
Lynn Rubright

Metro Theater Company is St. Louis' premier professional theater for youth and families and St. Louis' third-oldest professional theater company. Since 1973, Metro Theater Company has been creating productions that respect young people's intelligence, tell compelling stories, stimulate curiosity and provoke thoughtful reflection. The Company has reached a total audience of more than 2.5 million and has a national reputation for excellence in the field of professional theater for young audiences. Metro Theater Company has received major honors and awards, both locally and nationally. The Company is not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is a proud member of the Theatre Communications Group (the national service organization for non-profit professional theaters), Theatre for Young Audiences/USA (the U.S. chapter of the international association of theaters for young people), and Missouri Citizens for the Arts.

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