

MetroSpective

VOL. XVIII NO. 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF METRO THEATER COMPANY

Fall 2008

Connecting Learning to Life!

Metro Theater Company Meets the Needs of Schools throughout the Region

Not every professional theater chooses the work we do, nor do they choose the setting where much of our work happens. But Metro Theater Company is one of a kind.

Metro Theater Company chooses to perform, to teach, to connect with schools in meaningful ways, day after day. That choice is a thorough, organizational commitment. It is where we want to be. Young people are the audience we most want to serve. And we love it!

So, what's it like? A day in the life of a professional actor who works with Metro Theater Company provides a glimpse...

The alarm goes off early—*really* early. Serving schools means that our touring performances and residency programs fit into their schedules. A typical start time for programs is 9:00 AM. In order to be ready for a performance at that hour, actors arrive at the school 90 minutes prior to that "curtain" time. After all, the set, props and costumes arrive with us. Loading in, setting up, warming up, testing acoustics, and tuning up all precede the thirty minutes we allow to get in costume and be in place before our young audience arrives. We are always ready to go on time. Always. We know the importance of schedules in a school.

Then the audience gathers. Class by class, often in lines, they arrive to find a familiar space in their school transformed. After all, the

"theater" is usually a gymnasium, and we're all sharing the floor—actors, set, props, instruments, and, most important, the audience. From there, what's shared is a good story, told using the tools of theater: drama, music, movement.

Forty-five to sixty minutes later, the play has ended. Actors greet each audience member as the students return to their classrooms. Frequently heard are comments like: "I remember you from last year!" or "That was awesome! When are you coming back?" And educators, like Marilyn Firestone at Long Academy, tell us: "I have never seen our students so quiet,



SEE THE BACK PAGE
for our public, ticketed
events this season!

New Kid

At the Missouri History Museum
September 2008

To Kill a Mockingbird

At the Edison Theatre
January 2009

Moby

At the Little Theatre
at Clayton High School
April 2009

engaged, and attentive at an all-school assembly! The performances really spoke to their experiences. Terrific!" Feedback like this reminds us why we so love our work: The work is valued. It matters.

Education programs get the same rave reviews. Schools invite us back year after year to support their learning goals because they've seen for themselves how powerfully drama and movement engage all students in the learning process—whether the curriculum is social studies, communication arts, science, or character education. Teachers, like Steve Pursley in Kirkwood, who have benefited from our professional development workshops and institutes say: "My experiences [with Metro Theater Company] have had a huge impact on how I teach and the opportunities I provide for my learners."

Metro Theater Company is honored by partnerships with school leaders throughout the greater St. Louis metropolitan area who value our work and the ways we meet their needs. Check out the comprehensive list of districts served last season on page 7.

Continued, Page 3

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

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WHAT REALLY MATTERS



I want to tell you a story. It's a true story.

Some time back, I was interviewing a young woman for a stage manager position. She was impressive; I had already decided I would hire her. As we were wrapping up our conversation, I asked what had gotten her interested in theater. She launched into a story full of vivid detail about a performance of *The Owl and the Pussycat* that came to her school when she was in fourth grade. She described the luscious blue green sea, the unusual costumes, the dancing, the beautiful music, the multiple languages spoken and sung in the production.

"Susan," I said, "that was Metro Theater Company's production. I was in that show. We were together at your school that day." She burst into tears. "That's why I'm in theater now!" I led her to our wall of production shots and showed her the photo of the title characters. For both of us, the moments came alive all over again: Steve Radeck's luscious score played so elegantly by director Larry Pressgrove, Clyde Ruffin's hip costumes, and the memorable performances of Nick Kryah's Owl, Claudia Holzapfel's Cat, Scott Hanson's Pig, and Janice Feager Cosby's Turkey.

Susan Arnold Marks has been a member of Metro Theater Company's "extended family" of artists since that day. She appeared in *The Short Tree and the Bird that Could Not Sing*,



Susan Arnold Marks (left) with Jacqueline Holmes (top) and Liz Watt (bottom) in *The Short Tree and the Bird that Could Not Sing*.

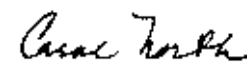
Frankenstein's Children and Earth Songs, and works with us regularly as a teaching artist. This January, she will be on stage at Edison Theatre in the role of Mayella Ewell in our production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Susan's story is a reminder of how indelibly theater can move us—even when the venue is a school gymnasium. Not every child will pursue a professional career as Susan did. That isn't what matters. What matters is that children in every audience have the opportunity to experience something wonderful and create meaningful connections of their own.

That's why Metro Theater Company is out there in the community almost every day, facilitating arts learning and performing professional theater in schools, community centers, places of worship, and libraries. We're committed to offering young people arts experiences worthy of them. Experiences like that can last a lifetime. Thank you for your support, which makes it possible.



Metro Theater Company's production of *The Owl and the Pussycat* enchanted Susan and other young audiences from 1984-1986.



Carol North, Artistic Director

HONORING PATRICIA CORRIGAN

This October, Patricia Corrigan's fifteenth book, *Eating St. Louis: The Gateway City's Unique Food Culture*, will be published. Next April, Metro Theater Company will stage the world premiere of her first play, *Moby*.

A lifelong writer who published a neighborhood newsletter while in the third grade, Pat Corrigan is a natural storyteller. She is also a mother, a whale watcher, a breast cancer survivor, a world traveler, a popular speaker, and a theater enthusiast. She spent 23 years working for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where she served as feature writer, columnist, restaurant and theater critic, food writer, news reporter, and night city editor. Well before she retired from the newspaper, Pat was an established local celebrity.

But Pat Corrigan also has a national reputation. Some leading cetologists have looked to Pat to explain their research with whales to the general public. Also, among her many

accomplishments is Pat's success popularizing zoology, with six children's nature books and dozens of wildlife conservation articles to her credit.

More than a decade ago, Pat stood in the wake of breast cancer and the needed radiation and chemotherapy treatments. In an article she penned for a national women's magazine, Pat wrote, "I am an all-new self, trying to live a more focused life, a more mindful life, a more deliberate life...Once again, I have decided just to let myself go—absolutely anywhere fun that life may take me—and I intend to go with a grin, living up to my potential, and expressing generosity of spirit at all times."

In honor of the world premiere of *Moby*, in honor of a beautiful and thoughtful life well lived (and still going strong), please make a tribute gift to Metro Theater Company this season in honor of Pat Corrigan.



Patricia Corrigan



"I am an all-new self, trying to live a more focused life, a more mindful life, a more deliberate life."

BOARD NEWS AND NOTES

Our Board of Directors is as dynamic as our programs! Metro Theater Company celebrates the addition of new members, recognizes the contributions of those whose terms have ended, and embraces new leadership.

We welcome the following new board members to three-year terms of service:

- **Susan Gamble**: an attorney with Summers, Compton, Wells & Hamburg whose practice areas include securities, finance, and real estate;
- **Susan (Suzie) Nall, Ph.D.**: Professor Emerita at SIU-Edwardsville in early childhood education, with special expertise in early literacy;
- **Tim Wadham**: Assistant Director for Youth and Community Services with the St. Louis County Library and a passionate advocate for children.

We express sincere thanks to our departing members:

- **Kathe Rasch**, Professor Emerita of Maryville University, whose connections in the community of professional educators and financial savvy was a boon to us during her ten years on the Board;
- **Greg Stein** of Stein Wealth Management, whose leadership benefited the resource

development, finance, and investment committees during his eight years on the Board;

■ **Avis May** of the St. Louis Public Schools, whose collaboration with us was instrumental in the success of after-school and summer programs at Hamilton ECEC for most of her six years on the Board; and,

■ **Lottie Wade**, a retired executive of the United Way, whose steady guidance over two terms of service helped us get right to the heart of complicated IRS employment matters.

In other board news, after five outstanding years of service as President, Ellen Livingston passed the gavel on to **Kevin Farrell**, Senior Director at The Partnership for Downtown St. Louis. Kevin assumes his new post after a year of working closely with Ellen to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

At its June meeting, the Board of Directors also elected former Board President **Dan Jay** of Christner Inc. to Emeritus Board status.

As stewards of the mission, our Board of Directors generates a good deal of the energy that drives Metro Theater Company. Thanks to all who have—or will now—power us forward!

Continued from Page 1

Cultural Partnership with School District of Clayton

Notable among our district relationships is one burgeoning with the School District of Clayton. In a new three-year, renewable agreement with the District, Metro Theater Company will enjoy the benefits of a centrally located venue for mainstage programming. The 500-seat main auditorium and the 90-seat black box at the high school will serve as anchor venues for future mainstage productions, beginning with the world premiere of *Moby* in April 2009. In exchange, we will expand and deepen service to Clayton students, staff and families with after-school programs at the District's elementary schools, and through cooperative ventures with the strong theater programs already in place at the middle and high schools.





THANK YOU!

METRO THEATER COMPANY GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE

This listing represents support from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone who should have been included or have spelled any names incorrectly. Please let us know so we can correct future listings.

VISIONARIES \$20,000 AND ABOVE

Arts and Education Council
Emerson
Missouri Arts Council
National Endowment
for the Arts

Regional Arts Commission
Shubert Foundation, Inc.
John D. and Anabeth C. Weil

PRODUCERS \$5,000-\$19,999

The ASC Foundation
The Boeing Company
Employees Community Fund
of Boeing St. Louis
Elizabeth L. Green

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Charitable Foundation
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Saigh Foundation
Trio Foundation of St. Louis

CREATORS \$2,500-\$4,999

Build-A-Bear Workshop
Foundation
Cardinals Care

Mary Ellen Finch
Bridget and Earl McDaniel

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE \$1,000-\$2,499

Anonymous
Terry Bloomberg
The Children's Theatre
Foundation of America
Fox Associates Charitable
Foundation
Susan and Christopher Fox
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Margaret O'Brien
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Joe and Katy Kaufman
Nancy and Ken Kranzberg
Rhona Lyons and David Warren
Dorothy R. Moog
Carol North and Nicholas Kryah
Margaret North
Sister Mary Jean Ryan

COLLABORATORS \$250-\$499

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Nadine and Tom Ball
Marlene Ann Birkman
Jocelyn Botkin
Joan T. Briccetti and
Kathy Greminger
Kevin Farrell and Molly Walsh
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Anne Cohn
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Diane and Roger Davenport
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Joni Doyle
Linda and Joseph Ferro
Jill Fisher
Frankie M. Freeman
James and Susan Gamble
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Kathy and Theodore Petersen
Emily Petkewich
Larry Pressgrove
Ricky and Lizabeth Remming
The Rome Group

Lydia Ruffin
Robert N. Sandberg and
Virginia A. Zakian
Sylvia Silver
Candice Smith
Stephanie Strohman-Nunes
Jeanette Sturgis
Gail Thoele
Susan Warshaw
Dorothy Webb
Joyce Wood
James Zager

BOOSTERS \$99 AND BELOW

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Gary and Carolyn Arnold
Marcia and Neil Bernstein
Terry Bernstein
Pamela Bert
Nancy and Tom Birkenmeier
Barbara and Bob Bishop
Deb Bixler
Donald and Marilyn Blum
Drs. Nanci and James Bobrow
Lynn Bolin
Wendy and Les Borowsky
David T. and
Margaret Bradley
Sherry and Terry Brakhane
Margaret and
Christopher Brooks
Barry and Mary Buchek
Louise C. Bullock
Jane Campbell
Jean M. Cavender
Brittany Compton
Orlin Corey
Carrie Costantin and
Steve Poplawski
Michael Daft
Kitty and Tim Daly
Barbara Decker-Franklin
Ann Dillon
David and Jackie Dimmitt
Deb and Paul Edelman
Allison Felter
Laura A. Fister
Bruce Frank
Richard and Robin Frank
Paul and Janet Fredstrom
William Freeman

FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, AGENCIES, FOUNDATIONS AND CORPORATIONS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

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 Mary E. Hizer
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 Colleen Wyss

TRIBUTE GIFTS



Tributes to Carol North

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 Barbara Greenberg
 Terry Bloomberg
 Lynn Bolin
 Jocelyn Botkin
 David T. and
 Margaret Bradley
 Joan T. Briccetti and
 Kathy Greminger
 Jane Campbell
 Jean M. Cavender
 Anne Cohn
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 Megan Ann Rasmussen
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 Lynn and Robert Rubright
 Lydia Ruffin
 Andy and Ann Marie Ruhlin
 Sister Mary Jean Ryan
 Robert N. Sandberg and
 Virginia A. Zakian
 Bonny Saraceno
 Janet Schoedinger and Jim Mann
 Mary Stigall
 Stephanie Strohmman-Nunes
 Lisamarie Tayborn-Ervin
 Tina Telthorst
 Nancy Tonkins and Laurie Whelan
 Dorothy Webb
 John and Kim Wylie
 James Zager

In Honor of Ellen Livingston

Alice and Howard Handelman
 Jeanette Sturgis

In Honor of Maggie Loewenwarter's 65th Birthday

William and Jeryl Livingston, Jr.

In Memory of Marsha Bandy

Geri Sullivan

In Honor of Peggy O'Brien

Kevin Buchek

In Honor of Metro Theater Company's 35th Birthday

Barbara and Bob Bishop

In Honor of Metro Theater Company's 35th Birthday and Camille Greenwald

Thomas and Karleen Hoerr

EDUCATION PROGRAMS DELIVER ON MISSION

Demand for programs continues to grow

Metro Theater Company's education department doesn't know what a lazy, hazy day of summer looks like! Arts learning happens all year long, throughout the St. Louis region.

Three fun-filled weeks of *ArtsINTERsection* launched summer programs this June. A record enrollment of over 100 children walked through the big red doors at New City School to explore the arts with boundless creativity. (See the fun for yourself in the photos to the right!) We're pleased that 20% of those children enjoyed scholarship support for the program.

Program sites in July and August included Camp Cedarledge where Metro Theater Company teachers served as guest artists at the **Girl Scout Council's** "Center Stage Camp" for middle school age girls; **the Learning Tree** in North St. Louis City, an intergenerational center for children and elders that has invited Metro Theater Company artists for four summers; **Third Baptist Church** (Grand Center) asked us to participate in the SMART Academy, a summer school program of the Rockwood School District serving students from the Grand Center neighborhood participating in the Voluntary Transfer Program; and the Old Post Office in downtown St. Louis, the site for an exciting pilot project with the **Diversity Awareness Partnership** (DAP).

Our own Emily Petkewich served as lead artist in the DAP teen leadership program. Fifteen young people from throughout the region applied for this pilot, which seeks to empower teens to reach across the cultural and socio-economic barriers that too often divide the region. Supported by guest speakers and interactive arts activities, the teens explored issues of diversity and tolerance and collectively identified effective community-building strategies that they will implement in their schools and neighborhoods. (See photos on page 7.)

WILEY PRICE



Students share an original story that they staged for family and friends.

WILEY PRICE



Happy faces are the norm at ArtsINTERsection!

The culmination of this rich week of learning was an Open Mic event held at Johnson Hall at Third Baptist Church. Funding support for the pilot program was provided by the Regional Arts Commission and the Missouri Arts Council.

WILEY PRICE



Students share creative movement and a poetry piece they created about Peace.



Long-Term Programs Highlight 08-09 School Year

Social responsibility is a continuing theme in the **Webster Groves School District**. For the third consecutive year, Metro Theater Company will work with all fifth grade students in a program that delves into dismantling patterns of intolerance. Students then deepen their learning at Steger Sixth Grade Center, where they focus on celebrating personal identity in a diverse community.

This year, Emily Petkewich will develop the third tier of the program with a select group of seventh grade students at Hixson Middle School who have applied to participate as Peer Leaders. Following intensive training, the group will develop a presentation for fifth grade students as the learning cycle gains momentum.

The Webster Groves School District is a pacesetter in recognizing the value of

in-depth, arts-based learning. Compelling evidence reinforces the success of the work.

Thanks to funding support from the Incarnate Word Foundation, two **St. Louis Archdiocese** schools will have an artist-in-residence for a full year. St. Sabina School in North County and St. Joan of Arc School in South St. Louis City have eagerly embraced the opportunity to pair a Metro Theater Company teaching artist with one of their classroom teachers. Together, they will design lessons to integrate the arts into the curriculum and bring learning alive for students. Participating artists will become part of the fabric of the school community.

Last year, we served a total of thirty area school districts. This year's education calendar is already bursting at the seams. All this demand certainly reflects Metro Theater Company's commitment to nurturing meaningful learning through the arts. It is also a clear indication of how our work is valued by the community. Thank you, St. Louis!

(Left): Metro Theater Company Education Director, Emily Petkewich, admires the work of two participants as they work on Indian Warli drawings.

(Below): The 2008 Diversity Arts Teens represent schools throughout St. Louis City and County.



LARRY CLARK

LARRY CLARK

METRO THEATER COMPANY:

2007-2008 SERVICE TO SCHOOLS

Reaching a Broad Cross-Section of Schools in the Community!
(And probably one in your neighborhood!)

Districts in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area:

Affton
Bayless
Clayton
Ferguson-Florissant
Francis Howell
Hazelwood
Kirkwood
Ladue
Lindbergh
Maplewood-Richmond Heights
Mehlville
Normandy
Parkway
Pattonville
Ritenour
Rockwood
St. Louis Public Schools
Special School District
University City
Valley Park
Webster Groves

Around Missouri and in Illinois:

Centralia School District #135
Ft. Zumwalt R-II
Fox C-6
Hillsboro R-III
Mascoutah Community Unit School District #19
Northwest R-I
Poplar Bluff R-I
Republic R-III
Warren County R-III

Metro Theater Company also proudly serves:

Archdiocese Schools
Charter Schools
Day Care Centers
Home School Networks
Independent Schools
Jewish Schools & Hebrew Academies
Lutheran Schools

MetroSpective

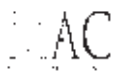
Metro Theater Company

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St. Louis, MO 63132-2814
www.metrotheatercompany.org
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PAID

St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 3580



Metro Theater Company is professional theater for young people and families. It is a member of Missouri Citizens for the Arts, Theatre Communications Group, Inc. (the national service organization for non-profit professional theaters), and Theatre for Young Audiences/USA. Metro Theater Company receives financial assistance from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, the Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis, the Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis, numerous corporations, foundations and individuals.

ACT NOW TO SEE METRO THEATER COMPANY ON STAGE THIS SEASON!

SEPTEMBER 2008

19 & 26 AT 7:30 PM
20, 21, 27 & 28 AT 2:00 PM



At the Missouri
History Museum

A SELECT
PERFORMANCE OF
THE 2008-2009
PERFORMING
ARTS SERIES

By Dennis Foon

Tickets are now on sale!

Visit or call the Missouri History Museum
at 314-361-9017

Or go online to www.museumtix.com

MODEST TICKETING FEES MAY APPLY.

JANUARY 2009

9, 10, 16 & 17 AT 7:30 PM
10, 11, 17 & 18 AT 2:00 PM



At the Edison
Theatre
at Washington
University

PRODUCED BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH
DRAMATIC PUBLISHING,
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS

Adapted for the Stage by Christopher Sergel
from Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-Winning Novel

Tickets are now on sale!

Call the Edison Theatre Box Office
at 314-935-6543

Or visit www.metrotix.com

MODEST TICKETING FEES MAY APPLY.

APRIL/MAY 2009

APR. 15-19, 22-26, 29
& MAY 3 AT 7:30 PM
APR. 18, 25 & MAY 1 AT 2:00 PM



At the Little Theatre
in Clayton High
School

A WORLD PREMIERE
INSPIRED BY HERMAN
MELVILLE'S AMERICAN
CLASSIC

By Patricia Corrigan, with original music by Greg Bolin

Tickets are now on sale!

Call Brown Paper Tickets
at 1-800-838-3006

Or go online to www.brownpapertickets.com

MODEST TICKETING FEES MAY APPLY.

NEW WORKS NIGHT!

Join us on Monday, October 27, 2008 at 7:30 PM at Third Baptist Church (Grand Center) to see and hear the latest new plays we have in development. Event is free and open to the public, with a suggested \$5 donation to Metro Theater Company.

Call 314-997-6777 for more information.