



All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

Annual Report 2009-2010 - 21st Season



Youth Creating Quality Theatre

It is the mission of All-of-us Express Children's Theatre to offer 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.

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

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

PO Box 1871

East Lansing, MI 48826

517-333-2580 www.allofusexpress.org

Board of Trustees:

President: Sandra Sigworth; Fraud Investigator, State of MI, Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth, Unemployment Agency ; **Committees:** Fundraising, Grants, Scholarship

Vice President: Priscilla Foran (Missy); Sponsored Projects Administrator, Michigan State University; **Committees:** Grants, Scholarship

Secretary: Morgan Lees, freelance graphic artist

Treasurer: Pedro Pozo, actor; **Committees:** Fundraising

Members at Large:

Lisa Lees; self-employed writer & cartoonist; **Extra duties:** maintains AECT Website & AECT Photographer

Melissa Kaplan; Production Coordinator, Lansing Community College

Gina Nash-Golden; college student; **Committees:** Fundraising, Scholarship

Chris VanZwoll; Technician, Core Technologies; **Committees:** Fundraising

Youth Board Members:

Corrine Pratt; high school student

Austin Homant; high school student

Andrea Hibbs; high school student (non-voting member); Fundraising

Amelia Rogocka; high school student (non-voting member); Fundraising

Committee Members (other than Board):

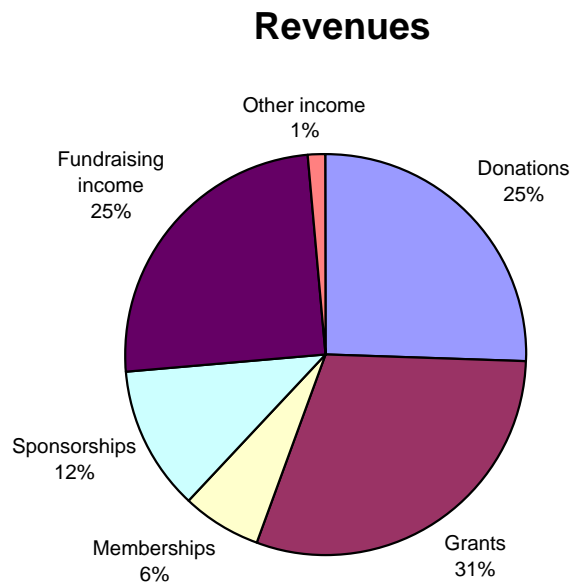
Fundraising: Sherry Bass-Pohl

AECT Photographer: Dylan (Boofer) Lees

**All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2010**

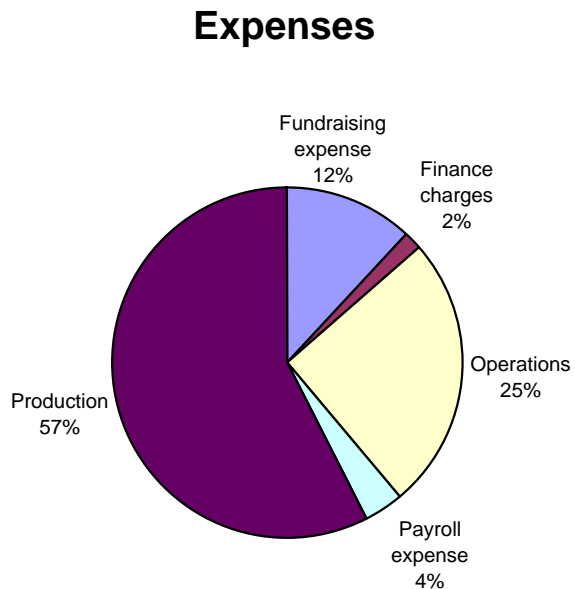
Revenues

Donations	\$	16,391.49
Grants		19,302.00
Memberships		4,150.00
Sponsorships		7,500.00
Fundraising income		16,014.47
Other income		950.80
Total Revenues	\$	64,308.76



Expenses

Fundraising expense	\$	5,397.60
Finance charges		742.70
Operations		11,246.91
Payroll expense		1,659.46
Production		25,752.84
Total Expenses	\$	44,799.51
Net Income (Loss)	\$	19,509.25



From the President:

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre (AECT) has always been proactive in responding to issues affecting the performing arts sector to protect its mission of serving the artistic endeavors of the youth in this community. Due to the economic recession, AECT combined forces with the City of East Lansing's Parks, Recreation and Arts Department to save on resources, cut administrative costs, and increase participation. This move made sense as most of our performances are held at the City of East Lansing's Hannah Community Center. AECT is pleased to report that the 21st Season, "Spreading our Wings," saw an increase in participation, a decrease in expenses and a positive balance in its account. As evidenced in its financial report, AECT has better positioned itself financially going into the 22nd Season, "Learning to Fly."

AECT's Board of Trustees has been able to concentrate on fundraising and outreach. Fundraising revenue significantly increased. AECT's ability to secure significant grant money in spite of budget cuts is a positive display of community support for its unique dramatic arts education to youth in the tri-county area. Youth board members are highly valued. Therefore, the Board added two additional youth board member positions for a total of four youth board members. While only two can vote, this allows flexibility among the busy schedules of its youth members.

The transition of duties and sharing of resources with the City of East Lansing has been both challenging and rewarding. Tim McCaffrey, Director of the Parks & Recreation Department, and Kathleen Miller, Youth Coordinator, have made us feel at home. Their support has enabled Miranda Hartmann the opportunity to expand AECT's programming and take its Guild Program to the next level. Miranda envisioned this unique behind-the-scenes program to encompass workbooks and instructional guides for the youth and crew heads to create better continuity for instruction and solidify its educational component. This vision has come to fruition with a grant from Capital Region Community Foundation and Miranda's expertise. In addition, Miranda has lined up season-long crew head commitments in almost all areas of the Guild Program.

The upcoming 22nd Season has great promise with many exciting collaborations. Thanks to a grant from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, AECT has collaborated with Lansing Community College's Theater Department (LCC) to bring an Advanced Stage Academy Class for its teenage participants which will culminate in a production at LCC's black box theatre. Reach Studio Arts Center is providing a workshop to make masks for our winter production of *Pixies, Kings and Magical Things*. In addition, MSU has teamed up to provide the Board with two interns from its Residential College of Arts and Humanities Civic Engagement class. We look forward to working with them.

The Board sincerely thanks each and every one of its supporters and youth participants. We hope you will be "Learning to Fly" with us!

Sandra L. Sigworth, Board President
All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

In this our 21st Season, we certainly lived up to the season title of “Spreading Our Wings”! We saw our participation numbers and audience numbers increase. We gained ground in our ability to put out quality productions. We also saw a lot of growth in our production teams, including the new assignment of Stage Managers, as well as the growth of our youth participants who truly work very hard on each and every production.

This season saw the return of an old favorite, “Dragonsong”, to the stage at Riverwalk Theatre. We also put up two new productions for AECT, “How Reading Came Back to Nowhere” and “Peter Pan”. ‘Reading’ helped us show our support of literacy awareness in our community and ‘Peter’ gave us the opportunity to put a classic on stage in our own special way. Once again we had alumni return to direct. Morgan Lees teamed up with newcomer Mike Grow to direct “Dragonsong” and Sarah Willis took on the challenge of the very large summer production of “Peter Pan”.

For “Dragonsong”, our Props Crew teamed up with the youth at REACH Studio Art Center to create Fire Lizard puppets to be used on stage. They were a hit with the audience and we earned an honorary award from the Pulsars for them. These puppets, along with our fairies from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and any puppets made during the 22nd Season will be on display in the East Lansing Public Art Gallery in the summer of 2011. “Peter Pan” saw the return of our long time stage combat instructor, Brett Eckhart, who created an amazing fight scene between Hook, *her* pirates, Pan and the Lost Boys.

This season we also had the pleasure of working with two students from the Residential College of Arts and Humanities at MSU through their Civil Engagement class. Nic Taggie and Amy Leichtman worked with us on gathering contacts within the local school districts, further developing our Guild workbooks for youth and assisted at the All-of-you Review fundraising event. We look forward to working with two more of the RCAH students next season.

Our biggest challenge this past season was transition from our long time home space in Logan Square to our new home at Hannah Community Center. We had to change how we operate a bit and had new space challenges but, in all, it was a successful transition for the theater. This move to Hannah is, in large part, the reason for our gaining of new participants and the increase in audience numbers for the season.

Our touring troupe, Story Book Story Theatre (SBST) performed again at the East Lansing Art Festival and the Renegade Theater Festival as well as a handful of childcare centers around Lansing and East Lansing. Although it was a limited performance season, each performance was well received by audiences.

All-of-us Express continued to provide educational activities to the community youth including Saturday Academy classes during the school year and “Badge-in-a-Day” workshops for Girl Scout troops. We also hosted our Summer Academy again this season. Each was well enrolled and well received by the participants.

While this season has been an immense amount of fun and we are all walking away from it with fond memories, we are looking forward to the 22nd Season in which we will be “Learning to Fly” by putting on a five-production season to include a collaborative project with Lansing Community College.

Miranda Sue Hartmann, Artistic Director
All-of-us Express

Affiliations:

(AACT) American Association of Community Theatre
(AATE) American Alliance for Theatre and Education
(ACGL) Arts Council of Greater Lansing
(CALF) Capital Area Local First
(CAUW) Capital Area United Way
(CTAM) Community Theatre Association of MI
(GLCVB) Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau
(MNA) Michigan Nonprofit Association

Contributors:

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre would like to thank the following contributors for their generous support during the 21st Season:

Businesses/Organizations:

Adams Outdoor Advertising; Arts Council of Greater Lansing; Capital Region Community Fund; City of Lansing General Funds; Girl Scouts Greater Lansing; Ingham Co. Hotel-Motel Fund; Jackson National Life Insurance; Lansing Exchange Youth Foundation; Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs; ProAssurance; Siemens Caring Hands Fdn.; Slick Shirts; Target; Tuesday Books; WW Grainger, Inc

Collaborations/Venues:

Capital Area District Libraries; Literacy Coalition; REACH Studio Art Center; RCAF of MSU – Civic Engagement Class; Renegade Festival; Potter's Park Zoo

Donors/Members:

Susan & Jim Bence; The Bendall Family; The Berg Family; The Berry Family; Marsha Parrot-Boyle & Danielle Boyle; Mark & Anita Brett; Julie Briles & Family; The Brock Family; The Brockhaus Family; The Campbell-Scott Family; The Canny Family; The Cobb Family; The Cook Family; The Cooke Family; **The Coy Family**; Rebecca Cutler; Anna Davis; Timothy Daugherty; Caroline deMauriac & Terry Shaffer; Valerie & Laurence Domino; Alice Dreger; Tom Ferris; The Feuka Family; **The Fisher Family**; **The Fitschen-Brown Family**; The Foran Family; The Freeman Family; The Fuang-Fuang Family; The Golden Family; The Gomez Family; Dr. Carmelia Gordon; The Grande-Cassell Family; The Gilstrap/Manderfield Family; The Grossman Family; The Hancock Family; The Haney Family; The Harry Family; Hartmann/Brown/Cobb Family; Lee & Bill Helder; **Paul & Judy Hershkowitz**; The Hibbs Family; Heidi Hiner; The Homant Family; The Holland Family; The Hong Family; Curtis Howe; The Hunt-Williams Family; Marilyn & Keith Huyser; **Ellen Ives**; The Jacobs Family; The Steve and Maribeth Jencks; Martin & Angela Jernstadt; Melissa Kaplan; Mark & Christie Konieczny; Joellen Kush; Jeff Lapinski & Beverly J. Bonning; **The Lees Family**; Lisa Lees; In Honor of Lisa Lees; R.E. Lees; Scot Maschke & Family; The McCarthy Family; The Meyer Family; The Moore Family; The Moyerbrailean Family; David & Cathy Norton; Ms. Sandra Norton; Al & Patti Nowak; The Okolo-Aultz Family; The Patterson Family; John & Terry Person Family; The Plaggemars Family; **The Bass-Pohl Family**; The Pozo Family; The Pratt Family; The Quesada Family; The Reibold Family; The Rice Family; The Rogocki-Fryday Family; The Ross-Jessup Family; The Ruffs of St. Johns; The Rucinski Family; The Rusher Family; The Ryals & Flynn Family; The Seeger Family; Marcy and Don Schlinger & Jonathon Gerry; The Schuchaskie Family; The Segueda Family; The Seitz Family; The Shelton-Ford Family; The Sigworth Family; The Smith & Kurtz Family; The Stamford Family; Lori Suhr; The Swinton/Morse Family; The Tanner Family; **Dorinda & Gary VanKempen**; The VanZwoll Family; Jeremy Vermeer; Todd, Cindy, Natalia & Michael Walter; **Eileen Walters**; Danielle Weller; The Willis Family

Lifetime Members are in bold.

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE 21st SEASON – Spreading our Wings

How Reading Came Back to Nowhere – November 2009 at Hannah Community Center; Director Miranda Sue Hartmann

Dragonsong – April/May 2010 with Riverwalk Theatre; Co-Directors Morgan Lees and Michael Grow

Peter Pan July/August 2010 at Hannah Community Center; Director Sarah Willis

A LOOK AHEAD

THE 22nd SEASON – Learning to Fly

Time Machine – November 5-13 at Hannah Community Center

Pixies, Kings and Magical Things – February 18-19 at Hannah Community Center

NighT of tHe pterodActyls – March 26-April 2 with Riverwalk Theatre

Scheherazade – July 22-July 30 at Hannah Community Center

22nd SEASON EVENTS:

Annual Meeting – September 16: New Board members elected and announcements made.

All-of-us Express Awards Ceremony - Event to recognize our outstanding Guild participants, volunteers and donors.

More to come...

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

SBST – a touring troupe that entertains with improve and skits at fairs, festivals, libraries, day camps and childcare centers during the summer.

CLASSES:

Audition Workshops – Opportunity for youth to attend a “mock” audition and to receive supportive training that will assist them in auditions.

One-Day Workshops – Everything from earning Girl Scout badges to open workshops held at Hannah Community Center.

Saturday Academy – Past classes have included Introduction to Acting, Creative Movement, Improvisation and Stage Combat.

Summer Academy – Drama camps held at Hannah Community Center.

***Other classes, workshops and camps to be announced throughout the season.*