



All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

Annual Report 2010-2011 – 22nd 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 Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Unemployment Insurance Agency; **Committees:** Grants, Scholarships

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

Secretary/Treasurer: Megan Buonodono; Departmental Analyst, State of Michigan, Dept. of Treasury, 2158 Haslett Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823

Members at Large:

Lisa Lees; self-employed web consultant, writer & cartoonist

Sherry Bass-Pohl; Manager, State of Michigan

Gina Nash-Golden; Ingham County, **Committees:** Scholarship

Chris VanZwoll; Technician, Core Technologies

Pedro Pozo; Actor

Sheri Kolb

Jennifer Cook; Programming Apprentice, State of Michigan

Youth Board Members:

Andrea Hibbs; high school student

Amelia Rogocka; high school student

Maggie Hinckley; high school student (non-voting member),

Colin McCarthy; high school student (non-voting member)

Committee Members (other than Board):

AECT Photographers: Lisa Lees and Dylan (Boofer) Lees

Web Manager: Lisa Lees

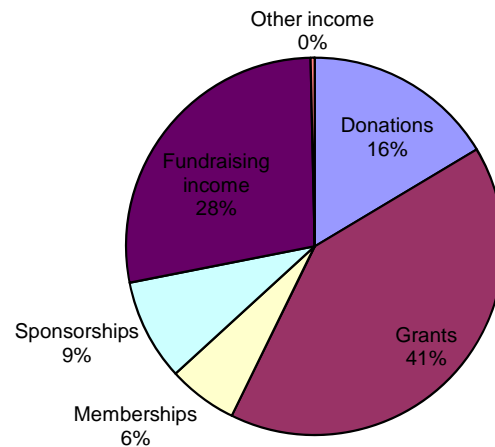
Interns: Kathryn (Katie) Nowinski and Kelsea Solo; Residential College of Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University's Civic Engagement Class

**All-of-Us Express Children's Theatre
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2011**

Revenues

Donations	\$	9,428.19
Grants		23,452.45
Memberships		3,425.00
Sponsorships		5,000.00
Fundraising income		15,931.79
Other income		200.45
Total Revenues	\$	<u>57,437.88</u>

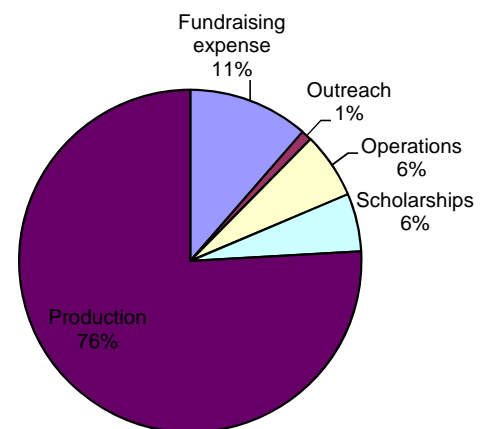
Revenues



Expenses

Fundraising expense	\$	4,658.87
Outreach		406.08
Operations		2,548.31
Scholarships		2,241.82
Production		31,034.46
Total Expenses	\$	<u>40,889.54</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$	<u><u>16,548.34</u></u>

Expenses



From the President:

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre (AECT) continues to thrive in this economy where funding for the Arts has dramatically decreased. The 22nd Season, "Learning to Fly," was both challenging and rewarding as it added two new endeavors to repertoire. While continuing to cut costs and provide a quality dramatic education to the youth in this community, AECT produced a four-act play with four different directors and bare bones production expenses. This proved to be a success according to its audience members and participants. In addition, with a grant from the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, AECT collaborated with Lansing Community College (LCC) to have LCC students mentor AECT students to produce "*War at Home*" in LCC's black box. The summer camps offered by AECT doubled its enrollment for the 22nd Season.

The City of East Lansing has been instrumental in AECT's continued success, and AECT's Board of Trustees concentrated on fundraising and outreach. Fundraising revenue increased. AECT's ability to secure significant grant money in spite of budget cuts is a display of its dedication to fulfilling its Mission and community support. This year, AECT concentrated on sending its youth, alumni and board to advanced training in fields of interest. This resulted in increased networking in the theatre community of Michigan which generated new ideas in the areas of its guilds, board, outreach and fundraising. AECT is looking forward to implementing these ideas in the 23rd Season. In addition, AECT has begun to prepare a five-year strategic plan which will include a vision and values statement.

AECT's unique behind-the-scenes Guild Program has begun using the workbooks and instructional guides for the youth and crew heads to create better continuity for instruction and solidify its educational component. A grant from Jackson National Life Insurance Company has secured the continuation of this program as we head into our 23rd Season. Thank you Jackson National Life Insurance!!

The Board sincerely thanks each and every one of its supporters and youth participants. Please join us as we go "Beyond the Horizon" in the upcoming season!

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

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Our 22nd Season, entitled “Learning to Fly” has brought some challenges as well as some changes. Through it all, I believe All-of-us Express has not only begun to fly but to soar! Participation numbers and audience numbers are steadily rising for our main stage productions as well as our Summer Acting Academy. We had a wonderful first collaboration with Lansing Community College’s (LCC) Theater Department and we saw the opening of AECT’s very first art gallery show in collaboration with Reach Studio Art Center. This has been a great season for youth also, as we’ve seen a surge in Guild pre-signup for Directors Guild assignments as well as other guilds.

This season we put five unique productions on stage. Our fall production, Tim Kelly’s “The Time Machine” presented new special effects challenges. Our Tech Supervisor, Paul Bourne, tackled the challenge readily, creating a time machine complete with lights and sound effect with his crew of youth.

Winter brought our first Story Theater style production to audiences young and old in “Pixies, Kings and Magical Things”, based on four stories from Hans Christian Anderson. By treating each of the stories as individuals with separate casts and directorial team, this was an opportunity for a few new directors; Sandra Sigworth, Paul Bourne and Chris VanZwoll, to get their feet wet without taking on a whole show. Megan Buonodono, alumnae, past guest director and current Board Officer, also took on one of the stories and we are glad to have her back. Using minimalistic representational sets, costumes and props meant there was no need for full crews and allowed the directors to focus more on working with the youth on their acting craft.

In the spring, “nigHt of tHe pterodActyls” was performed at Riverwalk Theatre in downtown Lansing. This was the first completely straight, modern day play performed by All-of-us Express. It dealt with the typical teen issues of being accepted, fitting in and even dating in a small way. This production also saw the return of guest director Rick Dethlefsen and a special guest appearance from local news personality, Evan Pinnsonault via pre-taped video. It was also our first time using image projection in a show.

Next, we produced, in collaboration with LCC, “War at Home” in remembrance of the 9/11 terror attacks. This emotionally charged piece was directed by LCC alum Jason Carlen and performed by three of our youth and nine students from the LCC Theater Program. This was the very first Black Box production ever done by All-of-us Express, hopefully the first of many!

Finally, our summer production of “Scheherazade: Legend of the Arabian Nights” was a hit at Hannah. Also directed by Rick Dethlefsen, this production was colorful, vibrant and very, very funny. Audiences enjoyed the comedy as well as the amazing fight scene choreographed by our stage combat guru, Brett Eckhart.

This season was also the second season for our Scripting Guild. Guild members continued learning how to breakdown and analyze a script while reading and reviewing several of the scripts on our extended slate for season selection. At the end of the season, members made their recommendations for the 24th & 25th Season Lineups. Every member of this season’s guild intends to return next season to continue working on their projects as well as begin work on the adapting of “A Wrinkle in Time” to be performed in a future season.

This season also saw much collaboration. Not only did we work with LCC on the Black Box production and Riverwalk Theatre for our spring production, we also worked again with Reach Studio Art Center. First, we joined with Reach to create animal masks for the “Ugly Duckling” story in “Pixies, Kings and

Magical Things”. Then we paired with them at the end of the season to put up an exhibit in the East Lansing Public Art Gallery at Hannah. The exhibit featured the fairy puppets made in the 19th Season, the firelizard puppets from last season and the masks from this season. Once again, we had the pleasure of working with two students from the Residential College of Arts and Humanities at MSU through their Civil Engagement class.

We did not have an acting troupe on tour this year. However, alumni and recent participants of StoryBook Story Theatre came together for performances at both the East Lansing Art Festival and the Renegade Theatre Festival. Audiences thoroughly enjoyed the performances and it was terrific to have the alumni and youth together for performance.

We again offered educational activities to the community including Saturday Academy and “Badge-in-a-Day” workshops for Girl Scouts during the school year as well as our Summer Academy drama camps. While we only filled two of the Girl Scout workshops and cancelled a couple of our Academy sessions due to low enrollment those workshops and sessions that did run were well attended. We received a lot of positive feedback regarding all of the educational opportunities.

We now look forward to our 23rd Season, “Beyond the Horizon”, during AECT will travel to new heights of production with a solid lineup of terrific shows including “Dracula: The Vampire Play”, “Robin Hood”, “The Little Prince” and “Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen”. For each production, we have some new and unique ideas that will contribute to the growth of the theater and our connection to the Lansing/East Lansing communities.

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 22nd Season:

Businesses/Organizations:

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 Foundation.; Slick Shirts; Target; Tuesday Books; WW Grainger, Inc; Shinberg Insurance Agency

Collaborations/Venues:

Lansing Community College; Riverwalk Theatre; Capital Area District Libraries; REACH Studio Art Center; Winter Bowl; East Lansing Arts Festival and Renegade Festival

Donors/Members:

Bass-Pohl Family; Daniel Bambery; Bargerstock Family; Bence Family; Bieler Family; William & Rhonda Bokram; Marsha Parrott-Boyle & Danielle Boyle; Roger & Patricia Brook; Briles Family; Brimmer Family; Brockhaus Family; Roger & Patricia Brook; Megan Buonodono; Burba Family; Colony Family; Cooke Family; Cooks Family; **Coy Family**; Courter Family; Anna Davis; **Dreger-Sousa Family**; Dreger-Sousa Family in Honor of Lisa, Boof & Morgan Lees; Enciso Family; Feuka Family; **Fisher Family**; **Fitschen-Brown Family**; Foran Family; Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Ford & Family; Freeman Family; Fuang-Fuang Family; Foran Family; Golden Family; Dr. Carmelia Gordon; Grant/Gardner Family; Hancock Family; Hartmann/Brown/Cobb Family; **Paul & Judy Hershkowitz**; Hibbs Family; Grace Hinkley; Marilyn & Keith Huyser; **Ellen Ives**; Jernstadt Family; Melissa Kaplan; Elizabeth Keenan; Anita Lees; Choo Young Lee Family; **Lees Family**; Lisa Lees; R.E. Lees; Lefevre Family; Mahoney Family; Scott Maschke & Family; Tim & Barb McCaffrey; McCarthy Family; McKay Family; Miller-Purrenhage Family; **Nash Family**; Nicholson Family; David & Cathy Norton; Ms. Sandra Norton; Al & Patti Nowak; Plaggemars Family; Susan and James Powers; Pozo Family; Fred Rauscher, Rogers Family; Rogocki-Fryday Family; Ruffs of St. Johns; Rucinski Family; Jodi Ryals; Don Schlinger & Jonathon Gerry; Sequeda Family; Seitz Family; Shaffer Family; Sigworth Family; **Smith & Kurtz Family**; **Stamford Family**; Stein-Benson Family; Suhrheinrich Family; Tanner Family; **Dorinda & Gary VanKempen**; The VanZwoll Family; Claire Vlasin; Todd, Cindy, Natalia & Michael Walter; **Eileen Walters**; **Danielle Weller**; Mindy Wilson Family; Zheng Family

Lifetime Members are in bold.

YEAR IN REVIEW

THE 22nd SEASON – Learning to Fly

The Time Machine – November 2010 at Hannah Community Center; Director Miranda Sue Hartmann
Pixies, Kings and Magical Things – February 2011 at Hannah Community Center; Directors Paul Bourne, Chris VanZwoll, Megan Buonodono and Sandra Sigworth
NighT of the pterodActyls – March 2011 at Riverwalk Theatre; Director Rick Dethlefsen
War at Home – May 2011 at Lansing Community College's Black Box; Director Jason Carlen
Scheherazade: Legend of the Arabian Nights – July 2011 at Hannah Community Center; Director Rick Dethlefsen

A LOOK AHEAD

THE 23rd SEASON – Beyond the Horizon

Dracula: The Vampire Play – October 2011 at Hannah Community Center
Robin Hood – February 2012 at Hannah Community Center
The Little Prince – April 2012 with Riverwalk Theatre
Jolly Roger and the Pirate Queen – July 2012 at Hannah Community Center

23rd SEASON EVENTS:

Annual Meeting – September 15, 2012 - New Board members elected and announcements made.
All-of-us Express Awards Ceremony – September 15, 2012 - Event to recognize our outstanding Guild participants, volunteers and donors.

More to come...

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.*