



# CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Theater for children, by children

*It is the mission of All-of-us Express Children's Theatre to provide young people with an opportunity to produce plays of a professional quality, and to provide the community with an opportunity to enjoy live family-oriented dramatic activities. 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

517-394-4118 [www.allofusexpress.org](http://www.allofusexpress.org)

## Staff:

Evelyn Weymouth, Artistic Director  
Diane Cooke, Director of Operations

## Board of Trustees:

**President:** Paul Hershkowitz – Nominating Committee, Policies & Bylaws Committee  
Manager of Traffic and Transportation Planning Services, Wilbur Smith Associates

**Vice President:** Dudley Smith (Smitty) – Finance Committee, Fundraising Committee  
Development Engineer, General Motors

**Secretary:** Pam Bergeron - Personnel Committee Chair  
Owner, P.D. Partners, Educational Consulting

**Treasurer:** Christie Konieczny – Finance Committee Chair, Database committee  
Certified Public Accountant, Fairchild, Lebel, Rice, PC

## Members at Large:

(Listed with their board duties only, most do many other volunteer jobs as well)

Priscilla Foran (Missy) – Grants Committee Chair, Marketing Committee  
Research Analyst, Decision Demographics

Laurie Hollinger – Marketing Committee Chair, RMM Committee Chair  
Editorial Assistant, Lansing State Journal

Melissa Kaplan – Member at large, newly appointed in August to fill vacancy  
Production Coordinator, LCC – Producer/Owner, MK Media

Lisa Lees – Policies & Bylaws Committee Chair, Disaster Committee Chair  
Administrative Assistant, Office of LBGT Concerns, MSU – Self employed Writer

## Youth Board Members:

Morgan Lees (16) – Member at large, has worked with several committees including,  
but not limited to Grants and fundraising

Clonlara Home Based Education Program High School Student

## Committee Members:

Bruce Cooke – Disaster Planning

Judy Hershkowitz – Raising More Money

Jose Lopez – Raising More Money

Margaret Nielsen – Raising More Money

Ashley Smedley (youth) – Grants

Brenda Scheffler – Database, Raising More Money

Salena Smedley – Database, Raising More Money

Dorinda VanKempen – Raising More Money

## Staff Volunteers:

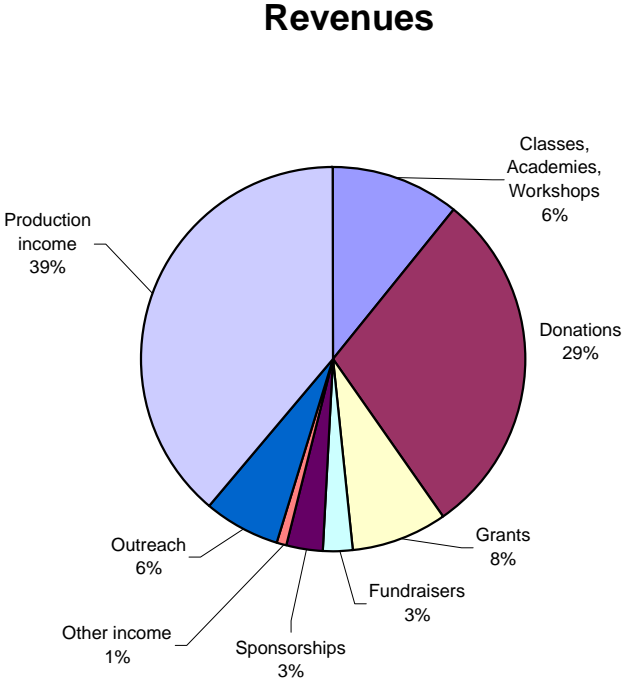
Salena Smedley – Administrative Assistant

Janet Matthews – Office Assistant

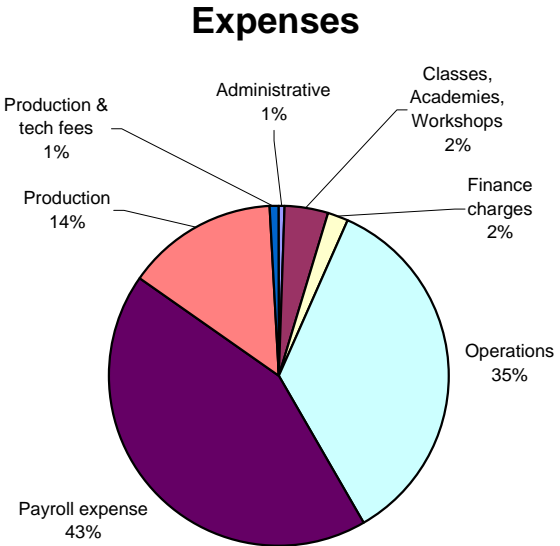
Cynthia Pratt – Costume Supervisor

**All-of-Urs Express Children's Theatre  
Statement of Revenue and Expenses  
For the Twelve Months Ended August 31, 2006**

<b>Revenues</b>		
Classes, Academies, Workshops	\$	9,847.13
Donations		26,543.31
Grants		7,050.00
Fundraisers		2,359.97
Sponsorships		2,668.00
Other income		826.44
Outreach		5,821.00
Production income		34,944.49
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>90,060.34</b>



<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative	\$	479.00
Classes/Academies/Workshops		3,961.39
Finance charges		1,947.05
Operations		33,274.50
Payroll expense		41,010.01
Production		13,790.58
Production/tech fees		840.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>95,302.53</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(5,242.19)</b>



## *President's Report*

When I was elected President of the Board of All-of-us Express Children's Theatre, I had the good fortune to inherit many of the successful initiatives of the previous President, Michelle Mertz-Stoneham. Building on that foundation gave the Board a solid base to begin the 2006 season.

This year's annual report highlights the many strides that we've taken between September 2005 and August, 2006. You can see from the Artistic Director's report and the Director of Operations report that many things have been accomplished this year, including improved marketing efforts, a better-organized grants process, an easier to understand financial process, and a bigger and better focus on class and workshop opportunities.

Our Artistic Director, Evelyn Weymouth is beginning to realize her goal of transitioning her many roles in the theatre company to other people, and of focusing on what she knows best – guiding children to produce professional quality productions. This will help ensure one of Evelyn's personal goals - that the theatre company carry on and thrive independently from her after she retires (but don't worry - she's not headed for the rocking chair just yet).

Two of the key initiatives that your Board of Directors has accomplished this year are the formation of a Building Committee to begin looking for a permanent building to house our theater company, and the complimentary decision to embark on a Capital Campaign to help fund our new home. Thanks to Dudley R. Smith, the Board's 2006 Vice President, who has agreed to spearhead the Building Committee. "Smitty", along with Building Committee members Diane, Evelyn, Missy and Board Treasurer Christie Konieczny, have each put in well over 120 hours of their own time on this effort. A Tip O' the Hat to them for their dedication and focused actions.

We're just starting the planning for the Capital Campaign, and we'll have updates in the newsletters, on the website, as well as in the 2007 Annual Report.

Stay tuned for an exciting and active year in All-of-us-Express!



Paul Hershkowitz  
President of the Board  
All-of-us-Express Children's Theatre

## *Director of Operations Report*

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre continues to maneuver down the obstacle course of growth. We have tried new paths – some have been very successful, others less so, but all have been learning experiences. Mostly, we are learning to listen – to our audiences, to our peers, to our youth, and to each other.

2005-06 has been a year of making new relationships and discovering new potential. We are getting through our struggling adolescent years and approaching the young adult stage of our growth and we're starting to feel more confident in where we're headed. We have tried very hard not to pass up opportunities to meet new people and to tell them about All-of-us Express Children's Theatre. We're proud of who we are and we're out there telling people about us!

One of our finest achievements this year has been our A.C.T.O.R.S. (All-of-us Express Children's Theatre Often Returning Storytellers) troupe of home-schooled youth. We found an area that was lacking in the arts and was ready for All-of-us Express. Thanks to a grant from the City of Lansing General Fund and Greater Lansing Arts Council we were able to take the troupe into 20 Lansing School District Schools to perform.

Another great area of achievement is our Theatre Guild Program. *Guild crews* are those that directly support the production of a show (the so-called "running crews") and in which one learns a theater craft. Each guild has several levels of achievement; apprentice, journeyman, and master. The two advanced levels may only be attempted after permission has been obtained by Evelyn and she agrees that you have shown the skill and maturity to be trusted with the responsibility.

Full credit for this achievement has to go to Evelyn for her fine choices in Crew Head/Mentors. Not only has this program drawn interest from a larger group of young people, it has produced some very fine and talented 'techies'. We are very close to a point at which we could have an entire show run by youth. The Director, AD's, Costume Supervisor, Makeup Supervisor, Set Supervisor, Prop Supervisor, Lights, and Sound would all be under the age of 18! Now that WILL be something to celebrate!

Our "most improved" area of the business would have to be our marketing. This has been a much-underserved area for a while, mainly due to a lack of time and not enough people with marketing skills to do what needed to be done. Thanks to a concerted Board and staff effort, we have begun to see more exposure in newspapers; we've been on television, radio, and we even have a TV commercial. Look for much more of this in the future thanks to our marketing team!

The daunting confusion of the grant process has been sorted out nicely thanks to the help of Missy Foran, one of our newer board members. The "grants team" works together on the research, writing and implementation of many grants throughout the year.

Board Treasurer, Christie Konieczny has made the finances easy for everyone to understand. She gets weekly backups of the financial data and gives the Board monthly cash flow projections for the months ahead. This has been a remarkable planning tool for the monthly board meetings and for next year's budget.

For the 2006-2007 year we are seeing a bigger and better focus on class and workshop opportunities. We look for even greater recognition in the community and for the new, as well as the established relationships to flourish and grow into long-term collaborative efforts. And of course, we still visualize that All-of-us Express Youth Arts Center in the future...



Live, laugh, love,  
Diane Cooke,  
Director of Operations

## **Founder/Artistic Director Report**

How far this company has come!! Not so long ago the same person was Founder, Executive Director, Artistic Director, Show Director, Secretary and Clerical staff. A small handful of volunteers supervised crews for show after show and helped day-to-day. For each production, there were fabulous parents who helped behind the scenes and in front of the house. But the emphasis was on the word volunteer.

Now there are two full time paid staff and an ever growing number of teachers and crew supervisors – some paid and some volunteer. We have seen students graduate but stay to help in adult positions. We have seen students graduate, go away and then come back. The pool of people available to help behind the scenes and on the board continues to grow and grow.

With an ever-increasing number of people involved, come new ideas and visions. Some productions have the old familiar look and some have a new, interesting appearance. Classes have grown in type and attendance. Homeschoolers have found a home with All-of-us. More and more aspects of the professional quality productions are being produced solely by young people. Collaborations with other community organizations develop and blossom.

This vitality and growth will extend into the next year. The former “Founder, Executive Director, Artistic Director, etc., etc.” will continue to reduce her omnipresent role and focus on what she knows best – guiding children to produce professional quality productions. More and more people will move into an ever-growing number of paid and volunteer positions thereby expanding the strength of the company. More youth from all over the Greater Lansing area will discover the joy of creating high quality works of dramatic arts.

All of you who have been involved, whether for years or for a few weeks, can take immense pride in the company which all of us have helped to create. Consider this report an invitation to continue to enjoy the fruits of your labor and like Jack, ride the beanstalk to the sky!!



Reported with Joy by  
Evelyn Weymouth  
Founder and Artistic Director

### **THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SEASON – Year in review**

**Elves and the Shoemaker & Stone Soup** – November 2005 at Hannah Community Center  
Directed by All-of-us Express Alumni, Liz Cooke and Ethan McCarty

**The Secret Garden** – February 2006 at Kinawa Middle School  
Directed by Evelyn Weymouth

**Just So Stories** – April/May 2006 with Riverwalk Theatre  
Directed by Evelyn Weymouth

\*Special school performances done for this show on two Thursdays

**Aesop Says** – July/Aug 2006 at Hannah Community Center

Directed by All-of-us Express Alumni, Megan Buonodono and Liz Cooke with student directors, David Griffin and Morgan Lees

\*Special ‘Groups only’ matinees done for this show on two Fridays

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre would like to thank the following contributors for their generous support during the 2005-06 fiscal year:

**Organizations:**

+Arts Council of Greater Lansing  
+Capital Area United Way  
\*Capital Region Community Foundation  
\*\*City of Lansing General Funds minigrant  
++The Coffee Jam  
++Fairchild, Lebel, Rice, PC  
\*Friedland Industries, Inc  
\*Gall Sewing & Vacuum Center  
++Gone Wired Café  
\*\*Grainger  
++Hannah Community Center  
\*\*Ingham County Hotel-Motel Tax Fund

Logan Square Rent-A-Center  
++Merem Properties, LLC/Broder & Sachse  
\*\*\*Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs  
++Mixed Vegetables Improv Troupe  
\*\*National City Bank  
O'Leary Paint  
Paper Image  
++Riverwalk Theatre  
The Rossman Group  
\*Siemens Caring Hands Foundation  
++VanAtta's Greenhouse and Flowers  
\*Vertalka & Vertalka

**Individuals:**

The Abassi Family  
The Adams Family  
Carol Armstrong Hall  
The Ayriss Family  
The Bass-Pohl Family  
The Bence Family  
\*The Bergeron Family  
Mayor Virg Bernero & Family  
\*\*Bob & Karen Blackman  
The Brett Family  
The Bretz Family  
The Brock Family  
The Brockhaus Family  
The Brook Family  
Ms. Donna Brunton  
The Bueche Family  
The Buonodono Family  
The Cabrera Family  
The Callis Family  
The Carlson Family  
The Carlson Family  
The Chamberlain Family  
Ms. Ciaravino  
The Clampitt Family  
The Cook Family  
\*The Cooke Family  
Liz Cooke  
The Cameron Davis Family  
The Davis Family  
\*Mr. Rick Dethlefson  
The Dibert Family  
The Domino Family  
The Dunn Family

The Espinosa Family  
The Evans Family  
The Ezzo Family  
++Ms. Nici Farhat  
The Featherstone Family  
The Fedewa Family  
Bruce R. Ferguson, DDS, PC  
The Fitschen-Brown Family  
\*The Flynn/Ryals Family  
\*The Foran Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Goddeeris  
The Hall Family  
The Hancock Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Helder  
The Helmick Family  
\*The Herbert Family  
\*The Hershkowitz Family  
The Hibbs Family  
Ms. Heidi Hiner  
The Hogan Family  
The Holland Family  
Ms. Carol Hollinger  
The Hollinger/Griffin Family  
The Holman Family  
The Hunt Family  
The Ives-Johnson Family  
The Jacobs Family  
\*\*Ms. Eileen Kavanagh  
Mr. Joe Kavanagh  
Ms. Libby Keenan  
The Kerrins Family  
The Kettles Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Konieczny  
The Kreiser Family

All-of-us Express Children's Theatre would like to thank the following contributors for their generous support during the 2005-06 fiscal year:

Sharon Krinock  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Kutscher  
The Lansdale Family  
\*The Lapinski-Bonning Family  
The Lebel Family  
\*\*The Lees Family  
Ms. R.E. Lees  
Ms. Madeline Lenski  
The Lewis Family  
\*Mr. Jose Lopez  
The Lorencen Family  
The Macias Family  
The Karen Martin Family  
The Matthews Family  
The McCallum Family  
Ethan McCarty  
The McCarthy Family  
The McGrath Family  
The McKenney-Person Family  
The McPeak Family  
\*Michelle Mertz-Stoneham & Curt Stoneham  
The Miller Family  
The Mohr Family  
The Moseley Family  
The Nagler Family  
The Nicholson Family  
The Nielsen-Williams Family  
Ms. Katherine O'Sullivan-See  
The Paine Family  
The Paneth-Pollak Family  
Ms. Marsha Parrott-Boyle  
Mr. & Mr. Person  
Ms. Althea Phillips  
The Phillipson Family  
The Pitcher/Isbell Family  
The Potter Family  
The Poulson Family  
The Pratt Family  
Ms. Jo Preston  
\*Ms. Damona Resnick  
Ms. June Rice  
Ms. Darlene Robinson  
The Roty Family  
The Rudman Family  
The Ruppert Family  
The Schalow Family  
The Scheffler Family  
Tom Sheerin

The Silver Family  
Ms. Kathy Simmons  
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The Slonim/Bialek Family  
The Sluiter Family  
The Smedley Family  
\*The Dudley Smith Family  
The Soule Family  
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The Stonebrook Family  
Ms. Loretta Subhi  
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Mr. Craig VanKempen  
\*The VanKempen Family  
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Ms. Eileen Walters  
Ms. Joanne Weidig  
Ms. Evelyn Weymouth  
John & Laura Weymouth  
\*\*Ms. RaeAnn Weymouth  
\*Mr. Terry Weymouth  
The Willis Family  
The Wilson Family  
The Winsor Family  
The Woods-Higginbotham Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wright  
\*Dave, Jill & Liz Young

\*\*\*\$3000 and up

\*\*\$1500 and up

+granting organization

\*\$500 and up

+ +other support

**All-of-us Express Children's Theatre  
Affiliations:**

(AACT) American Association of Community  
Theatre

Arts Council of Greater Lansing

(CTAM) Community Theatre Association of  
Michigan

(MACAA) Michigan Association of Community  
Arts Agencies

(MNA) Michigan Nonprofit Association

## *A Look Ahead*

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

**A.C.T.O.R.S. (All-of-us Express Children's Theatre Often Returning Storytellers)** – a troupe of home schooled youth that travel to schools, libraries and other facilities during the day when the rest of “our kids” are in school.

**SBST (Story Book Story Theatre)** – a summer touring troupe that entertains at fairs, festivals, libraries, museums, etc.

### CLASSES:

**Audition Workshops** – Children come to a “mock” audition and learn what to expect when they come to the real thing.

**Saturday Academy** – Six-week courses that meet on Saturday mornings in Fall, Winter, and Spring. Past classes have included, Intro to Acting, Creative Movement, and Improv.

**Summer Academy** – We offer a two week (8-day) **Drama Camp** that offers an hour each of art, drama, and movement each day. This is repeated twice during the summer so that everyone can schedule it around their vacation. We also offer a **Midsummer Theater Camp** for one week (4 days) for the older kids to expand their acting abilities through improv and skill building games.

### ANNUAL EVENTS:

**Annual Meeting** – 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in September – New Board members elected and announcements made

**Halloween Carnival** – October 28<sup>th</sup> – Games, Storybook Characters, Clowns, Prizes, FUN!

**The Big Ask** – Our ‘kick-off’ fundraiser on November 29<sup>th</sup> – An opportunity to tell our story of why your \$\$ are important to our dream of the future

**Holiday Cookie Exchange Party** – December 9<sup>th</sup> – food and fun for families

**New Year’s Eve Lock-In** – December 31<sup>st</sup> – for members and guests

**We Love Our Donors** – February - NOT a fundraiser – a chance for us to thank the people that have given to us throughout the past year.

**Potluck Picnic** – Mid July – for members to share food and fun at the park

### THE 18<sup>TH</sup> SEASON – A Season of Magic!

**The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe** – November 10-18, 2006 at Hannah Community Center

Directed by William Miles

\*School shows will be offered

**Sleeping Beauty & The 12 Dancing Princesses** – February 9-17, 2007 at Hannah Community Center

– Directed by Elizabeth Cooke and Megan Buonodono

**Young King Arthur** – April 27-May 6, 2007 with Riverwalk Theatre and Impression 5

Directed by Evelyn Weymouth

\*School shows will be offered

**Wizard of Oz** – July 27-August 4, 2007 at Hannah Community Center

Directed by Ethan McCarty

\* ‘Groups only’ matinees will be offered