

All-of-us Expressions

All-of-us Express
Children's Theatre

20th Season:
A Coming of Age Story

August/September 2009 Edition

New Home at Hannah Community Center!!!

As of September, All-of-us Express Children's Theatre programs and activities will take place in our new home at Hannah Community Center. While much of our programming will take place in the auditorium itself, we will be sharing space with other Hannah Community Center programs. Therefore, some of our classes, workshops, rehearsals and crew meetings will take place in various other rooms in the center.

Our Artistic Director will have an office at Hannah Community Center and will continue in her position of Artistic Director as an employee of the City of East Lansing. This does not, however, change her availability to the members or youth participants of the theatre. Miranda's first priority is, has been and will continue to be the well-being, development and success of the youth participants of All-of-us Express.

Moving into Hannah also means a huge downsizing of inventory. To that end, we will be having a large sale in September (rescheduled from our original August date). On the 11th & 12th All-of-us Express members and local theater professionals are invited to come in for "first dibs" purchases. We hope that you will come and support the move by perusing the many bargains available and perhaps even making a purchase.

More details about this move to Hannah Community Center and the changes to the organization can be found throughout this newsletter as well as on our website.

Dates to know:

•**September 11 & 12:**
SALE: AECT Members & Theater Folks

•**September 19:** *Academy Classes Begin*

•**September 24:** *Annual Member's Meeting*

•**October 8, 9 & 10:**
Auditions: How Reading Came Back to Nowhere

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**What lies behind us and what lies before us
are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.**
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Letter from the AECT President



We are very happy to announce that beginning with its twenty-first season, the theater program of All-of-us Express Children's Theatre has become a program of the City of East Lansing's Department of Parks, Recreation and Arts!

What does this mean?

For most people, the only change is that auditions, rehearsals and classes will now take place in Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. The Logan Square space is no longer in use.

We are still performing our spring show at Riverwalk Theatre in Lansing and will continue that partnership.

All-of-us Express Children's Theater still exists, as an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit membership corporation with a board of trustees. The role of the corporation (AECT) is to do fundraising and outreach in support of the theater program.

AECT owns the name, "All-of-us Express Children's Theater," and the familiar logo, and is granting East Lansing the right to make use of them. This is a right we can revoke if the theater program is not run according to our long-standing ideals and goals.

By being a member of AECT or serving on its board and committees you still very much have a say in how the theater program is run. All AECT membership benefits remain the same including discounts on program and show tickets, receipt of the newsletter and some member only events.

AECT is looking forward to your continued participation and to this opportunity to improve and grow a theater program that has been important to thousands of young people in the Greater Lansing area during the past twenty years!

If you have questions about these changes, please visit the website for up-to-date information and come to the annual meeting on Thursday, September 24.

Lisa Lees, President
All-of-us Express Children's Theatre

REMINDER!!!

Our 20th Season is about to come to a close. That means, it is time to renew those memberships!!! Consider becoming a Lifetime Member for \$400.00, payable in four easy installments of \$100.00 each throughout a single season.

Ready for the New Adventure?

With the start of a new Season in the beautiful Hannah Community Center, now is the perfect time to renew your membership with All-of-us Express. While our programs will be under the City of East Lansing's umbrella, we remain a non-profit membership organization—truly the best of both worlds. The non-profit arm will still be responsible for raising monies to help produce the mainstage plays as well as fund our other unique offerings, like the touring troupes, camps, classes, and workshops. All-of-us Express still depends on wide community support from grants, donations, and most importantly, annual member dues, to continue to offer and expand the programming that area families depend on. Remember, we are the only mid-Michigan youth theater that offers a complete dramatic arts training program, at modest prices.

Benefits of membership (depending on level) include:

- discounts on fees and classes
- discounts on large group tickets
- acknowledgment of membership in show programs
- voting privileges
- subscription to the *Expressions* newsletter (online or by mail)
- notification of special events

Memberships run from September 1st to August 31st. Don't wait until the middle of the year to sign up or you will lose half a year of benefits! A membership form detailing levels and benefits is included in this newsletter, or you can visit our website, allofusexpress.org, to renew online.

~Article by Missy Foran

**Don't Forget!!!
Annual Member's
Meeting: September
24th at 6:00pm at
Hannah Community
Center. Come Vote!!!**

Who's on the Ballot???

Officers

Sandi Sigworth: President
Missy Foran: Vice-President
Pedro Pozo, Sr.: Treasurer
Morgan Lees: Secretary

Gina Golden: Board Member
Austin Homant: Youth Board Member
Andrea Hibbs: Youth Board Member

Change is inevitable; growth is optional.

~American Bumper Sticker Saying

21st Season News

Last season was truly “A Coming of Age Story” and brought us many milestone moments as well as many changes. As we celebrate the 20 years that have gone before and look forward into the coming season, appropriately titled “Spreading Our Wings”, we focus on both tradition and growth.



In our 21st Season, we will be getting comfortable in our new home at Hannah Community Center in East Lansing and adjusting to a new flow of how things are done. We also look forward to two brand new titles on the All-of-us Express repertoire, our Fall/Winter production *How Reading Came Back to Nowhere* and our Summer production *Peter Pan*, along with the return of a much loved classic *Dragonsong*.

All-of-us Express will continue in the long-standing traditions of educating youth through the unique experience of theater, providing the community with quality theatrical productions and reaching out to the underserved community through both our educational as well as our theatrical programs.

We also look forward to utilizing the new support and resources available through the City of East Lansing as we further grow our current programs including the Guild Program, Academy Classes and our touring troupes. Open workshops will again be offered this season as well as our workshops for Girl Scout Troops. We hope to add to the workshops offered in the summer and future seasons.

Our 21st Season begins with the start of Saturday Academy Classes on September 19, followed by our Annual Member’s Meeting on September 24. The website will continue to have details about all upcoming events, classes, workshops and auditions.

As we move into this bright new future, we recognize that it could not have happened without the unending generosity and support of our members, volunteers, donors and sponsors. We hope you will all join us in “Spreading our Wings” this season!

See you at the show!!!

1st Annual Awards Ceremony

All-of-us Express hosted its Ceremony on August 18, Community College's Dart was held to recognize all 20th season with their certificates. In addition, went to the outstanding contributed throughout the Ceremony is in place of certificates after the cast



immediately following a production. This also affords All-of-us Express the opportunity to properly thank its donors and volunteers. Look for pictures on the website. A great time was had by all that attended. Therefore, mark August 18, 2010 on your calendar for the 21st Seasons Awards Ceremony.

first annual Awards 2009 at Lansing Auditorium. The ceremony the crews and casts for the appropriate badges and carnations and a thank you volunteers and donors who year. The Awards handing out badges and and crew party

~ Article by Sandra Sigworth

20th Season Review

While this past season saw the celebration of a 20 year legacy, it was also another season of firsts for All-of-us Express. We hosted three first-time events. The All-of-you Review fundraising and entertainment event took place this past April. It was well received by those in attendance and we plan to host the next one on May 8, 2010. We also held our first official Alumni Reunion with alumni coming from all over the country including Chicago and Los Angeles. We also hosted our first Award Ceremony (see article above).

Other firsts for the season included our first time producing "Legend of Pocahontas", "Stuart Little" and "James and the Giant Peach". We also had a first-time collaboration through a drama camp held at the Oak Park YMCA, as well as a film camp with the YMCA and HOM-TV of Meridian Township.

Our summer production of "Alice in Wonderland" brought two firsts as well; a visit from Capital Flutes, who played in the lobby at the first Saturday show and it was our the first all-alumni/youth run production for All-of-us Express, a long time goal not only of the theatre but of its founder, Evelyn Weymouth! It has been an exciting year for the company's programs. We look forward to whatever the coming season brings!

Youth Creating Quality Theater



All-of-us Express Children's Theatre is a non-profit corporation founded in 1989 by Evelyn Weymouth.

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.

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We're on the web:
www.allofusexpress.org

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Children's Theatre**

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