Children's Theatre

2023-2024

season
WHAT MAKES ALL-OF-US EXPRESS SPECIAL

We learn responsibility. We have tons of fun. We respect each other. We discover new skills.

This is a place where we want everyone to feel welcomed, be accepted and know they’re important.

EVERYONE WORKS HARD AND LEARNS EVERYTHING

At All-of-us, everybody works on both sides of the curtain.

Backstage, our youth work on crews to build sets, make props, create costumes, design stage makeup, and run lights and sound. Children can also help out by being ushers, working at the concession stand, or planning the cast and crew party, among other tasks.

On stage, participants work hard to memorize their lines, learn their blocking, and function as team members who understand how everyone’s role is crucial to the success of the production. Every child who has a role on stage must next serve on a crew of their choice. This ensures that everyone has a fair chance to learn everything that All-of-us Express has to offer.

*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.*
HOW IT ALL STARTED

All-of-us Express Children’s Theatre began in March 1989. Founder Evelyn Weymouth had been freelancing children’s drama in the greater Lansing area; teaching classes, performing and directing. As she met and conversed with the parents of her students she often mentioned she would someday like to have a theater company that did theatre for children by children.

At the end of 2009, the Board of Trustees voted to enter into a merger agreement with the City of East Lansing. Since then, All-of-us Express Children’s Theatre has existed as a program in the Parks, Recreation & Arts Department of the City of East Lansing and housed in the East Lansing Hannah Community Center.

All-of-us Express is more than performers. We have an outstanding Guild program for young people who want to work behind the scenes pursuing theatre crafts.

BENEFITS OF THE AECT PROGRAM

All-of-us Express introduces youth to all aspects of theatre and supports them as they grow in confidence and skills during their time in the program, whether that is one show or many years.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
THE WITCH’S PRINCESS
By Don Zolidis

November 3 & 10 • 7 p.m.
November 4 & 11 • 3 p.m.
November 5 & 12 • 3 p.m.

SYNOPSIS
The queen is dead. The kingdom is cursed. And the only way to lift the curse is to slay the witch.

When Princess Alessandra’s father the king offers her hand in marriage to the knight who can slay the evil bog witch and lift the curse, there’s only one thing for the princess to do: sneak out of the castle and kill the witch herself to avoid marriage. But she’s not dumb and she’s not going alone. First she assembled a crack crew of the deadliest monsters in myth and legend to help. But she discovers the monsters aren’t what they seem, and neither is the witch, or the curse, or the kingdom. A rollicking and wild quest of magic and adventure!
A Christmas Carol
A CHRISTMAS CAROL: A GHOST STORY OF CHRISTMAS
Dramatized by Michael Wilson from the story by Charles Dickens

East Lansing Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

SYNOPSIS
It’s Christmas Eve. As the cold, bleak night draws in, the penny-pinching Ebenezer Scrooge is confronted by the spirit of his former business partner, Jacob Marley.

Bound in chains as punishment for a lifetime of greed, the unearthly figure explains it isn’t too late for Scrooge to change his miserly ways in order to escape the same fate. But first he’ll have to face three more eerie encounters...

December 15
• 7 p.m.

December 16
• 3 p.m.

AUDITIONS
(Ages 11-18)
August 19
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
ADDAMS FAMILY SCHOOL EDITION
Book by Marshall Brickman & Rick Elice, Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

East Lansing Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

SYNOPSIS
THE ADDAMS FAMILY, a comical feast that embraces the wackiness in every family, features an original story and it’s every father’s nightmare: Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young man from a respectable family—a man her parents have never met. And if that wasn’t upsetting enough, Wednesday confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he’s never done before—keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday’s “normal” boyfriend and his parents.

February 2 & 9 • 7 p.m.
February 3 & 10 • 3 p.m.
February 4 & 11 • 3 p.m.

AUDITIONS
(Ages 9-18)
November 16 & 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Audition Workshop
November 15
6:30-8:30 p.m.
$10 members
$15 non-members
The Wind in the Willows
THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS
Adapted by T. James Belich from the story by Kenneth Grahame

April 26 & May 3 • 7 p.m.
April 27 & May 4 • 3 p.m.
April 28 & May 5 • 3 p.m.

SYNOPSIS
What begins as a peaceful summer on the river is soon disrupted by Toad and his obsession with motorcars. After crashing several cars, he then steals one and lands himself in jail. His friends Mole, Badger, and Water Rat make every effort to protect Toad’s residence, Toad Hall, but are instead ousted by the Ferrets and Weasels of the Wild Wood. Will Toad escape from jail and regain Toad Hall? Will he learn a lesson about his boastful and impetuous ways? A spirited adaptation of a timeless classic.
nickelodeon
THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL
youth edition™
THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL: YOUTH EDITION
Based on the series by Stephen Hillenburg, book by Kyle Jarrow
Musical Production conceived by Tina Landau

East Lansing Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road
East Lansing, MI 48823

SYNOPSIS
When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up. The power of optimism really can save the world!

July 26 & August 2 • 7 p.m.
July 27 & August 3 • 3 p.m.
July 28 & August 4 • 3 p.m.

AUDITIONS
(Ages 6-18)
May 16 & 17
6:30-8:30 p.m.
May 18
10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Audition Workshop
May 15
6:30-8:30 p.m.
$10 members
$15 non-members