

STUDIO EAST

Training for the Performing Arts

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter!

A Letter from the Executive Artistic Director, Lani Brockman



Hello Friends and Happy Fall!

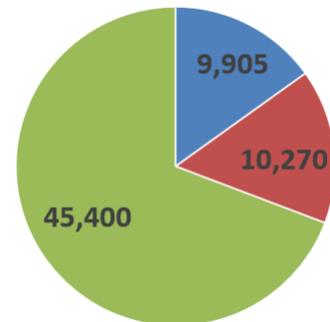
Studio East is officially into its 26th season and StoryBook Theater in its 21st. Time flies! I don't feel that much older – at least not today! Below are a few highlights from the end of the summer:

- August brought with it the conclusion of Studio East's 25th anniversary season. We launched a campaign to raise 25k in support of this milestone year and were blown away by the response. A HEARTFELT thank you to all who so generously contributed in support of our first 25 years. We are excited about the next 25 and everything it promises.
- In August, we finished up ten weeks of summer theater camps. What a highlight to be in and around the Kirkland community with our 52 camps, almost 1,050 campers, 56 instructors (including 16 student teaching assistants), 37 Mini YAPI participants and 27 YAPI graduates. It seems we are growing every year!
- Our teen summer musical, *Footloose*, was of course another highlight. For two weekends, we danced and sang our hearts out - '80s style - at Kirkland Performance Center. Our cast and crew were spectacular to say the least and it was a tremendous way to close out our 25th anniversary season.

IMPACT NUMBERS

Sept '17 - Aug '18

Students and Audiences



Total: 65,575

- Education classes
- Mainstage Productions
- StoryBook Theater

As we move into fall and winter, here's the scoop:

- Our season opener, *Oliver!* just finished a fantastic run with several sold out shows on all three weekends. We had two stellar casts who entered the process engaged and eager

to dive in full force. As our director Sam Pettit laid out in his show notes, this show is about so much more than the sweet orphan boy, Oliver Twist. He challenged our performers to think outside the box, to examine morally questionable characters, and to sympathize with the downtrodden.

- *3 Pigs* opens StoryBook Theater's 21st season. This is a classic as well as StoryBook favorite. Did you see the Pigs dancing in the 4th of July parade this summer? Well, they're back! *3 Pigs* runs October 20 – November 18, and no doubt they will be in a city near you.
- StoryBook Theater is also excited to expand its sensory-friendly program with 12 new shows, thanks to Safeco Insurance Fund. We also have two new titles we are debuting this season – *Syd the Solstice Kid* and *The Little Engine That Could*, sponsored by AAA.
- The Studio's Education programs are off and running! We have 34 students in our Studio Foundations and Intensive program. Afterschool and homeschool classes are full for the fall and parents are already registering for the mini 6-week winter session that begins in November. New this year, we offer The Production Lab, a year-long program that focuses on directing and stage managing with class and experiential learning.
- Finally, our annual Jest for Funds Auction is coming up on November 10th. This year the theme is PIRATES! Come dressed in your best buccaneer and swashbuckling garb. It's going to be a real party as we raise some pieces of eight for Studio East! [More info here.](#)

As we begin our 26th season, I want to thank you all for your generous and continued support. The Studio wouldn't be anywhere as engaging, empowering, safe and professional without your passion and involvement. Here's to another year of keeping the arts alive for our young people!

Lani Brockman
Executive Artistic Director

Meet Studio East's newest Board Members

Over the past few months, we have welcomed these awesome five new board members.

From top left, clockwise: **Julie Trott** (Director of Finance and Operations, Edmonds United Methodist Church), **Tim Vokes** (Principal Solution Architect, Teradata), **Mary Beth Binns** (Studio East Parent), **Santos Contreras** (Community Leader & Business Coach), and **Natalie Barney** (Studio Alum & IT Project Analyst, Homestreet Bank).





Introducing... The Production LAB



wide range of subjects that will prepare them for both college and the professional world. Students will gain practical experience by assistant stage managing a Studio East Mainstage One-Act production from auditions to closing. Under the guidance of a Studio faculty member, The Production LAB team will put their skills into practice by producing, directing, and stage managing a Student Cabaret in June.

Studio East is thrilled to launch a new college-prep course for students interested in directing and stage managing. The Production LAB is a result of many years of requests for more “behind the scenes” programs for students interested in what goes on off the stage. With the support of a few generous donors, we were able to finally bring this program to life.

The 7-month program beginning this November, is for students ages 15-19. Limited to only 6 participants, the group will study a

Throughout the school year, students will attend classes, participate in mainstage productions, as well as plan, prepare and execute the Student Cabaret. The weekly classes will include guest speakers, business and theater panels, classes on budgeting, marketing, script analysis and more. There will also be two 'professional production' field trips during the year.

The Production LAB will meet on Sundays beginning November 18th. We're very excited to witness the launch of this long-awaited program and even more anxious to see it grow over the years. While the application deadline has passed, if you know someone who is interested, have them reach out to Education Director, Corey Dunne at coreydunne@studio-east.org.



***Syd the Solstice Kid* - a new StoryBook Theater show this December**



StoryBook Theater is excited to bring to the stage a brand-new show this December, *Syd the Solstice Kid*. Written by Lani Brockman with music and lyrics by Susan Bardsley, this original musical explores winter solstice stories and traditions from around the world.

This 55-minute show follows Syd and three of her friends as they explore winter solstice stories from Scandinavian, Inuit, Chinese and African cultures. They act out the ancient stories that these communities told to explain the disappearing sun, shorter days, and the eventual celebration and return of light.

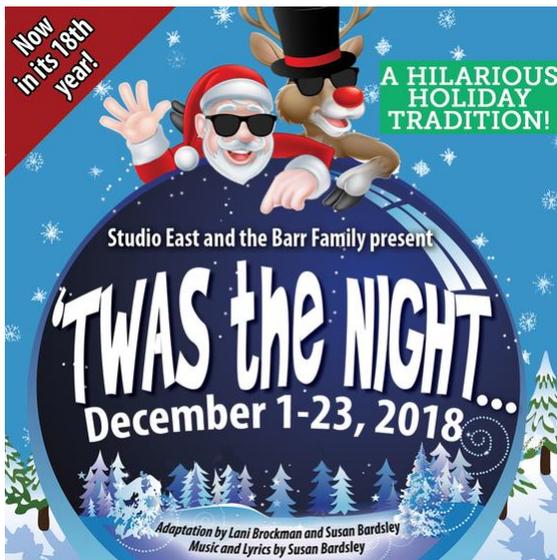
Some Solstice stories contain interesting pieces that have evolved into holiday traditions many of us enjoy today – decorating the house, making wreaths, gift-giving and candle lighting, for example. Audience members will learn where many of these traditions came from and how other communities celebrate the winter solstice in their county. Through storytelling, *Syd the Solstice Kid* hopes to build awareness about our many diverse cultures in this ever-shrinking world. Every culture has its own stories and narratives, which are shared for a variety of reasons - as a means for entertainment, education, cultural preservation and instilling values. “Before science, it was stories,” says Lani Brockman, founder and writer of StoryBook Theater.



StoryBook Theater hopes to make Syd an annual event, telling new Solstice stories each year so children can continue to learn about our world’s traditions, one story at a time.

Syd the Solstice Kid is packed with audience participation, loads of humor and original songs by Susan Bardsley such as “Light,” and “Could It Be.” It plays in Fremont, Shoreline, Renton and Kirkland December 2-22, 2018. More info & tickets available at storybooktheater.org.

Coming Up at Studio East & StoryBook Theater



'Twas the Night – Showing at Studio East Dec 1-23, 2018

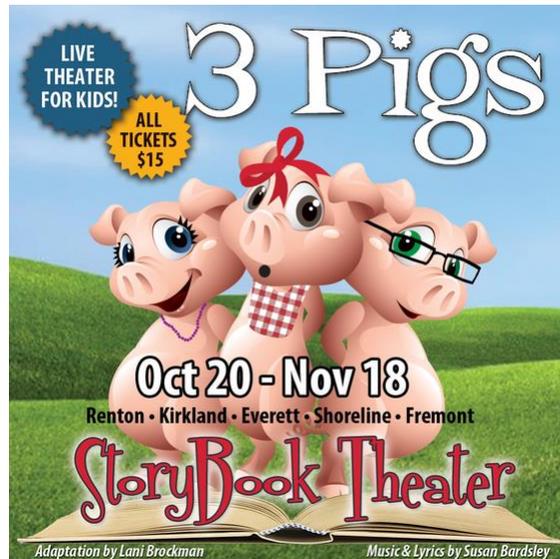
Now in its 18th season, Studio East presents the delightfully entertaining family musical, *'Twas the Night...* and this year the infamous mother-in-law, Vera, is back! Join us for this hilarious spin on the familiar holiday poem – a live musical guaranteed to have the whole family laughing!

'Twas will be co-directed by Lani Brockman and Abby Eagleson with music direction by David Duvall and choreography by Sam Pettit. This show is fun for all ages, which makes it a great family outing during the holidays. [Showtimes & tickets here.](#)

3 Pigs – Now through November 18th

Join us for the first show of StoryBook Theater's 21st season. This entertaining musical features swine sisters who learn to work together. When the wolf is on the hunt for some succulent pork, the shakin' bacon starts makin' a sturdy, tooth-proof home for protection. This zany rendition of the favorite tale will have audiences, small and tall, rooting for Sweet Pea, Calla Lily and Petunia Blossom as they scramble to save their skins.

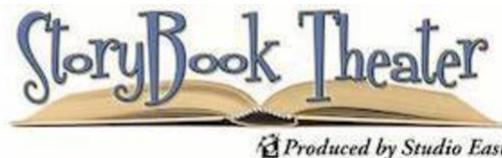
Focus: Working Together
[Showtimes & tickets here.](#)



Now Registering...Winter Mini Session

Winter Mini Session lands between Fall and Winter quarters and is now open for registration. This special 6-week session of after school theater classes includes Broadway Kids, Improv, Vocalease, Songbirds & Wiggle Worms, Shakespeare and more!

Classes run November 26th - January 25th | Ages 4-18 | Save 10% when you register by 11/11! | [More information & registration here.](#)



Studio East, a non-profit, creates opportunities for young people to discover and explore the performing arts.

Home of StoryBook Theater.

