



# STUDIO EAST

## Training for the Performing Arts

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter!

## A Letter from Executive Artistic Director, Lani Brockman



Hello All and Happy New Year!

How are we already more than half way through January? It's been a busy start to the new year, and we are looking forward to exciting things this quarter at Studio East and StoryBook Theater.

Before we dive in to what's next, though, I'd like to share a few highlights from last fall:

- In October, we kicked off the season with a trip through Victorian England via the musical, *Oliver!* We visited the classic fairytale, *3 Pigs*, at StoryBook Theater, and we launched our fall after school and homeschool classes. Including Mainstage, we had over 400 kids in classes and productions this quarter.
- In November, we held a truly fun and successful auction. Everyone came dressed in their best pirate and buccaneer costume, and we raised over \$200,000 for Studio East programs. Wow! We are so grateful. As is tradition, we also announced our summer teen musical – *Les Misérables!*
- In December, we put on the 18th year of *'Twas the Night*. This year included many new students in the cast, eager to learn and experience a live production. We also brought back Vera, the infamous mother-in-law, who provided heaps of humor in this Eastside holiday tradition. We also debuted *Syd the Solstice Kid* at StoryBook Theater. This original musical featured solstice stories from around the world and provided an entertaining way for children to learn about the changes that come with the winter season.

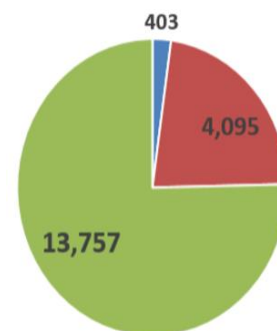
Coming off such a fun quarter, we are excited for what's next:

- Our first Mainstage production of the new year, International One Acts, hits the stage this weekend. These three short plays boast great directors and three unique casts telling three meaningful and inspiring stories. With David Duvall, Kim Douthit and Kaysy Ostrom directing, each of these plays are going to be spectacular. They will show Jan 25 – Feb 2.
- We are excited to debut *The Little Engine That Could* at StoryBook Theater with a first of its kind partnership with AAA Washington. This new musical will teach audience members about distracted driving and traffic safety along with energetic characters, catchy songs and a powerful theme about believing in yourself. We are excited to partner with AAA on this show.
- The first week of March heralds a production of *Romeo & Juliet* set in the late 19th century during the 'Hatfield and McCoy' era. Later in March, the highly

### IMPACT NUMBERS

Sept '18 - Dec '18

#### Students and Audiences



Total: 18,255

- Education classes
- Mainstage Production
- StoryBook Theater

### SAVE THE DATES:

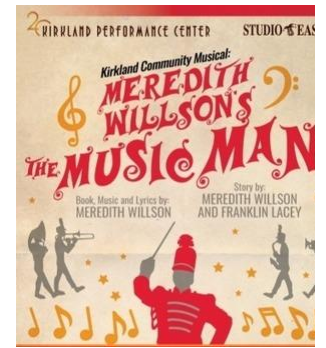
Kirkland Community Musical - *The Music Man* at Kirkland Performance Center  
March 9-16

entertaining play with music, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, opens on the Studio Mainstage for the first time ever. I will be directing with Abby Eagleson as Music Director, and the cast will perform as musicians on stage as well as actors!

- And get ready, because Summer is just around the corner! Go to our web page the first week of February to sign up for one or more of our 26th season of summer camps. Don't miss our early bird registration! And don't forget to audition for Les Mis in May!

Thank you all for your passion, involvement and belief in Studio East and StoryBook Theater. Each year brings new and exciting endeavors, and we couldn't do it without you. Here's to a fabulous 2019, celebrating the arts and creating opportunities for our children!

Lani Brockman  
Executive Artistic Director



**Curtains Up -  
Announcing the 2019-20  
Mainstage Season on May  
5th, 2019**



**Annual Jest for Funds  
Auction - October 5th,  
2019**



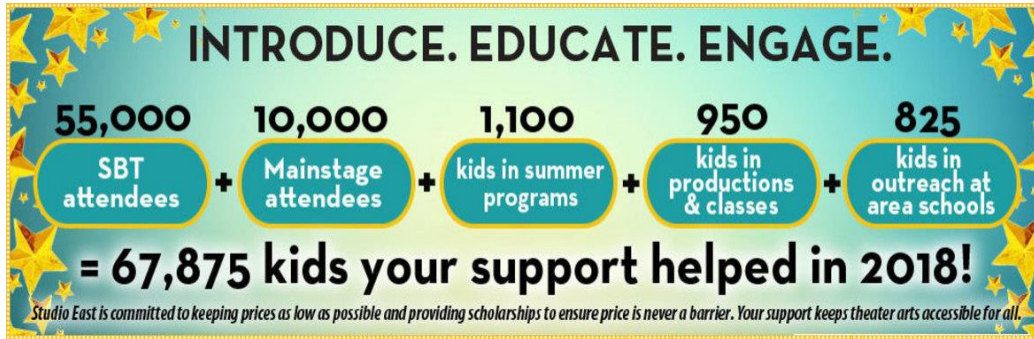
## **Thank You all for your tremendous support in 2018!**

We are so grateful for our generous and involved patrons who make what we do at Studio East and StoryBook Theater possible. This past quarter was no different.

On November 11, we had a fantastic auction that brought in over \$200,000 for Studio East programs. Guests came decked out in their best pirate and buccaneer garb. We heard from Amy Maher on her and her son, Andrew's experience with ArtReach and Mainstage. We raised a "coffer-full" this night, and because of this success, we are able to continue our scholarship fund and have yet to turn down a scholarship request.

Overall, as you can see in the graphic below, you helped almost 68,000 kids experience and explore the performing arts in 2018. We thank our patrons and Studio families for their invaluable support in so many ways, through volunteering, attending our shows and participating in our classes, making donations, and for simply

believing in our mission to create opportunities in the arts for our young people. We can't wait to see all that 2019 brings!



## Exciting Changes in our Main Office

With a new year often comes new changes, and we have had many exciting changes in our main office at Studio East.

After over ten amazing years, our invaluable office manager, Betty Gibelyou, is retiring. Betty has been involved with the Studio since 1994 when her son, Michael, participated in an ArtReach program Lani Brockman was directing. Betty's son and her daughter, Katie, both spent many years at Studio East, so Betty has seen firsthand - as a parent, a performer herself, and an employee - all the wonderful growth at Studio East over the past 25 years. We thank her for her years of support and efforts, and will miss her dearly. We all wish her best of luck in this new phase of her life.

In September, we welcomed Chinda Tilson to the main office. Chinda began as the box office manager as we said goodbye to Catherine Montrose, but she soon began to transition into Betty's role as office manager. Chinda, her husband Billy, and their two children have supported Studio East since 2014, and Chinda loves working for an organization that has given her daughter, Hannah (a Studio East teen), so much happiness and joy.

In November, Kate Young came on board as the new box office manager. Kate, a Seattle native, has been working in the theater industry for over 15 years. She has acted, taught, directed, stage managed, and even written multiple plays for young audiences. She is excited to work with the Studio, and we are thrilled to have her join the team.

Thank you in advance for your patience as we make these transitions!



Betty Gibelyou



Chinda Tilson and family



Kate Young

## StoryBook Theater partners with AAA Washington in a first of its kind partnership

This past spring, StoryBook Theater joined forces with AAA Washington in an exciting partnership to produce a new musical with themes around distracted driving and traffic safety. With an original adaptation by Lani Brockman and music and lyrics by Susan Bardsley, the new musical, *The Little Engine That Could*, comes to the stage this January.

In this show, audiences will meet a broken-down engine who needs help getting her toys to the children on the other side of the mountain. Many trains offer assistance to the toys, including Phone Train, Inattentive Train and Party Train. The toys – Clown, Dolly and Bear – must decide who will be the safest driver for them.

*The Little Engine That Could* weaves themes of believing in yourself and perseverance (“I think I can, I think I can”) along with a focus on how to be a smart passenger and when to say “No,

thank you” to a distracted driver.

On January 8, we held our first table read with our cast, crew and a few AAA representatives. On January 15, Seattle Refined, the afternoon KOMO show, came to shoot some video and interviews for a local TV spot. As we continue rehearsing, we are excited to partner with AAA Washington and see this show come to life this winter.

**Showtimes & tickets here.**



First table read with Little Engine cast and crew and representatives from AAA



First dress rehearsal with Seattle Refined team shooting a special for their afternoon TV show

## Coming Up at Studio East & StoryBook Theater



### International One Acts – Showing at Studio East Jan 25 - Feb 2, 2019

International One Acts are three one act plays, each with their own director, cast and powerful story: *The Falcon* is a Russian Cinderella story empowering young people to make choices and follow their dreams. *A Thousand Cranes* is the true story about a girl in Hiroshima whose fight to live has taught children world-wide about hope, the power of family and peace. *The Masque of Beauty and the Beast* is a rich and complex

fairytale told in verse and brought to life through mask work and physical storytelling. **Recommended for Ages 8+ | [Showtimes & tickets here](#)**



## Now Registering... Winter After School Classes, Studio Days and Break Camps

Winter After School classes are still open for registration! Our classes run between January 31 and April 5 for ages 4 to 12th grade. There are fun, creative options for everyone.

Studio Days are one day camps when there's no school and are a great opportunity for your student to learn something new and have a great time. Next Studio Day: January 28 (Comedy Day!)

Mid-Winter Break Camps and Spring Break Camps are now open for registration. Harness that creative energy into fun theater camps.

## SUMMER IS COMING - Registration for our summer theater camps open 2/2!

# SUMMER THEATER CAMPS with Studio East

- Ages 4 - 19 in Kirkland
- Camps for all skill levels
- Musical and non-musical options

[www.studio-east.org](http://www.studio-east.org) • 425.820.1800

Get Summer Camp updates by signing up for our email list [HERE](#).



Produced by Studio East

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

Home of StoryBook Theater.

Thank you to our partners:



Studio East: Training for the Performing Arts  
[www.studio-east.org](http://www.studio-east.org)  
425.820.1800