

STUDIO EAST

Training for the Performing Arts

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter!

A Letter from Executive Artistic Director, Lani Brockman



Hello Wonderful People!

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. We're in the middle of a busy summer of theater camps, Les Mis rehearsals, and 36 teens studying onsite in our Young Actors Professional Intensive. To be honest, it's my favorite time of the year. Having teens get out of their comfort zones, risk to fail and risk to feel makes my heart sing - it's what it's all about! I could go on and on, but I

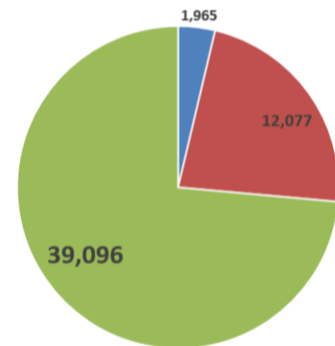
want to catch you up on this past spring and what's been going on with Studio East and StoryBook Theater...

- In May and June, we enjoyed having Studio alum Zach Barr share his many talents by directing our spring Mainstage show, the well-loved musical, *Peter Pan*. The show was a huge hit and included some fun changes to the classic production, such as portraying Tinkerbell as a puppet. Zach directed the actors to interact with the audience, thereby 'breaking the fourth wall,' and he switched things around a bit by casting a male/female pair for both the role of Peter and Wendy. It was a ton of fun to watch and the run was virtually sold out!
- In April and May, StoryBook Theater closed out its 21st season with *The Princess & the Pea*. This was also our second season of sensory-friendly performances, which we are excited to be bringing back this fall, thanks to generous funding from Safeco. We are also pleased to announce a new partnership with Premera Blue Cross, who will be sponsoring our new fall production of *Beauty and the Beast* in the 2019-20 season.
- On May 5th, we held a Cinco de Mayo party for our annual Curtains Up event where we announced our 2019-20 Mainstage season. It was quite the party, complete with amazing Mexican food made by Karen Getzinger, Julie Trott, and Becky Henschman. I made the margaritas, which

IMPACT NUMBERS

Sept '18 - Jun '19

Students and Audiences



Total: 53,138

- Education Programs - Students
- Mainstage & ArtReach
- StoryBook Theater

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT STUDIO EAST:

everyone (*including me*) seemed to enjoy! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously by either sponsoring a show or supporting our upcoming Mainstage Season. Read on to see the exciting season lineup which includes *Seussical*, *Sweeney Todd*, and *Annie*.

- June brought with it the conclusion of our spring quarter classes and the end of our Production LAB program. The 5 Production LAB students created, directed and ran a Faculty/Student Cabaret that was performed one night for the public. We hope to do this again, so more people can witness the incredible talent who teach here! Summer Camps began June 24 and there's still some room to sign up! Check out what's still available [here](#).

As summer continues, we are looking forward to the following:

- Studio East's 22nd Annual Summer Teen Musical - *Les Misérables* – performing July 26 through August 4 at the Kirkland Performance Center. The cast is comprised of 56 Studio East teens and a sprinkling of younger kids. Whether teen or adult, this epic musical is quite the endeavor, but as the show's director, I have been so impressed with how hard-working and dedicated this cast and crew have been. Please don't miss it!
- NEW THEATER SEATS! That's right – we are getting new seating for our Mainstage Theater and with this, we are holding a Name-Your-Seat campaign. An anonymous donor has offered to match dollar-for-dollar each seat purchased through July 31st! Check out [our website for more details](#) to see how you can purchase a seat and add a personalized engraving of your choice. Help support the arts and make your butt happy, too! (*yes, I just said that!*)
- If you need some peace and quiet or your kid wants something creative to do, our Summer Theater Camps are still enrolling and continue through August 30. We have engaging one and two-week camps for ages 4-19, like High School Musical Jr, Peter Pan in Neverland, Marvel & DC Comics, Moana, Drama Medley and more! Camps are located throughout Kirkland, except for Beauty and the Beast, which is held in Bellevue 7/29-8/9.

To all the families, alums, patrons, and supporters - thank you! Thank you for your ongoing support and passion. Your commitment and care allow us to continue to do the vitally important work we do with youth in our community.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Lani Brockman
Executive Artistic Director

Join a Summer Theater Camp now through Aug 30



See the Summer Teen Musical July 26 - August 4



Try an Audition Workshop this August or September



Get your tickets now to our annual Auction on October 5



The Kirkland Community Musical is here to stay!

Studio East and Kirkland Performance Center are officially moving forward with the Kirkland Community Musical next spring, and we couldn't be more excited! Last March's production of *The Music Man* at KPC included a cast of 39 local performers, many of whom were Kirkland residents, as well as Studio alums, and was a big hit with the community. A title has been selected for next spring's

show, and while we work to secure the rights and financial support, we are grateful for any and all contributions from the community. As with all artistic endeavors in the city, we couldn't do it without you. Learn more about supporting the next Kirkland Community Musical [HERE](#).

2019-20 Mainstage Season announced on Cinco de Mayo!

On May 5th, 2019, we held our annual Curtains Up event where we announced Studio East's 2019-20 Mainstage Season. Over spicy tacos, guacamole and margaritas, we celebrated the announcement of seven upcoming productions. It was quite a party, and we were blown away by the generosity of our guests, who raised over \$88,000 for the Studio's next Mainstage season!



Seussical the Musical

'Twas the Night...

YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN

THE TEMPEST
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

SWEENEY TODD
THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

the Bully Plays

Annie

INTRODUCING STUDIO EAST'S 2019-20 MAINSTAGE SEASON

FLEX PASSES now available for purchase!

Our 27th Mainstage Season opens in October with *Seussical the Musical*, followed by our 18th year of *'Twas the Night* and Adult *'Twas*. In the new year, we will present *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, followed by our annual Shakespeare production, *The Tempest*. In March, teens will perform *Sweeney Todd* in the evenings, while we simultaneously present *The Bully Plays* during the afternoons. Our 2019-20 Season will close with the ever-popular musical, *Annie*.

We are once again offering Season Mainstage Flex Passes – 10 tickets to any shows of the season (excluding Galas and Adult *'Twas*). This allows patrons to secure tickets to each show, while saving on fees. Flex passes and single tickets are on sale now at www.studio-east.org.

We are excited to launch Studio East's 27th season in October, and we hope to see you at the theater!



Production LAB students on the 5th Avenue stage with Kristen Burch after *Rock of Ages*

Concluding the inaugural Production LAB program & a Studio East Cabaret

Last month, we concluded the inaugural year of The Production LAB, a seven-month program that took students off stage and focused on the behind the scenes work of directing, stage managing, stage design and more.

As is often the case with new programs at Studio East, the Production LAB was born out of many inquiries from parents and students. “There were plenty of opportunities for students to study and practice being ON stage, but limited opportunities for them to learn about all of the OFF stage roles in theater,” says Corey Dunne, Studio East’s Education Director. The program was launched in November 2018 with the goal of offering students a chance to look behind the curtain and explore how each part of a production is brought to life.

During class, which met four hours twice a month, students studied a wide range of subjects including stage management, casting a show, script analysis, budgeting and marketing a show, set and light design, directing, and more. They worked as Assistant Stage Managers for *International One Acts*, a Studio East Mainstage production. They took field trips, one of which included seeing *Rock of Ages* at 5th Avenue Theater and a backstage tour with performer and Studio teacher Kristen Burch. Finally, with mentor Zach Barr, the Production LAB students produced and managed a full-length Cabaret with Studio alums and faculty as performers.

Elena Donley, 17, has been a Studio East student for almost seven years, and has participated in summer camps, classes, homeschool productions and Mainstage shows. “I was really interested in the other side of the table that you don’t see as an actor,” says Donley. “All the behind the scenes stuff. There’s so many different things that go into a production that you don’t think about when you’re watching, or even performing, and I was really intrigued by all of that.” She was one of five students who participated in the program this year. She plans on continuing to act, but also wants to pursue more Assistant Stage Managing. “I’ll definitely have more respect for all the work and details that go into the productions,” says Donley, who now knows the intricate aspects that bring a show together.



Elena Donley, middle, as Assistant Stage Manager during *International One Acts*

We are excited to reevaluate and restructure this program with the goal of bringing the

Production LAB program back for the 2020-21 year. In the meantime, we will be offering quarterly classes on directing and theater tech in 2019-20.

Announcing StoryBook Theater's 2019-20 Season & Another Exciting Partnership

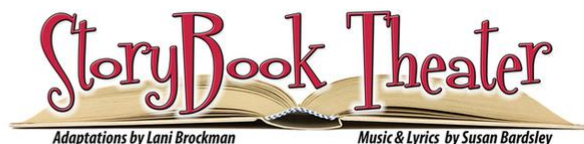
In April, we announced our next StoryBook Theater season. This fall will be the 22nd year of introducing young people and their families to the magic of live theater through our StoryBook shows. We have three fantastic shows planned for the 2019-20 season, with adaptations by Lani Brockman and original music and lyrics by Susan Bardsley. We can't wait to have you as our guest at the theater!

In October, November and December, we will bring a revised version of *Beauty & the Beast* to the Puget Sound stages. This musical focuses on inner beauty, and it will be the first time we have performed this show since 2005. We're excited and honored to bring it back with presenting sponsor, Premera Blue Cross.

The StoryBook team will kick off 2020 with *Little Red*, a story about safety first. This show includes a roller-skating Red and the silly friends she makes along the way to Grandma's house. We will wrap up the 2019-20 season with the western-themed *The Frog Prince* in April and May. Audiences will meet Princess Honey, the awful Duke, and a very large frog in this musical about keeping promises.

We're also thrilled to be continuing our sensory-friendly programming, thanks to Safeco Insurance Fund. We will host 12 performances at 4 venues this season. For more information on these shows, visit our website [HERE](#).

StoryBook Theater Subscriptions & Flex Passes are on sale now through November 17th. Individual tickets are on sale as well. For more info & purchasing options, visit [HERE](#).



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
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