



# STUDIO EAST

## Training for the Performing Arts

Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter!

### A Letter from Executive Artistic Director, Lani Brockman



Happy New Year, Studio Family!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are as ready as I am to jump into this new decade. Snow warnings or not, we are not slowing down. Currently, we are in rehearsals for three shows (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Little Red*, and *Mamma Mia!*), and we are kicking off a host of fun winter-quarter classes, while also prepping to launch Summer Camps 2020. Hard to believe! But before we get too far down the road, let me recap some of the wonderful highlights of fall.

- We started October with our rock-n-roll 1950s-themed auction. Poodle skirts and leather jackets were-a-plenty as we raised over \$180,000 for our young people! October also took us to the land of Dr. Seuss with *Seussical the Musical*, and we opened our 22nd year of StoryBook Theater with *Beauty & the Beast*. Enrollment for Fall classes and workshops was huge with over 100 kids signed up for theater fun.
- In November, we opened *'Twas the Night...* in its 19th season! For the first time ever, we had Kaysy Ostrom, a Studio AND *'Twas* alum directing the production. It thrills me to see this holiday show continue to be such a tradition for Eastside families, evidenced by many sold-out shows. Next year is our 20th Anniversary show we are already planning some great surprises.
- In December, we finished our run of *'Twas the Night...* and *Beauty & the Beast*, concluding the month with our other favorite holiday tradition, *Adult 'Twas*. Even through a power outage, our Studio alumni had us all laughing in the aisles as they presented their slightly racy version of *'Twas*, with all proceeds going toward our scholarship fund.

As we begin a new year and a new decade, it is with bittersweet feelings, I announce the retirement of Nikki Parish, Studio East's Managing Director for over 25 years. The Studio wouldn't be the success it is without Nikki's hard work, passion for the arts and gifted listening skills. While I created, directed and taught, she made sure the doors and lights stayed on! She listened to my ideas and was the voice of reason as well as the first one to encourage me when I needed it. We were a great team and I shall miss her greatly. My wish for Nikki is rest, health, joy and much happiness!

In mid-October, we welcomed Angela Gist into the role of Managing Director. Angela comes from Vashon Island where she was Deputy and Artistic Director at Vashon Center for the Arts. She oversaw all areas of Admin, Finance and Operations during the organization's 20 million dollar campaign. No small feat and we are thrilled to have her!

We are excited for new growth and grateful you and yours are a part of the Studio family. Thank you for your continued support and participation in creating opportunities for young people to experience the performing arts. Cheers to 2020!

Lani Brockman  
Executive Artistic Director



Angela Gist, Studio East's new Managing Director

## Making Lemonade out of a Power Outage



In our final weekend of *'Twas the Night...* the Studio East offices and Mainstage theater experienced an unexpected power outage, but our talented young actors didn't miss a beat. The outage occurred Friday night in the middle of the second *Adult 'Twas* performance. Power and all lights were down by 50%, so the show could continue as is, with a slightly dimmer stage. The next morning, the power was still at 50%, but the *'Twas the Night...* cast carried on. However, while the cast and crew were eating lunch and getting ready for their 2pm show, the power in the whole building went down, leaving the building and especially the theater, totally dark.

Without hesitation, all of the *'Twas* performers stepped into action. They adapted with short notice and began prepping a lobby performance. With the help of the stage manager and dance captain, they reworked the 2-hour musical into a smaller space with no real backstage or stage for that matter. Chairs were quickly set in the lobby, the floor was taped off, the actors helped each other get hair and makeup done in the dark, and a piano was borrowed from a classroom. "They did great coming together, keeping each other safe, the older teens ensuring the younger ones it would be ok," said production manager, Jessica Stansfield.



What could have been a very stressful situation turned into a bit of an adventure and certainly a memory for this year's *'Twas* cast. "This is the fun of live theater," said Jessica, and the cast certainly rolled with it. They didn't panic, but instead kept the firm belief that the show must go on!

About fifteen minutes into the lobby performance, the power all came back on. Quickly, the audience and performers transitioned to the main theater. In just a moment, the curtains opened, and they picked up right where they left off, after the famous *'Twas* mice song, "Adventure!" An appropriate title for this afternoon.

We're so proud of the entire *'Twas* cast and crew who adapted quick and never missed a beat!

## Student Impact: Jade Breiding, age 9



Jade as Lester Pig in *Hello, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle!*

This quarter, we are excited to highlight one of your young performers, Jade Breiding, who took her passion for theater and created a drama club in her after school program. Jade Breiding, age 9, started her thespian career at age 4 when she lived in San Antonio. As Jade loved singing and being on stage, her mom, Wendy, signed her up for a Frozen summer camp. She fell in love and started begging her mom for more classes. When her family moved to the Seattle area in 2016, they were thrilled to find Studio East. "In order to make the move smooth, I had to find theater for Jade," Wendy says. The Studio was a perfect fit, and since, Jade has joined quarterly classes, summer camps, and two Mainstage productions – *Hello, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle!* in May 2018 and *'Twas the Night...* in December 2018. She was also recently accepted into the Studio Intensive program.

Jade, a 4th grader at Horace Mann Elementary, decided she needed more performing arts in her life. “I really like doing theater, and I wanted to see if other people liked doing it too,” Jade says. So, she started a drama club at her YMCA after school program. She gathered her group of friends and for every holiday, they put together a special play for the teachers and other students, complete with a song or two. Jade acts as director, writer, actor and dancer, along with about ten other kids, ranging in age from Kindergarten to 4th grade. As Jade helps other young kids engage in the performing arts, her goal is that her club would grow in numbers. Ultimately, Jade wants to be an actor and a teacher, and at age 9, she is well on her way to accomplishing this. “Jade is a very shy girl, but when theater is involved, Jade opens up and becomes a completely new person,” says Wendy. “The idea that she is leading a club, she wouldn’t be able to do it if it wasn’t about theater, because that is her passion.”  
Way to go, Jade!



Jade (front) as Dee Claws in *'Twas the Night...*



Jade (left) as Jody Jackstraw in *Hello, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle!*



Jade (left) as Dee Claws in *'Twas the Night...*



Jade as Dee Claws in *'Twas the Night...*

## StoryBook Theater Expands its Reach this Fall



This fall, StoryBook Theater had several unique opportunities to broaden their reach, by bringing live theater to young audiences beyond StoryBook's regular locations.

In November, the *Beauty & the Beast* team went to Tulalip for a special performance. This was put on by [Tulalip Tribes](#). The StoryBook team was excited at the opportunity to bring their show to a new city and its children. StoryBook will also be back at Tulalip with *Little Red* in March.



In December, last year's cast of *The Little Engine That Could* reunited for six performances at elementary schools in Tacoma and Bremerton. With the generous support of [AAA of Washington](#), the Little Engine team was able to take the musical to these schools' gyms and auditoriums instead of the schools bussing to local venues. The shows were free to all students, and each audience member received an activity and safe driving guide from AAA. It was amazing for our StoryBook team to visit a city and children they don't normally perform in, and the interest was so great, they are already planning to tour more StoryBook

shows to the Tacoma, Bremerton, and Olympia area next season.

*The Beauty & the Beast* cast also had an opportunity to perform at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in December with the support of show presenter, [Premera Blue Cross](#). This was a poignant visit as our cast performed scenes and songs from the show to children and their families who are currently staying or being treated at the hospital. They visited the young patients in their rooms, handed out toys provided by Premera, along with StoryBook soundtrack CDs. Everyone agreed how special it was to be a part of spreading joy and cheer to these brave kids. A team from [Melodic Caring Project](#) was also able to be there, and their team created a short video showcasing the meaningful time that was spent at Mary Bridge. You can view the video [HERE](#). As Eric Trott, Director of Marketing at Premera, says in the video, it was a chance to give some levity and give some happiness to these kids, many of whom are in unbelievably tough situations.





In addition to this visit, Premera teamed up with Melodic Caring Project again a few weeks later for a live-stream of our Beauty & the Beast production to some of the children in the hospital. The kids even received special shout-outs from the actors on stage.

It truly was an amazing quarter for StoryBook Theater, as we saw in tangible ways the impact live theater has on children and their families. It is a magical thing to be a part of.

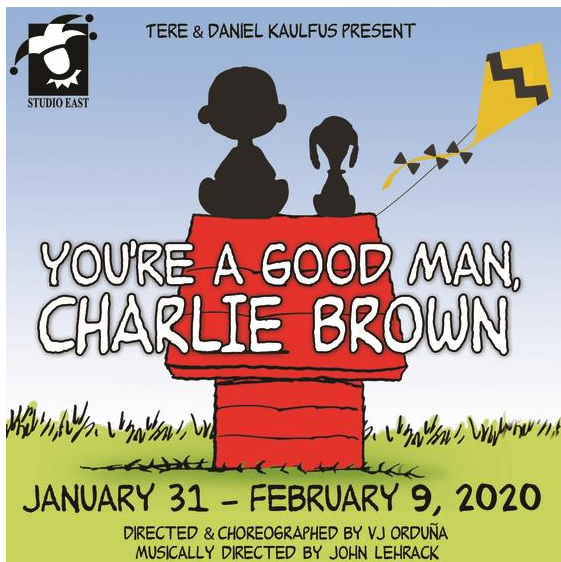
## The Eastside Community Musical Auditioned 90 people & is set to open February 7

In December, we hosted auditions for the second annual Eastside Community Musical, *Mamma Mia*. It was a buzzing two days as our artistic team auditioned 90 people for the production based on the songs of ABBA. Lani Brockman (director), David Duvall (music director), and Karen Omahen (choreographer) cast 40 talented performers, 32 of which are Eastside residents. Our show includes Rachel Kuenzi as Sophie and Shoshauna Mohlman as Donna, Sophie's mother. It has already been a true team effort with Kirkland Performance Center teaming up with Studio East. Rehearsals have been in full swing, and the show is starting to come together on the stage this week.

Join us as we "have the time of our lives, digging the dancing queen" this February! Performances are February 7, 8, 14, 15, and 16 at Kirkland Performance Center. Seats are selling fast, so don't hesitate. Showtimes and tickets available [HERE](#).



**Coming Soon:**



## Charlie Brown

**January 31 - February 9, 2020**

Experience a day in the life of Charlie Brown and the rest of the Peanuts Gang as they ride the roller coaster of life, with all of its ups and downs. Watch as the drama unfolds, with important life lessons shared through the clever, heart-warming and hilarious wisdom of your favorite Peanuts characters. Happiness is all around, even if you are Charlie Brown.

## Little Red

**February 1 - March 21, 2020**

What makes a friend? Can Little Red make friends with a starving wolf and an overexcited hunter? And will they want to make friends with her? Granny teaches this needy and very hungry trio to look beyond their immediate needs and discover how to make a friend – and best yet, how to keep one.





**Mid-Winter Break Camps** Grades K-8

Feb 13, 14 & 17 (LWSD)  
STUDIO DAYS!  
Newsies (2/13)  
Hamilton (2/14)  
Wicked (2/17)

Feb 17-21  
(BSD, ISD, NSD, MISD, SPS)  
Broadway Boot Camp

**REGISTER NOW!**

studio-east.org

## Registering Now: Mid-Winter Break Camps

For LWSD, we are hosting three Studio Days February 13, 14 and 17. Themes include Newsies, Hamilton and Wicked.

For BSD, ISD, NSD, MISD and SPS, we are exploring the hits of Broadway with a Broadway Boot Camp that will hit on acting, singing and dancing February 17-21.

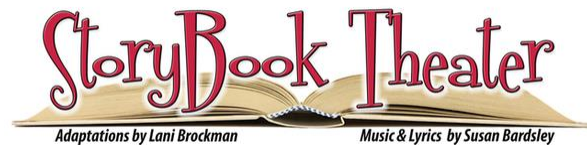
Grades K-8 | 9:00am - 3:30pm | Early drop-off & extended care available

## Coming Soon: Summer Camps 2020! Registration opens February 1st

**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**  
SAVE 10% WHEN YOU REGISTER BY 3/31

**Summer Theater Camps**  
for ages 4-19 in Kirkland  
Options for all skill levels!

**STUDIO EAST**  
TRAINING FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



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:



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