

ENCORE!

THE CIVIC THEATRE NEWSLETTER

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School of Theatre Arts Expands Classes & Ignites Creativity

Under the leadership of Associate Director Allyson Paris, enrollment in our School of Theatre Arts has grown 25 percent over the past two years – and continues to expand deeper into the community to engage with students of all ages.

Our always-popular summer camps had waiting lists this summer as nearly 600 students dove into acting, singing, dancing, props, costumes, scenery and more in week-long classes from June through August. Whether bringing the magic to life behind the scenes or in the limelight, ages four through high school were able to tap into their creativity as they put on productions on the Civic stage.



More than 900 students enrolled in afternoon, evening and weekend classes during the school year. From CORE classes to electives, students explored puppetry, improv, scriptwriting, lighting and sound design, makeup and more in classes designed to build skills, boost confidence and spark imaginations.

THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS ENABLED US TO AWARD FULL OR PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO 170 STUDENTS TO ENSURE CLASSES WERE OPEN TO ALL.

“In a time when public schools are reducing their arts offering, we provide expanded opportunities for students of all ages that fill a void in our community,” Paris explains. “Arts education is critical for our future. It creates a pathway for involvement, building the next generation of audience, volunteers and donors for Civic, while enhancing the skill sets of students and preparing them for success in work and life.”

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR INCLUDE:

- Our first-ever Low Sensory Night, allowing children and families with autism or other sensory needs to enjoy a special performance of *Seussical the Musical*.
- A continued partnership with Coit Creative Arts Academy, which provided after-school opportunities for 70-plus third, fourth and fifth grades.
- A program with University Prep Academy high school students, allowing them to mentor younger students while having the chance to take classes and attend productions.
- A successful Performance Block program that saw 53 fourth through twelfth graders staging two full productions to sold-out audiences in March.
- Expanded programming for adults, including sessions on Building an Actor's Toolbox, Advanced Scene Work and Musical Theatre Dance.
- A successful Traveling Troupe season, which included 16 free performances of *The Cat in the Hat* to area elementary schools and other community organizations.

VISIT GRCT.ORG TO LEARN MORE!



Surprise, Surprise: *Mamma Mia!* Comes To Civic Theatre

The wait is over. We are thrilled to announce that our Surprise Musical is *Mamma Mia!* Prepare to be enchanted with this tale of love, laughter, and friendship as your Grand Rapids Civic Theatre presents this Broadway staple and the timeless songs of ABBA.

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT GRCT.ORG



Introducing CIVIC LOYAL

Now it's easier than ever to make your impact on Civic Theatre – and get a free ticket in return! Check out our new monthly giving program, CIVIC LOYAL. Show your support for the importance of live theatre in our community by making a monthly, automatic donation. Over time, your monthly donations add up to make a huge difference in all we do.

“When I think of the joy I get from Civic Theatre – and how much I spend a month on things I can't even recall – it makes me proud and happy to contribute monthly to this incredible community jewel,” shared CIVIC LOYAL member, Becky Afendoulis Trierweiler.



CIVIC LOYAL

“BY MAKING MONTHLY DONATIONS, I'M ABLE TO INCREASE MY IMPACT.”

CIVIC LOYAL members receive special playbill recognition, our undying loyalty, and a few other goodies. Members who donate \$50 or more per month will receive a free ticket to the 2018-19 season. No matter the amount of your monthly gift, your support brings each performance one step closer to shining under the Civic spotlights.

WITHOUT YOU, THERE WOULD BE NO SHOW. THANK YOU FOR BEING CIVIC LOYAL IN ALL YOU DO. TO SIGN UP, VISIT GRCT.ORG/CIVICLOYAL.

Meet the Weavers: 46 Years & Counting

Here at Civic Theatre we often say, “We wouldn’t be able to do what we do without our volunteers.” On a daily basis, volunteers generously contribute their time to create the magic of Civic Theatre. We are lucky enough to have some extremely loyal volunteers like Tom and Karen Weaver, who started volunteering at Civic Theatre in 1973.

For the Weavers – as for all of our over 750 annual volunteers – Civic Theatre is a family. In 2011, Tom was in a major motorcycle accident. “Tom’s life was in the balance for several months and when he left Mary Free Bed Hospital in a wheelchair, Civic Theatre was ready for us,” shared Karen. “That year, Fred and Lena Meijer funded the renovation of the theater, making it totally accessible – a gift for us and for all patrons.”

A special memory for the Weavers was volunteering at Civic’s first-ever Low Sensory Night in October 2017. “Because of Tom’s wheelchair, the kids immediately saw him as accessible and safe. It was great to watch their interactions and be a part of their first experience with theatre,” said Karen.

When not volunteering at Civic, Tom teaches Math at Grand Rapids Community College and Karen works in various schools instructing Sustainable Living classes. They also host several ArtPrize artists each year, and enjoy travelling and visiting their children.

“WE RECOGNIZE THE HUGE IMPACT OF THEATER IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD – TEACHING EMPATHY, SOCIAL EDUCATION, DEVELOPMENT OF JOY, HUMOR.”

Karen shares, “For us, theater has always been transformative. We leave every performance richer, more aware, more connected.”

Thank you to Tom and Karen for sharing your volunteer story. We appreciate the years of dedication to making Civic Theatre a more inclusive, hospitable place!

Have you ever wondered how the magic happens behind the scenes at Grand Rapids Civic Theatre? You too could be part of the magic by becoming a volunteer in our costume shop, scene shop, front of house, backstage crew or even on stage as an actor. For more information on volunteering, contact Mary Jo DeNolf at mjdenolf@grct.org or call 616-222-6371.

*“A healthy community has theater.
We are proud to be a part of that.
My best days are days that have surprises
and delight in them, and every Civic
Theatre Day is one of those days.”*

KAREN WEAVER



Classes Back in Session This October!

Whether age four or forty, we have a class for you! Unlock your natural creative abilities or dive into more in-depth studies

with our nationally-recognized educational programming. Registration currently open for fall, winter and spring terms.

FALL | OCT 6 - NOV 16

WINTER | JAN 12 - FEB 22

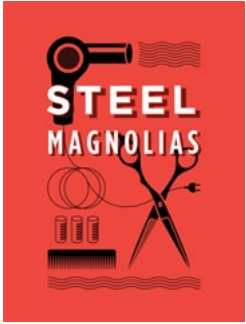
SPRING | APR 13 - MAY 24

PERFORMANCE BLOCK | MAR 3 - MAR 24



GRAND RAPIDS CIVIC THEATRE

30 N Division Ave
Grand Rapids MI 49503



JOIN US TO KICK OFF THE 2018-19 SEASON

An instant classic both on stage and film, *Steel Magnolias* opens our 2018-19 season with strong female characters and sharp, funny dialogue that will make you feel you're among old friends. On stage Sept. 7-23, tickets now available.



@GRcivictheatre



Grand Rapids Civic Theatre



@GRcivictheatre

Visit grrt.org | Call 616 222 6650 | 30 N Division Ave, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

SAY HELLO & FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

Inside This Issue of Encore!

SURPRISE MUSICAL REVEALED

Don't miss this classic tale of love, laughter, and friendship.

CLASSES BACK IN SESSION

Whether age four or forty, we have a class for you.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MEET THE WEAVERS

Over forty years of volunteerism, and still going!

INTRODUCING CIVIC LOYAL

Now it's easier than ever to show your support for live theatre.

