



LEAGUE EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

The League's Education and Community Engagement Committee supports Broadway and Touring Broadway through funding and creating programs designed to develop, cultivate and enrich audiences of all ages nationally.

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JULY 2011

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This is the newsletter of the Education and Community Engagement Committee of The Broadway League.

We are pleased to share with you information about our ongoing programs and new initiatives, as well as the education efforts of our members around the country.

For more information about the League's education programs, please contact Rachel Reiner at 212-703-0215 or rreiner@broadway.org.

THE BROADWAY LEAGUE

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**NOW THAT'S
BROADWAY!**



▲ The cast of Stomp meets with Family First Nights participants from the YMCA in Staten Island

FAMILY FIRST NIGHTS®: NEW PARTNERS, NEW AUDIENCES

The Family First Nights program has developed numerous partnerships with YMCAs in the NYC area over the past year. The Chinatown and Harlem YMCAs have recently signed on to the program for the 2010–2011 season, joining Grand Street Settlement and Lutheran Social Services of New York. The goal of Family First Nights is to involve 1,000 families by 2015, and the program currently engages over 200 families in NYC and 400 on the Road. Thirteen venues on the Road are participating this season in Atlanta, GA; Buffalo, NY; Indianapolis, IN; Memphis, TN; Milwaukee, WI; and West Palm Beach, FL where Family First Nights kicked off for the first time this year, and also in Appleton, WI; Charlotte, NC; East Lansing, MI; Hartford, CT; Rochester, NY; Tampa, FL; and Tempe, AZ, where venues began their second year of involvement. There are new guidelines for Family First Nights on the Road this year that encourage additional Road venues to join the program.



▲ Family First Nights participants from the YMCA in Manhattan attend Billy Elliot.



▲ Family First Nights participants from the Harlem Children's Zone and the YMCA in Brooklyn attend The Addams Family.

2011 NEW YORK EDUCATION GRANT RECIPIENTS

War Horse

Approximately 930 high school students will participate in three workshops that culminate with a performance of the National Theatre of Great Britain's production of *War Horse* at the Vivian Beaumont Theater. Lincoln Center Theater teaching artists will conduct workshops that combine the history of World War I with the artistry of theatre and puppetry. Students will learn about the role that horses played on the front lines, depict historical characters, and discover New York's significance in the conflict. The participants will then create puppets and bring them to life with the assistance of teaching artists and company members. The creation of the puppets will prepare students for an all-student matinee performance of *War Horse*, while also revealing that with a bit of imagination, everyday objects can be transformed into unique artistic endeavors. After the show, students will continue their exploration through dramatic writing, as they create and perform monologues, translating their ideas about *War Horse* from the page to the stage.



▲ Deidre Francis leads a session at the Peace Center in Greenville, SC in a program supported by a League Education Grant.



▲ Students at the Peace Center in Greenville.

Memphis

"Inspire Change with *Memphis the Musical*" fosters collaboration with teaching artists and local public school teachers to create a workshop for students using themes from *Memphis* that best suit the interests and curriculum of individual classrooms. The topics include historical lessons on the Civil Rights movement, theatrical performances based on scenarios from the musical, interpretation and analysis of music, or a flexible combination of different elements. The workshop will be followed by a performance of *Memphis* at the Shubert Theatre, where students will see the ideas they explored in class come alive onstage. After the students attend the performance, students will participate in a post-show workshop that revisits previously discussed topics with more depth and understanding. They will then be guided to create a final project, such as forming an alternate ending for *Memphis*, in order to foster critical analysis and creativity.



▲ Students perform as part of a grant-recipient education program at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.



▲ Students at the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach.

2011–2012 LEAGUE EDUCATOR APPLE AWARD

DEADLINE AUGUST 31ST, 2011

NOMINATOR
APPLICATION
ENCLOSED

INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD OF AN EDUCATION DIRECTOR: AN INTERVIEW WITH SARAH duBIGNON

Each issue of this newsletter will feature an interview with a leading education director from our member venues across the country. Sarah duBignon is the Education and Community Programming Coordinator at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia. She has worked there for the past eleven years, and prior to that, she directed the arts program at Fulton County School. Sarah currently serves on the League's Education and Community Engagement Committee. We asked Sarah to share a bit about herself and her educational pursuits in an email interview.

How many people are in your department and how are responsibilities divided?

There are four separate positions in our department at the Fox Theatre. Two of the positions are part-time, including mine, and the other two are full-time staff members who split their time between education and another department, such as marketing or fundraising. The Director of AileyCamp, who serves as one of the part-time staff members, is in charge of our dance program that was conceived by Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. My role is to focus on the variety of other educational programs offered by the Fox. We have a number of camps tailored to engage the interests of a diverse body of students, such as a musical theatre intensive for teenagers and a camp focused on making a career in the arts.

How do you describe your program's mission or philosophy?

It is the mission of the Fox Theatre to interest people of all ages in the arts, encourage them to expand their creative ability and critical thinking skills, and build future patrons for the theatre. Our cornerstone program uses touring Broadway musicals as a springboard to facilitate after-school programs for local high school students. This past year, our two musicals were *West Side Story* and *Shrek The Musical*. From these shows, we were able to extract a general, prominent theme: tolerance. We worked with three local high schools to creatively educate students on this topic, heightening their interest in live theatre while also presenting them with a relevant and essential principle. The program culminated with students writing a play or fable that they performed for their peers. It was an incredibly successful program that we plan to continue in years to come!



▲ Sarah duBignon (right) works with a student at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

In what ways do you work with colleagues around the country?

My work on the League's Education and Community Engagement Committee has been incredibly valuable, in that it has allowed me to network with like-minded individuals and learn about education programs happening all over the country. I help plan the annual Education Forum, the Apple Awards and judge the New York City grant applicants. We really have such amazing programs being developed at our member venues that inspire patrons of all ages. Through League programs, I am able to seek advice and collaborate with education directors to make the programs at the Fox the best that they can possibly be!

Personally, I love the arts. I feel that they allow us to express the best of human emotions and I want to pass this passion of mine on to future generations.

2011 LEAGUE EDUCATOR APPLE AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Lisa Okikawa, Teacher of Visually Impaired Students in the Pasadena Unified School District, Pasadena, California

Ms. Okikawa began her ongoing collaboration with Center Theatre Group in April of 2009 with *Ain't Misbehavin'*. Her innovative approach to theatre tailored the recent production of *Mary Poppins* so that visually impaired students could experience the show through a "touch tour" and modified lesson plans that best accommodated their needs. Her efforts led her students to realize that art and creativity could be vital parts of their lives, allowing for new topics of discussion and academic exploration.

Nelson Torres, Director of Technical Theatre Studies at Howard W. Blake School of the Arts, Tampa, Florida

This past year, Mr. Torres partnered with the Patel Conservatory at the David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts in the area of Technical Theatre. This collaboration has built a strong foundation for introducing students to the non-performance side of theatre, by providing them with internship opportunities in production and administration as well as hands-on experience in the scenic design and construction of a local youth show. Mr. Torres's students also saw *In the Heights* and complemented the performance with creative exercises exploring their own neighborhoods as artistic spaces.



KIDS' NIGHT ON BROADWAY®

New York City and thirteen markets on the Road participated in this season's Kids' Night on Broadway, spanning various cities across the country. Participants attended *Cirque Holidaze*, *Shrek the Musical*, *Mary Poppins*, *Tap Dogs*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Lion King*, *Blue Man Group*, and *Traces*. Venues hosted events for guests, including Halloween celebrations where kids dressed up in costumes and played games inspired by Broadway shows.

Clockwise from top:

At Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo, princesses pose for a picture at Kids' Night on Broadway Halloween.

The whole family participates in Kids' Night on Broadway Halloween at Shea's Performing Arts Center in Buffalo.

Charlotte St. Martin, Adam Riegler, Philip Birsh, Caryl M. Stern at Kids Night on Broadway Halloween in New York City.

Child enjoys Kids' Night on Broadway Halloween at the Wharton Center in East Lansing, Mich.

BROADWAY SPEAKERS BUREAU®: SHEDDING LIGHT ON NON-PERFORMANCE CAREERS

The Broadway Speakers Bureau has expanded on a national scale, engaging students across the country in free, interactive seminars with Broadway professionals in non-performance careers. The program is in its eighth season. Advanced distance learning technology



has allowed the Broadway Speakers Bureau to reach many schools at one time. A recent panel included four different classrooms simultaneously. Previous participating institutions include Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce Affiliates and College Exposition, Penn State University (PA), Stephen F. Austin State University (TX), Freed-Hardeman University (TN), Marymount Manhattan College (NY), Rod Serling High School (NY), Blake High School (FL), Alonzo High School (FL), Emerson University (MA), Palm Beach Atlantic University (FL), Rutgers University (NJ), Brooklyn College (NY), Pleasantville High School (NY), Michigan State University (MI), Juilliard (NY), Clemson University, Singapore University and Impact Broadway.

▲ Roy Miller, Donna Walker-Kuhne and Judith Schoenfeld (l. to r.) speak with teachers at a Broadway Speakers Bureau seminar in March.



THE
BROADWAY
LEAGUE®

NOW THAT'S
BROADWAY!

APPLICATION

2011–2012 LEAGUE EDUCATOR APPLE AWARD

THE PURPOSE OF THIS AWARD is to reward, acknowledge and support the efforts of educators, administrators and district heads (or education teams) who collaborate with League-member venues and organizations around the country. We invite you to nominate worthy educators with whom you have collaborated. The award will be given to both educational collaborators — teacher(s) and administrator(s) as applicable — and the education coordinator at the venue/organization. As many as four national awards will be bestowed each year.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Nominees Are:

1. Educators/teams who partner in an ongoing relationship with League-member venues or organizations at least once a year on projects that relate to Broadway or touring Broadway productions; and
 2. Educators/teams who partner with League-member venues or organizations throughout a school year on arts and education programs that relate to Broadway or touring Broadway productions.
- Nominees must have worked on projects with League-member venues or organizations that involved League-member Broadway or touring Broadway production(s) (Equity, AGVA or AGMA shows only, or not otherwise eligible to be Equity). Projects involving non-Equity shows do not qualify.
 - Projects may target kindergarten through college-aged students.
 - The proposed efforts for which the nominated person/team is being recognized must have taken place no later than June 2011.

GUIDELINES

- Each organization or presenting venue may nominate one educator/team per city. The nominated educator/team may not be employed by the organization or venue.
- While the panel will consider the number of individuals served, the panel is more interested in high-quality projects than the number of individuals participating in those projects.
- The award will not be based on the overall cost of the program or the source of funding.
- The program need not have been funded by League grants.
- Consideration will be given to all educators, regardless of whether the school is public, private, or a charter school.
- The evaluation committee will attempt to achieve a fair distribution of awards among geographical areas.
- Organizations/venues that received an Educator Apple Award in 2010–2011 must take a one-year hiatus and may not apply again until next year.
- Nominations must be typed on the form on the reverse side of this page. Additional forms are available for download in the members section of the League's website.
- Completed nomination forms are accepted year-round, but must be received by the League by August 31, 2011 to be considered for 2012.

YOUR NOMINATION FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY 8/31/11. SEND TO:

Rachel Reiner, Senior Manager of Membership Services & Education Programs
The Broadway League
729 Seventh Avenue, 5th floor
New York, NY 10019



APPLICATION

2011–2012 LEAGUE EDUCATOR APPLE AWARD

I. NOMINATOR INFORMATION (To be filled out by education director/coordinator of League-member organization/venue)

PRESENTING ORGANIZATION

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

CONTACT PERSON & TITLE

TELEPHONE

FAX

E-MAIL

II. PROJECT INFORMATION (You may attach an additional sheet if necessary.)

A. NAME OF NOMINATED EDUCATOR/TEAM _____

1. List additional educational colleagues associated with this collaboration (e.g. principal, administrator, department head, superintendent, etc.)

2. Define your organization/venue's role in the collaboration (e.g. liaison, conduit, etc.)

3. How long have you worked with this educator/team (# of years, ongoing, etc.)?

B. Describe the program(s) for which this educator/team is being recognized, the grade level(s) involved, and the Broadway or touring Broadway shows(s) involved.

C. Briefly describe any special qualities that this educator/team brings to the program(s) and what makes them stand out from other educators.

D. Briefly describe the way(s) in which this educator/team has creatively contributed to the success of the arts and education program(s).

E. Describe the curriculum connection(s) this educator/team brought to his/her classroom/students in conjunction with this program(s).

F. Describe outcomes of this program, including benefits to both participants and League-member organization/venue.

III. PROJECT IMPACT

Please attach a one-page letter from the nominated individual acknowledging the impact of the collaboration, how it aligned with his/her teaching goals, etc.

Please note: Excerpts from this nomination and/or the accompanying letter from the nominated individual may be used for publicity purposes.