

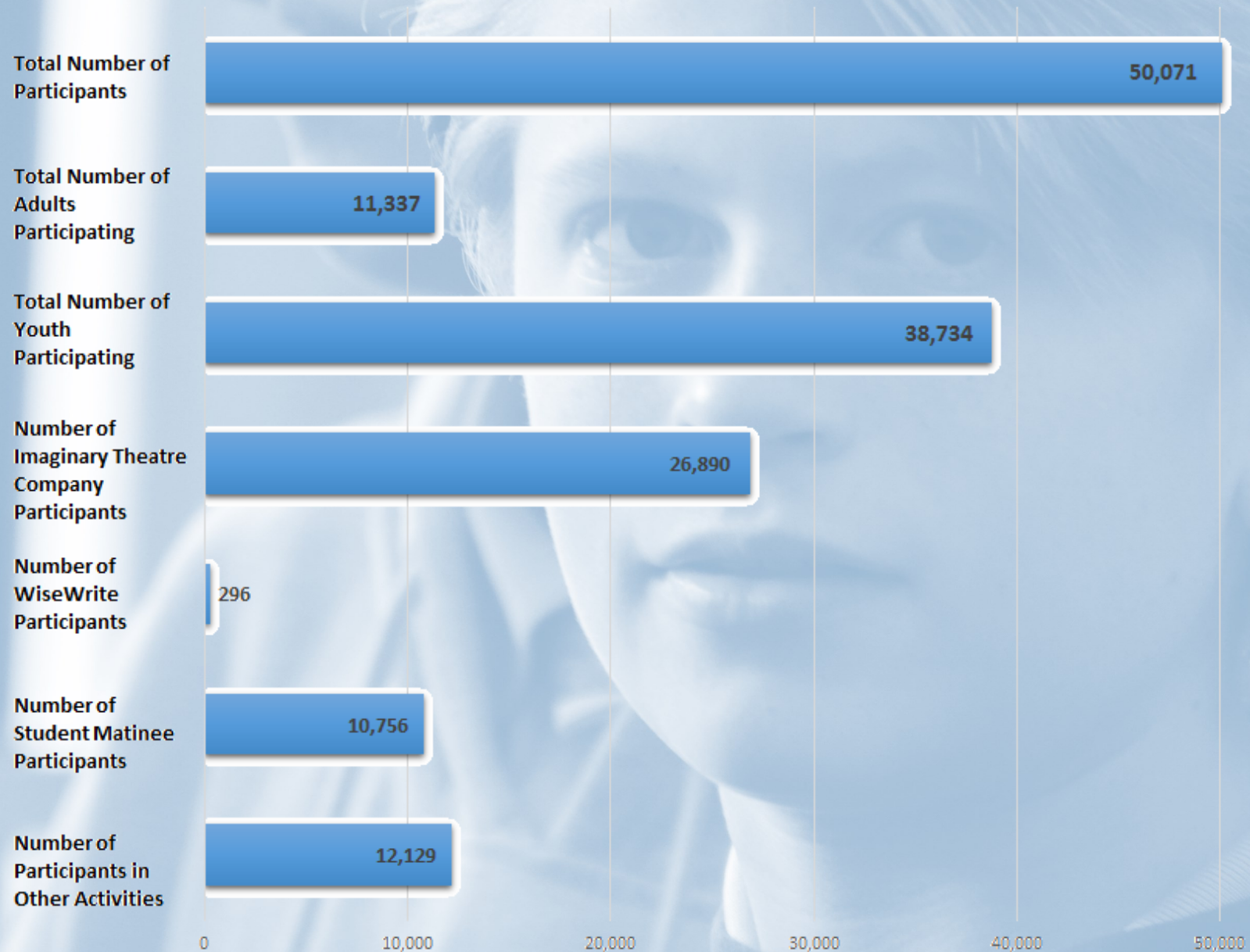


2016-2017

**Education Programs
End of Season Report**



Education Program Participation at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis by the Numbers:



EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2016-2017

Each year, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis offers a broad spectrum of educational programming that is deeply woven into the social and economic fabric of our region, reaching audiences from throughout St. Louis, across Missouri and into Illinois. During the 2016-2017 season, The Rep celebrated its 50th Anniversary. During this landmark season our educational programs served more than 50,000 people, aged 5 to 95.

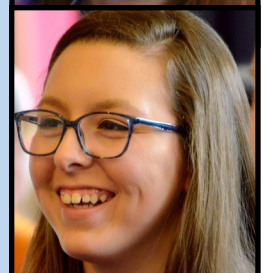
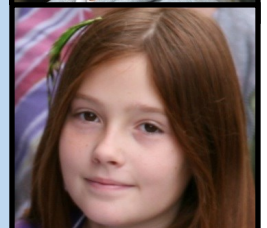
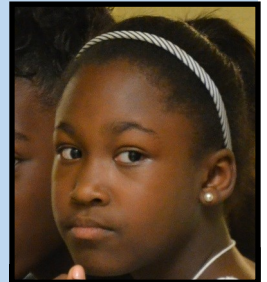
Imaginary Theatre Company (ITC) – ITC is committed to providing the very finest in theatre for young audiences, touring quality performances of children’s literature to schools and community venues throughout the bi-state region.....p. 3-5

WiseWrite – Fifth grade students from two public schools learn to write their own plays while bolstering their literacy, communication and collaboration skills through this intensive, year-long, arts-in-education program.....p. 6

Student Matinees – The Rep offers special performances of most Mainstage productions during the school day for groups at the special rate of \$10 per ticket, enhanced by special docent presentations that precede the performance.....p. 7-8

Enrichment Activities – An array of activities engage the community, illuminating the breadth of theatre’s impact on their lives. Includes: Quick Start, post-performance discussions, and theatre tours as well as special 50th anniversary events Making a Scene: A St. Louis Theatre Expo and *To Kill a Mockingbird* poster design contest.....p. 9

Accessibility – The Rep ensures that all members of our community – and beyond – are able to participate in our programming.....p. 9





The Imaginary Theatre Company (ITC) is at the heart of the theatre's educational endeavors, bringing the magic of live performance to young people, educators and parents throughout the bi-state region.

The 2016-2017 season was ITC's 41st year "on the road." Four professional actors spent October to April traveling from urban schools in St. Louis to rural schools in the Ozarks and suburban schools in between to present three literature or history-based plays to youth in grades K-6. Productions were carefully selected, or specifically commissioned, to present themes connecting to student interests and school curricula.

Prior to our arrival at a school, teachers receive a link to download our free, multidisciplinary study guide, which is created by The Rep specifically to enhance the ITC experience. The study guide contains information about the play and the playwright, as well as articles and suggested activities that correspond with school curricula.

Overall in the 2016-2017 season, ITC gave 121 performances at 82 schools and 39 community centers throughout Missouri, Illinois and into Arkansas, reaching a total of 26,890 students, educators and family members. (Some locations were visited more than once and some performances involved more than one school.) This schedule included two Acting Up workshops for 117 participants.

My Father's Dragon

Based on the beloved Newbery Honor book and written specifically for ITC, this musical takes us on a comic adventure to Wild Island! Jim is restless at home on summer vacation, but mom knows just what will entertain him—the story of Grandpa's adventure to rescue a captive dragon. Join Jim for a fantastic jungle journey past obstacles and wild animals as together we discover the importance of perseverance and the wonderful power of imagination. Touring from October 17, 2016 – April 2, 2017; recommended for grades K-3.

Curriculum Connections:

- Storytelling and imagination
- Animals and habitats
- Problem-solving strategies

In April, ITC did two performances of this play for some very special guests – youth with sensory sensitivities and their families. This was the second year of this offering, and we will continue to offer annual sensory-friendly performances in the coming years.



Catherine Regan

No. of Schools	No. of Community Centers	Counties Visited	No. of Performances	No. of Youth Served	No. of Adults Served	Total Participation	Estimated Title I Participation
39	3	Butler, Cooper, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Perry, Ripley, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, STL City, Stoddard and Wayne in MO; Madison, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington and Wayne in IL	49	9,246	449	9,695	5,077



A Gnome for Christmas

When Lulu's quirky father fails to sell yet another of his odd inventions, the pair must pack their bags and move to more meager accommodations. All they can afford is a run-down old farmhouse where the fence needs mending and the landlady's cranky, even at Christmastime! Lulu's about ready to give up, but when mysterious and magical things start happening, it seems that this farm might be home to more than meets the eye. This warm-hearted holiday musical, written especially for ITC, reminds us of the importance of helping others and the happiness found in friends. Touring from November 7 – December 23, 2016; recommended for all ages.

Curriculum Connections:

- World legends and holiday customs
- Themes of generosity and kindness
- Embracing differences in others

On December 10, 2016, ITC held a special performance of this holiday production that was live-streamed over the internet. This one-time event drew 270 log-ins, and while we don't know precisely how many viewers were watching each login, we do know that there was at least one remote viewing party, "enjoyed by ages 1 to 61."

No. of Schools	No. of Community Centers	Counties Visited	No. of Performances	No. of Youth Served	No. of Adults Served	Total Participation	Estimated Title I Participation
26	8	Butler, Dunklin, Franklin, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, St. Louis, STL City and Wayne in MO; Clinton, Jefferson, Madison, Marion, St. Clair and Washington in IL.	49	9,246	449	9,695	5,077

A Thousand Cranes

In 1950s Japan, 12-year-old Sadako enters a race to be the fastest girl in Hiroshima, but instead finds herself in a race for her life. Diagnosed with radiation sickness years after the atomic bomb, she takes an old legend to heart—if a sick person folds 1,000 paper cranes, the gods will grant her wish and make her well again. Sadako's courageous journey leads us through joy and sadness as we follow her triumphant spirit and desire for peace. Touring from January 10 – April 2, 2017; recommended for grades 4-6.

Curriculum Connections:

- World history and World War II
- Legend and tradition in different cultures
- Themes of hope and peace

Two performances of this show were held at the Missouri Botanical Garden, as part of a partnership in which students both attended the show and engaged in activities in the garden.



No. of Schools	No. of Community Centers	Counties Visited	No. of Performances	No. of Youth Served	No. of Adults Served	Total Participation	Estimated Title I Participation
37	5	Butler, Cooper, Crawford, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Howell, Perry, Ripley, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, STL City, Stoddard and Wayne in MO; Randolph and St. Clair in IL; Clay in AR.	33	7,169	358	7,527	4,209



MISSOURI

Butler County

Eugene Field Elementary
Oak Grove Elementary
Poplar Bluff Junior High
Sacred Heart School

Cooper County

David Barton Elementary
Hannah Cole Primary School
Laura Speed Elliot Middle
Saints Peter & Paul School

Crawford County

Cuba Middle

Dunklin County

Malden Lower Elementary
Senath-Hornersville Elementary
South Elementary

Franklin County

Beaufort Elementary
Central Elementary
Fulton School at St. Albans
Meramec Community School
St. Clair Elementary

Gasconade County

Hermann Elementary
Hermann Middle

The 2016-2017 Imaginary Theatre Company tour impacted the following schools and educational institutions:

Howell County

Glenwood School
Junction Hill School
Richards Elementary
West Plains Middle

Pemiscot County

Caruthersville Elementary

Perry County

Perryville Elementary

Ripley County

Doniphan Middle

Scott County

Lee Hunter Elementary
Scott County Central Elementary
Scott County Elementary
Sikeston 7th & 8th Grade Center
Southeast Elementary

St. Charles County

Immaculate Conception School

St. Louis County

Affton Early Childhood Education Center
Christ Community Lutheran
Claymont Elementary
Eureka Elementary
Ferguson-Florissant Early Childhood Center
Great Circle Edgewood Children's Center
Green Park Lutheran School
Hiram Neuwoehner High (Special Sch. Dist.)

Lawson Elementary

Nerinx Hall High
Northview High (Special Sch. Dist.)
St. John's Lutheran School
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
The College School
The Wilson School
Whitfield School
Wildwood Middle
Wilson School

St. Louis City

City Garden Montessori
Dewey International Studies Elementary
Griscom (PPA)
Hogan Street
Marian Middle
Mullanphy-Botanical Gardens Investigative Learning Center
Sacred Heart Villa
Woerner Elem

Stoddard County

Bloomfield Elementary

Wayne County

Clearwater Elementary
Clearwater Middle

ILLINOIS

Clinton County

Jordan Elementary

North Wamac Grade School
Willow Grove Elementary

Jefferson County

Field Elementary

Madison County

Glen Carbon Elementary

Marion County

Central City Elementary
Selmaville Elementary

Randolph County

St. John Lutheran

St. Clair County

Bluffview Elementary
Delores Moyer Elementary
High Mount Elementary
Maplewood Elementary
Mascoutah Elementary

Washington County

Hoyleton Consolidated Elementary
Okawville Grade School

Wayne County

Johnsonville Elementary

ARKANSAS

Clay County

Piggott Junior/Senior High

In addition, the Imaginary Theatre Company performed for family audiences at the following locations throughout the bi-state region:

MISSOURI

Butler County

Three Rivers College

Howell County

West Plains Civic Center

Pemiscot County

Caruthersville Public Library

Scott County

Sikeston Field House

St. Louis County

Magic House

Repertory Theatre of St. Louis Studio Theatre
(sensory-friendly performances)

St. Louis County Library
Webster Groves Church of the Nazarene

St. Louis City

Missouri Botanical Garden

ILLINOIS

Madison County

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

St. Clair County

Fairview Heights Library

WiseWrite



Established in 1996 in collaboration with Springboard to Learning, WiseWrite is a unique program in which fifth grade students from St. Louis area elementary schools learn how to write their own unique plays. Students gain a new method of written communication, increase their problem-solving skills, learn to collaborate and bolster their self-esteem.

In the 2016-2017 season, WiseWrite was provided, free of charge, to fifth grade classes in Dewey International Studies Elementary School and Woerner Elementary School, both in the St. Louis City District. In all, this intensive program was in the classrooms for 27 instructional weeks between October and April.

Over the course of the program, students saw two plays and toured The Rep's backstage. Back in the classroom, they learned the elements of storytelling and playwriting, how to create original characters and write dialogue. During the writing-intensive part of the program, in January and February, youth were coached through brainstorming, early drafts and revisions until their plays were completed, then submitted to The Rep.

The culminating event for the program was the WiseWrite Festival, held on April 4, 2016. The most exemplary student plays were produced on The Rep's Mainstage, complete with costumes, stage lighting, music and a few props. The young playwrights sat amongst their peers, educators and family members to watch their plays being performed by professional actors.

"I feel good because I finished a whole play with my imagination and it got picked! I will never forget about Wisewrite. It has a special place in my heart."

"I'm not just a playwright, I'm a published playwright."

- Wisewrite participants from Dewey International Studies Elementary



"I learned how to write a play and add comedy and make the audience not expect what's coming."

"I feel more confident in my writing."

- Wisewrite Participants from Woerner Elementary



Schools Participating	No. of Students Participating in Program	Estimated No. of Title I Students Participating in Program	No. of Students Attending WiseWrite Festival	Estimated No. of Title I Students Attending WiseWrite Festival	No. of Adults Attending WiseWrite Festival	Total Attendance at WiseWrite Festival
Dewey International Studies and Woerner	102	89	280	245	16	296

STUDENT MATINEE PERFORMANCES



The Rep schedules special performances of selected Mainstage productions to allow school groups to attend for the discounted price of \$10 per student. Our education department offers additional support programs, free of charge, to provide instructors with a unique means of integrating the arts into their curriculum.

Teachers bringing groups to student matinee performances may arrive early for a pre-show docent presentation. Trained volunteer docents lead 20-minute discussions that provide youth with insight into play content and technical values that enhance the experience of seeing a live performance.

Prior to student matinee performances, teachers receive a multidisciplinary study guide containing information about the play, the playwright and the production. The guide also contains exploratory background articles and suggested activities designed to correspond with state learning standards. These guides are also on our website, available to all who might wish to use them.



In the 2016-2017 season, we had a particularly large number of student matinee participants, especially for our production of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for which teacher demand led to an unprecedented 7 student matinee performances, many of which were completely sold out. As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration and to encourage youth to deeply engage with the original book as well as the play, we had a poster contest for youth. Student-designed posters arrived at The Rep, and were judged by our staff. The winning poster was displayed in our lobby.

We were also thrilled to host 200 youth from McCluer High School, which serves youth living in Ferguson, for a matinee of our world premiere production, *Until the Flood*, which explored the community's reaction in the aftermath of the police shooting that took place in that city in August of 2014.



"It was the first time that I had attended a play performed by professionals and was the first time I had seen this particular play. I was absolutely captivated by the quality and raw emotions performed throughout the play... I laughed at the jokes, I was afraid during the fighting scenes, and I nearly cried a few times. It was quite the emotional rollercoaster but I was hooked through the whole performance."

- Sierra M., student at Belleville East High School

No. of Schools and Colleges Participating	Counties	No. of Student Matinee Performances	No. of Youth Attending Performances	No. of Adults Attending Performances	No. of Youth Attending Docent Talks	Total Attendance at Performances	Estimated Title I Attendance at Performances
103	Cole, Franklin, Howard, Jefferson, Perry, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, STL City and Warren in MO; Jefferson, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington in IL	13	9,857	899	2,740	10,756	2,421

The following schools and colleges attended student matinee performances of Mainstage productions at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis in 2016-2017:

MISSOURI

Cole County

Helias Catholic High

Franklin County

East Central College

The Fulton School at St. Albans

Howard County

Fayette High

Jefferson County

DeSoto High

Northwest High

Our Lady School

Seckman Senior High

St. Josephs Catholic School

Windsor High

Perry County

Perry County Middle

Perryville High

St. Charles County

Francis Howell North High

Ft. Zumwalt West High

Saeger Middle

St. Charles High

St. Francois County

Central Park Hills High

St. Louis County

Assumption Middle

Bernard Middle

Bristol Elementary

Chesterfield Montessori

Christ Prince of Peace School

Christian Brothers College High

Cross Keys Middle

Fine Line Studios

Green Park Lutheran

Hancock High

Holy Cross Middle

Holy Redeemer School

Immacolata Catholic School

John F. Kennedy Catholic High

Kirkwood North Middle

Lafayette High

Living Water Academy

Marquette High

Mary Institute Country Day

McCluer High

McCluer North High

Mehlville High

Nerinx Hall High

Northview School

Our Lady of the Pillar School

Parkway-Rockwood Area Adult Education and Literacy/English
as a Second Language

Parkway Central High

Parkway Northeast Middle

Parkway South High

Parkway West High

Pattonville Senior High

Ritenour High

Rockwood Summit High

Rossman School

Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School

Sperreng Middle

St. Ann Catholic School

St. Catherine Laboure

St. Joseph's Academy

St. Louis Priory High

St. Louis University High

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

St. Mark's Lutheran School

St. Mary Magdalen

St. Michael's School

St. Peter School

St. Stephen's School

The College School

The Covering House

Valley Park High

Villa Duchesne High

Visitation Academy

Webster Groves High

Whitfield School

Wildwood Middle

Wydown Middle

STL City

Grand Center Arts Academy

Missouri School for the Blind

North Side Community School

Rosati-Kain High

St. Frances Cabrini School

Tower Grove Christian School

Warren County

Wright City High

ILLINOIS

Jefferson County

Woodlawn High

Jersey County

Principia College

Madison County

East-Alton Wood River High

Trinity Lutheran School

Monroe County

Gibault Catholic High

Immaculate Conception School

St. Peter and Paul Catholic School

Randolph County

Red Bud High School

St. Clair County

Belleville East High

St. Clair County Safe School

Governor French Academy

Mascoutah Middle

Notre Dame Academy

Washington County

Okawville High



Theatre Enrichment Activities

- **Quick Start** – This initiative offered audiences a pre-show experience to enrich the Mainstage theatre experience, with behind-the-scenes stories, background information and insider tidbits. Led by actors an hour before they took the stage, this 20-minute talk was held before all mainstage performances except for previews, opening night and Saturdays at 8:00 PM performances. Total number of participants: 1,343.
- **Post-performance discussions** – These dialogues provided an opportunity to audiences and cast members to meet and explore play content, characterization and technical values, as well as actor motivation and training. Offered following selected evening and matinee performances. Total number of participants: 2,348.
- **Theatre tours** – School or community groups toured The Rep's performance spaces, shops and production areas to get an insider's view of the many components of live theatre. Total number of participants: 175.

Additionally, the following special education and outreach events were held in 2016-2017, as part of celebrating our 50th anniversary:

- **Making a Scene: A St. Louis Theatre Expo** – We opened our anniversary season with a celebration of all things theatrical. We hosted 16 area theatre companies in a morning of performances, discussions, demonstrations and special activities that were attended by the public. This expo was so successful at providing patrons and prospective patrons with information about the theatre that The Rep plans to make it a biennial event. Total number of participants: 300.
- **To Kill a Mockingbird poster design contest** – In the 2016-2017 season, The Rep invited high school-aged youth to deeply engage with both the book and the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* while showing off their artistic vision and talent, by designing a poster for The Rep's production of the play. The winner's poster was displayed in our lobby for the run of the show. Total number of participants: 55.
- **Livestreamed performance of *A Gnome for Christmas*** – On December 10, 2016, The Rep offered a one-time livestream of the Imaginary Theatre Company production of *A Gnome for Christmas*. Held at Nerinx Hall High School, this performance was attended by both a live audience and a remote audience that logged in via the internet. Total number of internet logins: 270.

Accessibility

- **Sensory-Friendly Performances** – Starting in April of 2016, The Rep has offered Imaginary Theatre Company performances that are tailored to the needs of sensory-sensitive youth and their families. On April 7, 2017, we held two sensory-friendly performances of *My Father's Dragon*, with lower-intensity lighting and sound, a pacing lane for youth who need to move, a special room that children could go if they needed a break, and actors who are aware of the audience's unique needs.
- **FM Assistive Listening System** – The Browning Mainstage and Emerson Studio theatres at the Loretto-Hilton Center are equipped with FM assistive listening systems for patrons who are hard of hearing. Using FM sound waves, unobtrusive receivers with surround earphones amplify the spoken dialogue and singing in a production. The surround earphone does not require the removal of hearing aids.
- **Open Captioning** – The final Sunday matinee performance of each 2016-2017 Mainstage production was presented with open captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing. In 2002, The Rep became the first and only live performance venue in the St. Louis region to offer Open Captioning. Much like closed captioning for television programs, open captioning presents the production's spoken or sung portions, as well as sound effects, on an electronic screen that is visible to only one section of the auditorium.
- **Audio Description** – In the 2016-2017 season, The Rep offered live audio description for any non-preview performance of the Mainstage or Studio Theatre series upon request. The description included program notes as well as information on the visual elements of the production.

Thank you to the following for making The Rep's 2016-2017
education programming possible:

The Monsanto Fund

PNC Arts Alive

U.S. Bank

The Dana Brown Charitable Trust

Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis

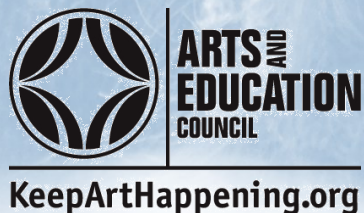
Enterprise Holdings Foundation

Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation

DeWitt and Caroline Van Evera Foundation

Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust

DCA Family Foundation



Missouri Arts Council
The State of the Arts





Words of gratitude from just a few of the youth and adults whose lives we were able to touch this past year, thanks to you:

"I saw this show today with my school. It was so good. I was never bored, I cried a lot because of how real it was and I just love it!!! Tell Tom I said he did great he is my favorite character. I nearly cried when I saw him behind bars."

- Audrey, middle school student, after attending a student matinee of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

"I was hooked from the first few minutes. The actors were also exceptional. I could almost feel the same emotions they were. I had no idea that broken parts were sent out that killed twenty one pilots. Though that was not the main focus of the play, I learned more about it than I ever knew. It was also interesting to learn about different family dynamics. Knowing the lengths a parent will go for their child helped me to understand the entire play. I would recommend the play to anyone."

- Bailey, high school student, after attending a student matinee of *All My Sons*

"Thank you so much for all of your help and patience in arranging our field trip yesterday to see *A Christmas Carol*, which was such an amazing, magical performance. The seventh graders and all of the faculty who attended were wowed with this experience. We are much appreciative that [The Rep] makes this available to students. What an outstanding experience!"

- Madeline Tatum, Educator at Wildwood Middle School

"The plays are always amazing, but this was the best so far. I think it is good to know to spread awareness about the atomic bomb. People need to know about what happened to the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, so that we don't do it again."

- Sophia, fifth grade student, after seeing the ITC production *A Thousand Cranes*

"[Our school is] located in the poorest county in Missouri. Our students have little access to the arts and cultural opportunities. Your company helps fill in some of those gaps."

- Anonymous educator, who was surveyed about the impact of ITC on students

"My kids loved the imagination that was shown in the performance and the tools used. Their faces were lit up with delight and fascination."

- Anonymous educator, who was surveyed about the impact of ITC on students

