



**The  
Rep** REPERTORY  
THEATRE  
ST. LOUIS

2015-2016 Education Programs  
End of Season Report

**Thank you to the following for making  
The Rep's 2015-2016  
education programming possible:**

Caleres Cares Charitable Trust

The Monsanto Fund

U.S. Bank

Employees Community Fund of Boeing St. Louis

Clifford Willard Gaylord Foundation

DeWitt and Caroline Van Evera Foundation

World Wide Technology Foundation

Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust

DCA Family Foundation



## EDUCATION PROGRAMS 2015-2016 – OVERVIEW AND TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Each season, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis offers a broad spectrum of educational programming that touches the lives of youth and adults by making theatre accessible and fun for everyone. The Rep’s educational programming is deeply woven into the social and economic fabric of the region, reaching audiences from throughout St. Louis, across Missouri and into Illinois. During the 2015-2016 season, The Rep served more than 45,000 people through our extensive array of education programs.

By engaging audiences—from age 5 to 95—in education programs filled with the myth, magic, wonder and spontaneous joy of theatre, The Rep strives to make the arts vital to and reflective of our daily lives.

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### Programs:

**Imaginary Theatre Company (ITC)** – Through theatrical adaptations of literature, folktales, fairytales, legends and historical chronicles, ITC is committed to providing the very finest in theatre for young audiences and strives to bring high quality performances to schools and community venues throughout the bi-state area.....Pp. 2-4

**WiseWrite** – Fifth grade students from two public schools learn playwriting and bolster their literacy, communication and collaboration skills through this intensive, year-long, arts-in-education program.....p. 5

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**Enrichment Activities** – An array of activities engage the community, illuminating the breadth of impact of theatre on their lives. Includes: Quick Start, Post-Performance Discussions, Talk Theatre, Tours and Spotlight on Careers.....p. 8

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

The 2015-2016 season was a milestone 40th anniversary “on the road” for the ITC tour. Four professional actors spent October to April traveling from urban schools in St. Louis to rural schools in the Ozarks to present three literature or history-based plays to youth in grades K-7. Productions were carefully selected, or specifically commissioned, to present themes connecting to student interests and school curricula.

Prior to seeing an ITC production, teachers receive a link to our website, where they can download a free, multidisciplinary study guide, created by The Rep specifically to enhance the experience for students seeing that show. 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 2015-2016 season, ITC gave 136 performances at 80 schools and 17 community centers throughout Missouri, Illinois and into Arkansas, reaching a total of 34,279 students, educators and family members. (Some locations were visited more than once and some performances included audiences from more than one school.) In addition to the productions, ITC performed one Acting Up workshop in one school for 42 participants.



Chris Tipp, Alan Knoll and Melissa Gerth

### **Goldilocks**

**The Story:**

In this fun new musical take on the well-known tale, Goldilocks learns some much-needed lessons about friendship and acceptance. Freddy, a bear with a penchant for science, likes to spend his time exploring the forest with his friends, at least when they’re not avoiding the troublemaking Goldilocks. She’s got a habit of tormenting all the woodland creatures, but Freddy and his friends just might have an idea for an experiment that’ll change her ways. Recommended for grades K-3.

**Curriculum Connections:**

- Themes of acceptance and friendship
- Storytelling and imagination
- Animals and habitats

In January, this tour visited the American Legion Hall in Mascoutah, IL, to provide a special Blue Star families performance for the children of military personnel. In April, ITC gave our very first pair of performances of this play for youth with sensory sensitivities and their families.

Number of schools	Number of public spaces	Counties	Total performances	Number of students	Number of adults	Total attendance	Estimated TITLE I attendance
42	9	Butler, Camden, Cooper, Crawford, Dunklin, Franklin, Gasconade, Howell, Oregon, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Louis City, Stoddard and Wayne in MO; Madison and Wayne in IL	61	14,503	694	15,197	7,614

## The Elves and the Shoemaker

### The Story:

When a kindly shoemaker gives his only remaining pair of shoes to a cold and hungry beggar woman, he finds his good deed rewarded in unexpected ways. The shoemaker is shocked by the appearance of magic elves who turn his simple shoe shop into a great success, thrilling customers with their special creations. Based on the tale by the Brothers Grimm, this beloved, warm-hearted story is perfect for the holiday season, reminding us that where we find kindness, generosity and hope, anything is possible. Recommended for all ages.



Alan Knoll, Chris Tipp and Melissa Gerth

### Curriculum Connections:

- New versions of classic works
- Themes of generosity and kindness
- Holiday traditions

Number of schools	Number of public spaces	Counties	Total performances	Number of students	Number of adults	Total attendance	Estimated TITLE I attendance
31	7	Butler, Dunklin, Franklin, Howell, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Scott, St. Louis, Texas and Wayne in MO; Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington in IL	45	11,190	448	11,638	5,192

## Goodbye Marianne



Melissa Gerth and Catherine Regan

### The Story:

In 1938 Berlin, young Marianne Kohn arrives at school to find that Jewish students are no longer permitted, and her life begins to change in frightening ways. Soon friends and loved ones are disappearing, neighborhood shops are being burned, and even Marianne's father must flee to escape the Gestapo. Based on the author's childhood experiences in Nazi Germany, *Goodbye Marianne* is a stirring account of loss and love, and one girl's bravery in the face of a changing world. Recommended for grades 4-7.

### Curriculum connections:

- World history and the Holocaust
- Biographical works on the stage
- Themes of hope and tolerance

ITC partnered with the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center to provide an all day experience in which students saw *Goodbye Marianne* and toured the museum's exhibits.

Number of schools	Number of public spaces	Counties	Total performances	Number of students	Number of adults	Total attendance	Estimated TITLE I attendance
26	4	Butler, Cooper, Franklin, Gasconade, Howell, Pemiscot, Perry, Ripley, Scott, St. Charles, St. Louis, St. Louis City, Stoddard and Wayne in MO; Clay in AR	29	7,050	352	7,402	3,618



**The 2015-2016 Imaginary Theatre Company tour impacted the following educational institutions and public locations in three states:**

**MISSOURI**

**Butler County**

Lake Road Elementary  
Poplar Bluff Kindergarden  
Center  
Poplar Bluff Junior High  
Sacred Heart  
Three Rivers College

**Camden County**

Dogwood Elementary

**Cooper County**

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

**Crawford County**

Cuba Elementary

**Dunklin County**

Malden Lower Elementary  
Senath-Hornersville  
Elementary  
South Elementary

**Franklin County**

Beaufort Elementary  
Fulton School at  
St. Albans  
Meramec Valley  
Community School  
St. Clair Elementary  
St. John Lutheran School

**Gasconade County**

Hermann Elementary  
Hermann Middle

**Howell County**

Friendship Circle  
Pre-School  
Glenwood School  
Junction Hill School  
Ozarks Christian Academy  
Richards Elementary  
West Plains Elementary  
West Plains Civic Center  
Willow Springs Middle  
Willow Springs Elementary

**Oregon County**

Couch Elementary

**Ozark County**

Dora Elementary

**Pemiscot County**

Caruthersville Public Library

**Perry County**

Perry County Middle  
Perryville Elementary  
Perry Park Center

**Ripley County**

Doniphan Middle

**St. Charles County**

Progress South Elementary

**St. Louis County**

Brentwood Library  
Caleres  
Christ Community Lutheran School  
Christ Prince of Peace School  
Claymont Elementary  
Clayton High  
Community School  
Ferguson-Florissant Early  
Education Center  
First Presbyterian Church  
Flynn Park Elementary  
Forsyth School  
Hiram Neuwoehner High  
Holocaust Museum and  
Learning Center  
Hudson Elementary  
The Jewish Community Center of  
St. Louis  
Larimore Elementary  
Lawson Elementary  
Living Water Academy  
Magic House  
Margaret Buerkle Middle  
Nerinx Hall High  
Northview High  
The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis  
Studio Theatre  
(sensory-friendly performances)  
Southwest Middle  
St. Louis County Library  
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque  
St. Mark's Lutheran School  
Webster Groves Church of the  
Nazarene  
Wilson School

**St. Louis City**

Dewey International Studies  
Griscom Juvenile Detention Center  
Hogan Street Regional Youth Center  
Sacred Heart Villa  
St. Ambrose School

**Scott County**

Scott County Central  
Elementary  
Sikeston 7th & 8th Grade  
Center  
Sikeston Field House

**Stoddard County**

Bernie School  
Southwest Elementary

**Texas County**

Success Elementary

**Wayne County**

Clearwater Elementary  
Clearwater Middle

**ILLINOIS**

**Clinton County**

North Wamac Grade School  
St. Mary's Elementary  
Willow Grove Elementary

**Jefferson County**

Field Elementary

**Madison County**

Maryville Elementary  
Southern Illinois University  
Edwardsville

**Marion County**

Apostolic School  
Central City Elementary  
Selmaville Elementary

**Randolph County**

St. John Lutheran

**St. Clair County**

American Legion Hall  
(Blue Star Families  
performance)  
Bluffview Elementary  
Fairview Heights Library  
Mascoutah Elementary

**Washington County**

Hoyleton Consolidated  
Elementary

**Wayne County**

Mt. Erie Elementary

**ARKANSAS**

**Clay County**

Piggott High

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



In the 2015-2016 season, WiseWrite was provided, free of charge, to fifth graders in Dewey International Studies School in the St. Louis City District and Hudson Elementary School in the Webster Groves 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 learned the elements of storytelling and playwriting, how to create original characters and how to 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. Plays were then submitted to The Rep.

In March, Reader's Theatre took place in the schools. Each fifth grade class selected a few plays to perform for other classrooms. Students became actors, scenic artists and stage managers, as they rehearsed for a few weeks before giving performances.

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 surrounded by peers, educators and family members to watch their plays being performed by professional actors.



Schools participating	# of students participating in program	Estimated # TITLE I students participating in program	# of students attending WiseWrite Festival	Estimated # TITLE I students attending WiseWrite Festival	# of Adults attending WiseWrite Festival	Total attendance at WiseWrite Festival
Dewey International Studies and Hudson Elementary Schools	79	33	225	94	72	297

# 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.

In 2015-2016, teachers seeking an enriched theatre experience for their students could arrive early for a pre-show docent presentation. Trained volunteers led 20-minute discussions that offered youth insight into play content and technical values.



Prior to attending the theatre, teachers received a free multi-disciplinary study guide that explored topics covered in the play, provided background information on the playwright and offered insight into the technical aspects of the play. The guide also contained detailed articles and suggested activities corresponding to learning standards and school curricula. These guides were available for download from our website by teachers, parents and anyone from the general public who is interested in gaining insight into the production.



In 2015-2016, student matinee performances were attended by 4,638 students from 49 schools and colleges in Missouri and Illinois.

Number of schools & colleges participating	Counties	Total performances	Number of students attending docent talks	Number of students attending performances	Number of adults attending performances	Total attendance	Estimated TITLE I attendance
49	Franklin, Howard, Jefferson, Lincoln, Perry, Phelps, Randolph, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis County and St. Louis City in MO; Bond, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, St. Clair and Washington in IL	6	1,422	4,638	400	5,038	1,065



The following schools and colleges attended student matinee performances of Mainstage productions at The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis in 2015-2016:

## MISSOURI

### Franklin County

East Central College  
Fulton School at St. Albans

### Howard County

Fayette High

### Jefferson County

DeSoto High  
Windsor High

### Lincoln County

Winfield Middle

### Perry County

Perry County Middle  
Perryville High

### Phelps County

Lucy Wortham James  
Elementary

### Randolph County

Moberly Area Community  
College

### St. Charles County

Saeger Middle  
Zion Lutheran

### St. Francois County

Central Park Hills High

### St. Louis County

Christian Brothers College  
High

College School

Hazelwood West High

John F. Kennedy Catholic High

Lafayette High

McCluer High

Mehlville Senior High

Nerinx Hall High

North Kirkwood Middle

Northview School

Parkway Adult Basic  
Education

Parkway Central High

Parkway Northeast

Parkway South High

Parkway West High

Rockwood Summit Senior High

Rossman School

Southwest Middle

St. Alban Roe

St. Louis Priory High

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

St. Peter Catholic

Twin Oaks Christian Middle

Valley Park High

Villa Duchesne High

Webster Groves High

Wildwood Middle

### St. Louis City

Crossroads College Prep  
Loyola Academy  
St. Louis University High

## ILLINOIS

### Bond County

Sorento Elementary

### Madison County

East Alton-Wood River  
High

### Monroe County

Gibault Catholic High

### Montgomery County

Nokomis Junior/Senior  
High

### St. Clair County

Belleville High School East

### Washington County

Okawville Junior/Senior  
High



## THEATRE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

**Quick Start** – New in 2015-2016, this initiative offered audiences a pre-show discussion that enhanced the Mainstage theatre experience with behind-the-scenes stories, background information and insider tidbits, led by a cast member an hour before he or she took the stage. Total participants: 2,211

**Post-performance discussions** – These dialogues provided an opportunity for audiences and cast members to meet after the show to explore play content, characterization and technical values, as well as actor motivation and training. Total participants: 1,935

**Talk Theatre** – This lecture series was hosted by The Rep’s Volunteer Board the Monday evening following the opening of each Mainstage production. Featuring insights from a guest speaker, Talk Theatre was the go-to program for an in-depth look at The Rep’s Mainstage productions. Total participants: 297

**Theatre tours** – School or community groups toured The Rep’s performance spaces, shops and production areas for an insider’s view of the theatre. Total participants: 436

**Spotlight on Careers** – Specially trained volunteers traveled to area schools to help youth explore the vast array of careers in the theatre. Total participants: 102

## ACCESSIBILITY

**Sensory-friendly performances** – In April of 2016, The Rep held its first sensory-friendly performances of the Imaginary Theatre Company production *Goldilocks*. These performances were tailored for sensory-sensitive youth and their families, by adapting the lighting and sound to be less intense, making the actors aware of the audience’s unique needs, providing a “pacing lane” for youth who need to move and a special room where children can go if they need a break from the show.



**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, these unobtrusive receivers with surround earphones amplify the spoken dialogue and singing in a production. This does not require the removal of hearing aids.

**Open Captioning** – The final Sunday matinee performance of each 2015-2016 Mainstage production was presented with Open Captioning for the deaf and hard of hearing. At performances with Open Captioning, the spoken or sung dialogue was displayed in text on an electronic screen that was visible to one section of the seating area. In 2002, The Rep became the first and only live performance venue in the St. Louis region to offer Open Captioning.

**Audio Description** – In the 2015-2016 season, The Rep offered both live and recorded 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.

### ***Praise for The Rep's education programming:***

Imaginary Theatre Company:

"[*The Elves and the Shoemaker*] was amazing. It was also funny and I hope you can come back to we can watch another performance so I can laugh even more."

- *Makiyah, 3rd grade student*

"I think it was a wonderful performance, they made it come to life very well. At the end, it left tears in my eyes. It made me so mad when they treated the Jewish people with so much disrespect... Thank you so much for bringing *Goodbye Marianne* to my school. I believe, too, that every kid deserves to see plays live."

- *Leila, 5th grade student*

"I was particularly impressed with *Goodbye, Marianne* - I think it opened the eyes of our students as to what happened to the Jewish people during WWII. Many of our students will probably never have the opportunity to see good theater productions, unless they see it at school. The Imaginary Theatre provides a wonderful way for them to experience great theatre - it is entertaining, educational and fun! The actors do an outstanding job and the sets and props are beautiful."

- *Educator survey response*

"I feel the performance allowed many students to experience their first live musical theatre performance. I feel this will carry a lifelong impact on how they feel about musical theatre in a very positive manner. It has impacted the arts programming to the point that I wrote a grant so that we may invite ITC back to our school next year."

- *Educator survey response*

WiseWrite:

"My confidence has grown."

- *Student response to survey question about the impact of WiseWrite*

"The thing that has changed about me is how I concentrate on things."

- *Student response to survey question about the impact of WiseWrite*

"Trying as hard as you can really, really pays off."

- *Student response to survey question about the impact of WiseWrite*

"If you put your mind to it, you can achieve your goal."

- *Student response to survey question about the impact of WiseWrite*

Student Matinees:

"*Peter and the Starcatcher* had so many interesting and unique production values that our middle school students were treated to the real joy of live theatre, many for the first time. But, besides that, the script appealed right to that middle-school sense of humor, with references to pop culture. It was just the thing to capture their attention, then draw them into what was a true theatre smorgasbord... everything from "stand-up" humor, to physical acting, to bawdy burlesque, to romance. And besides that the talents of the docents in the pre-show talk really prepared the students well for the experience, in an engaging way. They actually listened for a sustained amount of time due to the well-crafted words and delivery! Thanks for your thoughtful attention."

- *Stacy McMackin, educator in the Hazelwood School District*

"Thank you for letting our school watch the play. The set was designed phenomenally and the acting was great. Overall, it was a great experience! Again, thank you!"

- *Kim T., student*



Thank You  
For Everything  
You Do!

I LOVE  
PLAYS

