Mission

The Arizona State University Theatre for Youth Program mentors and prepares engaged and innovative leaders in artistry, scholarship, education, and activism.

Theatre for Youth Program Values

- We create theatre and performances to inspire, educate, transform, heal, and entertain.
- We cultivate creative capacity as a lifelong pursuit.
- We believe diversity is an asset.
- We strive for social justice.
- We value joy and play as essential to the wellbeing of individuals and communities.
- We practice honesty and transparency in order to foster reciprocal relationships and artistic endeavors.
- We support risk-taking and experimentation to inspire innovation in the field.
- We critically examine constructions of childhood and youth.
- We build public spaces of community and collaboration.
- We preserve and investigate our field’s past to progress into the future.
Applied Projects

Scholarship

Ashley Laverty started a new company, Kerfuffle, Arizona's first Theatre for the Very Young Company. Kerfuffle's first show was *The Caterpillar's Footprint*. It was devised through a creative drama residency with Good Earth Montessori and Bright Horizons preschool. It was presented at The idea Museum in Mesa for children ages 2-5.

Haley Honeman was a resident artist with Springboard for the Arts in Fergus Falls, Minnesota where she created *Healings, Integrations, Illuminations: The Aesthetics of Process*, an art installation and performance event about mental health presented in an empty storefront.

Rivka Rocchio explored education and collaboration across prison walls. She led an ensemble of ASU undergraduates and inmates at Eyman State Prison to create *Free Drama*, a play performed at the prison for an audience of inmates and prison officials. For her project, Rivka received an award for outstanding volunteer from the prison.
Over the last year, Theatre for Youth students actively engaged in scholarship across the nation. MFA student Amanda Pintore made her conference debut at the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE)’s national conference in Milwaukee with Brain to Body Connection: The Observation and Experience of Movement in Theatre for the Very Young. Jeff Sachs and Kathy Krzys created an interactive timeline of Theatre for Youth that AATE conference attendees could expand. PhD candidate Tiffany Trent presented Story Theologies in Poetic Recitations of Motherhood and Spoken Words of Womanhood at The American Academy of Religion Western Region conference.

Theatre for Youth students and faculty have been writing up a storm. Four students have been featured on The TYA Blog:

- Amanda Pintore - Movement and Dance: Working with Young People and Personal Practice
- Rivka Rocchio and Ashley Laverty – Yogi Bears: Fun? And Creative Drama with Kindergarteners
- Jamie Macpherson – Movement: Getting it “Right”
- Jeff Sachs – Reflections on my First Year Teaching High School Stagecraft

Students received numerous awards and grants both nationally and locally for their efforts. MFA student Rivka Rocchio was awarded The Spirit of Service Scholarship from the ASU College of Public Service & Community Solutions. Amanda Pintore received an honorable mention for the Don Doyle Scholarship.
Teaching and Teaching Artistry

Theatre for Youth students worked closely with local and regional arts organizations throughout the year.

This year marked the start of Mainstage Engage, a program that creates supplemental programming to enrich the ASU Mainstage Season. Under the leadership of Dr. Mary McAvoy and MFA student Amanda Pintore, Mainstage Engage included classroom workshops, lobby enrichment, student matinees and special events.

PhD student Elizabeth Schildkret and MFA student Jamie Macpherson worked with the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture to present StoryDays, a series of storytelling workshops for elementary school students with guest artist Aaron Landsman from the Elevator Repair Service.

MFA students Chris Weise and Haley Honeman continued the iCreate program, our digital storytelling partnership Phoenix Children’s Hospital. MFA student Amanda Pintore partnered with Childsplay and Montessori Day School to create an Amazon Rainforest tour where students learned about and embodied rainforest flora and fauna. PhD student Tiffany Trent taught various workshops and classes with Childsplay.

MFA students Ashley Laverty and Rivka Rocchio received an Athletic Research Grant from the Graduate and Professional Student Association to develop Yogi Bears, a yoga and creative drama residency at Create Academy from kindergarten students.

Photos Clockwise: Literacy through the Arts at Lowell Elementary; Nerd-A-Palooza with professor David Barker and MFA student Jamie Macpherson; Yogi Bears at Create Academy
Theatre for Youth Students worked on plays on and off ASU’s campus.

On the mainstage, MFA student Ricky Araiza directed *Brooklyn Bridge* by Melissa James Gibson. ASU also presented Qui Nguyen’s *She Kills Monsters*, assistant directed and fight captained by MFA student Jamie Macpherson.

This year also saw workshops or productions of new plays: Professor Pamela Sterling’s *Louisa May and Me* and *Blue Willow*, Ashley Laverty’s *Where Our Stuff Goes* and Nadine’s *Coloring Book*, Jeff Sachs’ *Evan’s Story or: The Clang Echoed in All of Us*, and Ricky Araiza directed *A Chicano in the Sun*.

Under the direction of Pamela Sterling, 1st Year MFA students in the touring theatre class presented a new play to over 600 young people: *Crisscrossing The Galaxy at Faster than Light Speed in Search of a Hug* written by MFA Dramatic Writing student Paco Madden. The production was performed, designed, and produced by Jisun Myung, Grant Wayman, and Chris Weise.

Jeff Sachs, as the new Technical Theatre Director at Phoenix Country Day School, designed *Almost, Maine* and *The Sound of Music* and directed Suzan Zeder’s *Wiley and the Hairy Man*. At The Homestead Playhouse, Ashley Laverty designed costumes for *Schoolhouse Rock Live Jr!* and Amanda Pintore directed *JunGirl Book* (by alumnus Anne Negri). And with Childsplay, Chris Weise assistant directed for David Saar on the premier of *Pete: or the Return of Peter Pan* by Dwayne Hartford.
Appendixes

2016 MFA Applied Project Theses
• Haley Honeman: *Healings, Integrations, Illuminations: The Aesthetics of Process*
• Ashley Laverty: *The Caterpillar’s Footprint: Children as Creative Partners in the Development of a Theatre for the Very Young Piece*
• Rivka Rocchio: *Theatre Across Prison Walls: A Prison-Based Theatre Partnership between Arizona State University and Eyman State Prison*

Conference Presentations at
• The American Alliance for Theatre and Education
• The Association for Theatre in Higher Education
• The American Society for Theatre Research
• TYA/USA, One Theatre World
• 21st Century STEM: Integrate to Innovate Conference
• American Academy of Religion - Western Region
• Rethinking Mass Incarceration in the South
• Mid-America Theatre Conference
• The International Digital Storytelling Conference

2015-2016 Awards/Scholarships Received

National Awards
• Haley Honeman, Professional Development Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts ($750)
• Rivka Rocchio, Professional Development Grant, Arizona Commission on the Arts ($750)
• Tiffany Trent, Thomas Marshall Graduate Student Travel Award, American Society for Theatre Research ($800)
• Haley Honeman, Jim Rye Fellowship, International Performing Arts for Youth ($250)

ASU Extra-departmental Awards
• Jeff Sachs, The Joan Frazer Memorial Award for Judaism and the Arts ($1,500)
• Ashley Laverty and Rivka Rocchio, Athletics Research Grant, GPSA ($1,100)
• Rivka Rocchio, Spirit of Service Scholarship, ASU College of Public Service & Community Solutions

SoFDT/HIDA Awards
• Ashley Laverty, PAVE Arts Incubator Grant ($3,000)
• Ashley Laverty, Judge’s Choice Award, Herberger IDEA Showcase ($500)
• Various, Special Talent Awards
• Various, GPSA Travel Grants
• Various, Student Enrichment Grant
• Various, Rita Christe Scholarships
• Barbara Wills Memorial Scholarship
• Lin Wright Dissertation Award
Schools
- ASU Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College - Preschool
- Bright Horizons at ASU
- Create Academy
- Duke University Talent Identification Program
- Genesis Academy
- Good Earth Montessori School
- Kyrene Middle School
- Lowell Elementary School
- Montessori Day School
- Phoenix Country Day School
- VOICES Studio
- Walton Center of the University of Michigan

Community Partners
- Arizona Thespian Society
- ASU Art Museum
- Church of the Beatitudes
- Eyman State Prison
- Grace Community Church
- Kohl Children's Museum
- Mesa Arts Center
- Phoenix Center for the Arts
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Tumbleweed Center for Youth Development

Theatre Companies
- Arizona Opera
- California State University, Fresno
- Childsplay
- Christian Youth Theatre
- First Act Children's Theatre
- Kerfuffle
- New York University’s New Plays for Young Audiences
- Northeastern Illinois University Stage Center Theatre
- Phoenix Theatre
- Rising Youth Theatre

- Steppingstone Theatre
- Teatro Bravo
- The Homestead Playhouse at DC Ranch
- The Open Eye Theatre
- Utah Shakespeare Festival