ASU THEATRE FOR YOUTH

2016/17 Annual Report

Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts
Arizona State University
ASU Theatre for Youth
'16/17 Year at a Glance

19 Enrolled Students

85 Unique programs with 3,725 children and youth

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22 Conference Presentations

54 Awards and over $39,223 received

34 Productions with 23,595 Audience Members
MISSION
The Arizona State University Theatre for Youth Program mentors and prepares engaged and innovative leaders in artistry, scholarship, education, and activism.

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 reciprocity in our relationships and artistic endeavors.
- We support risk-taking and experimentation to inspire innovation in the field.
- We build public spaces of community and collaboration.
- We preserve and investigate our field’s past to progress into the future.
ASU students Tiffany Trent and Danica Rosengren were awarded two of the most prestigious and highly competitive national awards in the field.

Winifred Ward Scholarship

Tiffany Trent receiving her Winifred Ward Award from Gary Minyard at the AATE.

Don and Elizabeth Doyle Fellowship

Danica with Don Doyle and the members of the TFY cohort after receiving her award.

Additionally, seven other students and faculty reported receiving various ASU, national, and regional scholarships, grants, and fellowships.

(see appendix for complete list)
Conference Presentations

ASU Theatre for Youth students and faculty members gave 22 juried presentations at international, national, and regional events.

International

MFA student Young Nae Choi presented "Dance Theatre for Young Audiences" at the 19th ASSITEJ World Congress and International Theatre Festival for Children and Young People in Cape Town, South Africa.

Additionally, as a part of the ITYARN Conference at ASSITEJ Chris Weiss, Grant Wayman, JiSun Myung, Eric Villers and Stephani Etheridge Woodson gave a panel on art at the intersection of health and wellness.
American Alliance for Theatre and Education- Boston, MA:

- Andy Waldron "Using Drama to Explore LGBTQ Issues in the Elementary Classroom."
- Ashley Laverty, Jeff Waldron, and Amanda Pintore Kerfuffle Session
- Jamie MacPherson "A Fighting Chance—Stage Combat and Youth."
- Mary McAvoy "Research Roundtable: Publication and Possibility."
- Dr. Mary McAvoy "Theorizing the Price They Pay: Young Bodies, Illegal Acts, and the Problem of Punishment in This is Modern Art."
- Professor Pamela Sterling "Students Teaching Students: Using Theatre in Peer Education."
- Ricardo Araiza "Diversity in TYA over the past 50 years."
- Tiffany Trent "Conscious Casting for Inclusivity and Integrity."

American Society for Theatre Research- Minneapolis, MN:

- Tiffany Trent "Till, Trayvon, Tamir, and T.S. Eliot's Figura in Murder."
• Andy Waldron “Representation, Identification, and Transformation in LGBTQ Theatre for Youth” ATHE; Chicago, IL
• Dr. Kristin Hunt "Article Clinic" Clinician. AATE; New Orleans, LA
• Dr. Mary McAvoy "Starving on Stage: Hollace Ransdell, Job Huntin, and Staging Unemployment with the Ladies of Southern Labor Drama."
• Dr. Mary McAvoy "Abe Lincoln, Dollar-Top Tickets, and the Recruitment of New Audiences in Professional Theatre after the Federal Theatre Project."
• Professor Pamela Sterling "Louisa May Alcott and Charles Dickens: Two Victorian Authors as Performers and Social Activists" North American Victorian Scholars Association Phoenix, AZ
• Tiffany Trent "Freeze!: What Am I Doing? Spectrality's and Transubstantiations of Black Bodies in Labor."

Regional

• Amanda Pintore "Wonder Out Loud: Mapping Your Creativity and Other Useful Things," 2K17 Leadership Conference El Dorado High School
• Jamie MacPherson "Stage Combat as a Tool in Your Classroom," Teachers Doctoral Teaching Conference ASU
In the 2016-17 school year the ASU theatre for youth cohort taught over 3,725 children and youth in over 85 programs including improvisation, playwrighting, drama literacy, and musical theatre.
Teaching Highlights

Andy Waldron taught Create-a-Play at the Steppingstone Theatre where he devised a short musical performance with 4th-7th graders around the central theme of Dr. Who meets Diary of a Wimpy Kid. Additionally, he led Project Lit at the Mesa Arts Center.

Joe Schoenfelder taught Uturn: The Hope Sessions at the The Uturn Foundation. This supported his PhD dissertation project utilizing theatre of the oppressed techniques to help youth articulate goals and notions of identity.

Mark Swinerton helped lead a post-show discussion for the matinee program at the Arizona Theatre Company in Phoenix. Additionally, he taught Magical Adventures at Rising Youth Theater for Ages 4-12. He also taught a lesson at El Dorado High School’s Class Leadership Conference on Goal Setting.
Teaching Highlights

Ricardo Araiza taught Page 2 Stage at Phoenix Theatre. He created an original stage adaptation of the book series Scary Stories to tell in the Dark.

Tiana Turner (pictured above) taught several courses at Christian Youth Theatre including Homeschool Acting where she worked with home school acting class to devise a piece based on the Mysteries of Harris Burdick. Other courses include Beginning Acting, Audition Masterclass, Improv Masterclass, and Mixed-Up Fairy Tales.
Amanda Pintore: Applied Project

Amanda developed wonderwander, a dance performance specifically for very young children (age 2-5). It explores the experiences of very young children and their caregivers as both observers and participants of dance. For her project she collaborated with a team of dancers and musicians over an eight-month research and development process. It was built in partnership with Kerfuffle, Arizona’s first theatre company devoted to creating performances with and for 2-5 year olds.

Amanda was inspired by her time studying in Stockholm, Sweden in September 2016 with Claire Parsons Co., a movement-based performing arts company specializing in early childhood dance.

Incorporating Claire Parsons Co.’s unique strategies, the choreography was created with very young children ages 2-4 and their caregivers in a research setting. In this research, the wonderwander team explored early childhood movement patterns, social exchange, and the joy that can result from non-verbal, dance-based play. Wonderwander performed in residence at the Tempe Public Library in Tempe, Arizona from March 17-18, 2017 for 160 audience members.
Jeff created "Teaching Stagecraft & Stage Design: a Resource for High School Teachers." The resource guide contains curricular guides, lesson plans, rubrics, assignments, handouts, and essays compiled and synthesized from interviews with theatre professionals and educators.

Sachs drew on his stagecraft experience in public schools as he researched what would really help a teacher bring Stagecraft and Stage Design into their classroom. He developed the resource guide from interviews with over 20 theatre educators and professionals. He then sent the guide to an international cohort of 22 pilot teachers for feedback.
Jamie directed a production of James Still’s 'A Village Fable,' a musical drama for young audiences. Staged outdoors on Arizona State University’s Galvin Plaza, and featured live music (courtesy of Music Director Ji Sun Myung), and a cast of ten performers.

For Macpherson, this production served as a chance to use theatre to create community—both in the rehearsal process, as well as with audience members during the performances. Over 250 audience members were present at the performances.
Ricky directed FEATHERS AND TEETH, a horror-comedy written by Charise Castro-Smith. They had a string of seven performances — including six sellouts — over a two-week stretch at Tempe's Nelson Fine Arts Center.

ASU Now followed the production from first audition in late August to last weekend’s final curtain call, documenting the successes, failures, tense moments and close calls. It was a big hit with audiences, who enjoyed the quirky, offbeat presentation set in a Rust Belt factory town in 1978.
Productions & Performances

ASU Theatre for Youth students and faculty directed, choreographed, designed, and performed in over 34 productions for 23,595 youth, children, and adults this academic school year.

See full list of performances in the appendix. (Pictured: First year Theatre for Youth students and faculty Pamela Sterling devised "The Boy who Drew Cats" which toured to over 400 youth in the greater Phoenix).
Appendix: Additional Awards

- MFA student Amanda Pintore was awarded IPAY Colleen Porter Resident Artist Award for her commitment to cross-cultural collaborations and artistry in Theatre for Youth.
- MFA student Mark Swinerton was awarded the OTW 2017 Colleen Toohey Porter Apprentice Program.
- MFA student Nikki Rosengren was awarded the IPAY Jim Rye Fellowship, the Rita Christe Scholarship, and the The Barn Arts Residency at The Barn.
- MFA student Eric Villers and Nikki Rosengren received the PAVE Arts Incubator ASU for starting a new company, entitled DogEar Theatre Productions.
- MFA student Jamie Macapherson received the Rita Christe Scholarship to support her trip to Winter Wonderland in Chicago for research in stage combat techniques.
- PhD Student Tiffany Trent received a $25,000 Doctoral fellowship from the Forum for Theological Exploration. In addition she received a Graduate Award for her research on peace building in faith-based youth performing arts spaces in Chicago.
- Michelle Hill received an ASU Dissertation Writing Camp Fellowship.
- MFA student Young Nae Choi received a Student Enrichment Grant/Travel Award to give a presentation at ASSITEJ Conference in South Africa and the Most Promising Student Organization Award from ASU ($1000).
- MFA student Chris Weise received the Student Enrichment Grant to present at the ITYARN Conference in Cape Town in May 2017. Additionally, he received the ASU Graduate and Professional Student Association Individual Travel Grant on a panel at the AATE Conference in Boston in July 2016 ($1550).
- Dr. Stephani Etheridge Woodson (Faculty) received the American Alliance for Theatre Education Distinguished Book Award.
Appendix: Additional Productions

- MFA student Chris Weise directed *Once Upon a Mattress Jr.* and Disney's *The Little Mermaid Jr.* with Northbrook Theatre, IL as well as *Shrek Jr.* with DC Ranch Homestead Playhouse.
- MFA student Young Nae Choi performed and danced in *I Don't Belong Here* a Pan Asian Dance.
- MFA student Jamie MacPherson was the Fight Director for First Act Children's Theatre productions of *Beauty and The Beast* and *Excalibur*. In addition, she was the director for Binary Theatre's *Game Theory: A Black Swan Song*.
- MFA student Jeff Sachs was the Technical Director/Designer for *The Little Mermaid* at Phoenix Country Day School.
- Mark Swinerton played Principal Jason/ Football Player 3 in ASU's production of *Slasher Girl*. He also played Sean in ASU's production of *Legacy*.
- MFA student Nikki Rosengren was the Assistant Director for ASU's *Asterion*. She also directed DogEar productions *Just One Second*.
- Faculty Pamela Sterling wrote California State University- Fresno's production of *Blue Willow*. She was the director of ASU's Office of New Student and Family Programming's production of * (Dis)Orientation and Touring Theatre class’ piece Crossing the Universe at Faster than Speed Light in Search of a Hug*.
- MFA student Ricardo Araiza directed ASU's *Feathers and Teeth*, and hosted Teatro Bravo's *Performance in the Borderlands, CALA Alliance, and the AZ Commission on the Arts Richard Montoya Workshop*.
- MFA student Tiana Turner performed in ASU's production of *The Apple Boys*.
- MFA student Kelly Fielder directed *The Boy at the Edge of Everything* and worked as an artist on *The Underground Library and The Ogreling*.
- MFA student Thomas Petruniego directed *Seussical Jr.* and performed in Hale Center Theatre's *Is He Dead?* as well as Shenandoah Valley Theatre's *Joseph and the Amazing Tecnicolored Dreamcoat*.
- MFA student Sarah Tan performed in *A Thousand Paper Cranes*. 
ASU Theatre for Youth students and faculty are proud to have worked with the following community organizations this academic year:

Arizona Theatre Company
AZ Commission on the Arts
CALA Alliance
Childsplay Theatre
Christian Youth Theatre- Scottsdale
DC Ranch Homestead Playhouse
Hugh Downs School of Human Communication
Kyrene School District
Lowell Elementary School
Mary Lou Fulton Preschool
Mesa Arts Center
Montessori Day School
Paloma Elementary School
Performance in the Borderlands
Phoenix Children’s Hospital
Phoenix Country Day School
Phoenix Theatre
Steppingstone Theatre
Teatro Bravo
The Uturn Foundation
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix