Theatre Horizon uses the transformative power of storytelling to foster empathy and provide an inclusive home for artists, audiences, and students alike.

OUR MISSION

The new season model allowed us to employ 71 theatre artists - actors, directors, designers, stage managers and musicians - which is a nearly 40% increase from last season.

ARTISTS EMPLOYED

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THE LARAMIE PROJECT: A STAGED READING

September 28 - 30, 2018

Twenty years ago, an openly gay college student named Matthew Shephard was kidnapped, beaten, and left tied to a fence on the prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming. A month later, a troupe of actors descended among the town to interview residents and probe the motives behind the murder. What resulted is the story of a town grappling with the truth of unmasked hatred. The Laramie Project became one of the most performed plays in America, and in 2005 it was Theatre Horizon’s very first production.

Written by
Moisés Kaufman & Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by
Kathryn MacMillan

Cast
David Bardeen, Jessica Bedford, Taysha Canales, Mike Dees, Jack Henry, Stephen Novelli, Katherine Perry, Brandon J. Pierce, Amanda Schoonover, Cathy Simpson

While producing The Laramie Project, we brought people together around critical issues, built new relationship with LGBTQ+ youth, and provided a space for reflection, hope, and action.

Four local LGTBQ+ groups contributed to the lobby art display, where audience members responded to the prompt “What does progress look like to you?” By the end of the run, our lobby wall was full of deeply felt symbols of progress (see bottom left photo).

Executive Honorary Producer
Rebecca Bradbeer

Associate Honorary Producers
Angela Mullen & Lisa Yanik

Artistic Sponsors
Richard Couch & James Stein
Michel & Edward Donato
Dan & Joann Higgins
Robin & Saifuddin Mama
Kevin Maurer & Jim Schneider
Jenny Smith & Beth Slating

“What a wonderful and incredibly performed reading of The Laramie Project. Brian and I were riveted. Thank you so much for making PFLAG a part of this event.”

-Joan Bortnicker, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), Media, PA
THE COLOR PURPLE
Regional Premiere
November 8 - December 23, 2018

With a jubilant, Grammy Award-winning score including jazz, gospel, ragtime and blues, The Color Purple stays true to Alice Walker’s novel about the power of unending love. Our sold-out production was extended twice.

Written by
Marsha Norman

Music & Lyrics by
Brenda Russell, Allee Willis, Stephen Bray

Directed by
Amina Robinson

Cast
Dorien Belle, Candace Benson, Tiffany Dawn Christopher, Jordan Dobson, Victoria Aaliyah Goins, Donnie Hammond, Tyson Jennette, Jessica M. Johnson, Chelsea-Ann Jones, Derrick L. Millard II, Jessica Muse Money, Ebony Pullum, Ryane Nicole Sturdivant, Garrick Vaughan, Chantel Thea Cumberbatch, Aaron-Michael Sobers, Camille E. Young

Artistic Sponsors
Bruce & Carol Caswell
Diane & Jon Edelman
Christina Kind
Zandra Maffett
David & Sachiyko Searles
Jeff Smith & Pamela Milcos-Smith

EXECUTIVE Honorary Producers
Tom & Carol Beam

Associate Honorary Producers
Hugh & Carmen Simmons
Leslie & Ernestine Thornton

CRITICs ARE RAVING!!

“This gloriously intimate, profoundly moving production finally gets the show exactly right.”
- Philadelphia Magazine

“The song that The Color Purple sings here demands to be heard.”
- Broad Street Review

“You'll have a hard time finding a more luminous production than The Color Purple at Theatre Horizon.”
- Why??

“The must-see show of the season.”
- Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board

“The whole ensemble is extraordinary.”
- The Reporter

“This show is worth your entertainment dollar.”
- Philly Life & Culture
RENAISSANCE IN THE BELLY OF A KILLER WHALE
February 23 - 24, 2019
Added Performance: February 22, 2019

Three women chronicle the gentrification of Harlem, journeying through the streets, history, landmarks, and evolving culture of their native neighborhood. Via a fusion of spoken word and song, they take an uproariously funny and deeply moving trip to embrace change while renewing a rich past. Their daring wish: to establish nothing short of a new Harlem Renaissance!

Presented by
Harlem KW Project, LLC

Written by
Jaylene Clark Owens
Hollis Heath
Janelle Heatley
Chyann Sapp

Cast
Jaylene Clark Owens
Hollis Heath
Janelle Heatley

Artistic Sponsors
Marilyn Silford & Bob Butera
Zandra Maffett

“I thought the show was outstanding. The brilliant cast took me back to my career and close connections in the African American culture. I found them spot on in the many roles being played and the varieties of language within that culture. It was a joy to listen to and laugh with the entire evening. Another win at Theater Horizon.”

- Anita Halpern, patron

“It was a wonderful piece of theater, one that made me sad and uncomfortable, then exuberant and delighted.”

- Carol Beam, patron

“Jaylene Clark Owens, Rachel Camp, and Steve Pacek — the artists we chose to feature in our three inaugural Limited Engagement events — all have artistic roots here at Theatre Horizon, but are now achieving great things in the Philadelphia theatre community and beyond. In shining a spotlight on their original work this season, we aimed to support their growth as artists and celebrate them as integral members of the Theatre Horizon family.”

- Erin Reilly, Co-Founder and Artistic Director
THE FEW
Regional Premiere Production
March 14 - April 7, 2019

In the days before the Internet, a small town editor plays matchmaker by publishing a newspaper that runs personal ads, uniting the truck drivers who traverse America’s lonely roads. When her own lost lover resurfaces, long-simmering tensions expose carefully guarded secrets, by turns hilarious, exhilarating, and poignant. Meanwhile Matthew, an eager young writer, compels his jaded mentors to consider whether recommitting to the human race is worth all the trouble.

Written by
Samuel D. Hunter
2014 MacArthur “Genius Grant” Recipient

Directed by
Matthew Decker

Cast
PJ Barth
Suli Holum
Steven Rishard

Executive Honorary Producers
Doug & Sherry Kargher

Artistic Sponsor
Nancy DeLucia

“Director Matt Decker puts together a stellar cast. As the broken and disheartened Bryan, Steven Richard turns in a magnificent performance. He captures the nuances and the inner wrestling of the character. QZ is handled masterfully by Suli Holum. Her underplaying of QZ exposes the character’s fear and disappointment.”

- Philly Life and Culture

“Teatre Horizon now does it great justice, grabbing it with a vengeance and, just like the play, holding on tight.”

- WHYY

Actor Steven Rishard’s paintings were displayed in our lobby and available for purchase throughout the run of the show (see photo, left).
AN EVENING WITH RACHEL CAMP

May 9 - 12, 2019

Spend an evening in the company of one of Philadelphia’s leading musical theatre performers. Barrymore Award-winner Rachel Camp curates a night of Broadway, folk, pop, and rock music taking us on a sublime and autobiographical journey. An irresistible cabaret by an irrepressible Theatre Horizon favorite and a few special guests!

Featuring
Rachel Camp
Katie Horner
Steve Guadulunas

Associate Honorary Producers
Laura & Douglas Pratt

[UNTITLED PROJECT] #213

May 31 - June 2, 2019
Added Performance: June 1, 2019

Based on true events in the life of Barrymore Award-winner Steve Pacek, this meditation on life after tragedy was a hit of the 2010 Philadelphia Fringe Festival. A heartfelt story of learning how to carry on when true love goes missing, told simply and sweetly through music, clowning, dance, and theatre magic.

Presented by
Steve Pacek, Dan Kazemi, & Jenn Rose

Cast
Liz Filios, Sarah Gliko, Matthew Mastronardi, Steve Pacek, Davy Raphaely, Samantha Shepherd, Virgil Gadson

Executive Honorary Producers
Angela Mullen & Lisa Yanak

Artistic Sponsors
Kevin Maurer & Jim Schneider
Laura & Douglas Pratt
SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

• During The Color Purple, we partnered with Laurel House, an agency that provides a hotline, an emergency shelter and dating and domestic violence prevention education throughout Montgomery County (see photo, right).

• In continuing our commitment to make the theatre we produce accessible to everyone, we became a partner theater for ACCESS Philly last year. Since then, 187 ACCESS Cardholders (low-income Pennsylvanians who qualify for cash assistance) have purchased two-dollar tickets to enjoy our critically-acclaimed, professional theater productions. Additionally, 415 Norristown residents redeemed $2 tickets through our Norristown Neighborhood Program.

• We continued offering Relaxed Performances this season during our productions of The Color Purple and The Few. For these performances, we adjust sound levels and soften sudden noises and events. We establish a relaxing-zone for anyone who needs to take a break from the performance and provide a Preparation Packet with details about the show for anyone who would like to prepare in advance.

RECOGNITION

• We have become a national leader in inclusivity for those on the autism spectrum and with other sensitivities, receiving Art-Reach’s 2019 “Cultural Access Award” (see photo, left). Also, at a 2018 Intersections Summit, our Education Director was a featured speaker on the topic of how theaters can address accessibility needs through Relaxed Performances.

• We are thrilled that our production of The Color Purple was nominated for the following 10 Barrymore Awards: Overall Production of a Musical, Direction of a Musical (Amina Robinson), Ensemble of a Musical, Leading Performance in a Musical (Jessica M. Johnson), Supporting Performance in a Musical (Ebony Pullum), Choreography/Movement (Sanchel Brown), Costume Design (Elizabeth Ennis), Lighting Design (Alyssandra Docherty), Music Direction (Amanda Morton) and The Virginia Brown Martin Philadelphia Award.

• In addition to the above Barrymore nominations, our Autism Drama Program was nominated for The Victory Foundation Award for Outstanding Theater Education Program.
OUR 2018/19 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

• Through all of our education programs and initiatives this season, we served over 1,000 students - at the theatre, in our Norristown community, and in the Greater Philadelphia community.

• Our semester-long After-School Drama Clubs served 303 students in 16 elementary and middle schools across Montgomery County. This is a 20% increase in the number of students from last year.

“I was completely overwhelmed by how well [my son] did... the class really transformed him and took him to a new level of self-confidence and group interaction.”

- Parent of Drama Camp Student

• We continued our partnership with ACLAMO Family Centers in Norristown through no-cost Drama Club sessions with activities in both Spanish and English for students ages 9-14.

• We continued our 5-year partnership with The Willow School, a preschool serving children on public assistance. We taught weekly no-cost acting classes to 18 pre-kindergarten students. Improvements were noted in participants’ social skills and ability to express themselves.

“My son loved his teachers and the group of kids he was in camp with. They grew the sweetest little community in just a week. He thrives when he is with a nurturing group and he definitely had that at camp.”

- Parent of Drama Camp Student
• Our unique Autism Drama Program continues to be one of the only programs of its kind in this region and has served over 700 students in 12 years. This was the first full season utilizing our new Connelly Classroom for this program, and we recently secured an Educational Access Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to continue improving our space.

“The program has helped her to face bullies at school and on her bus. It has given her more self-confidence. She still has anxiety, but Drama has helped her. It makes her feel she isn’t the only one in the autism spectrum and there are others like her.”

- Grandmother of Autism Drama Program Student

• This year, we received a grant from The PHILO Project, which produces professional marketing videos for Philadelphia area nonprofit organizations, free of charge. Our new Autism Drama Program video will help us reach more families in the region, so that we can continue to inspire imagination and communication in people with autism or attend our classes.

• During our week-long Summer Drama Camps, we served 333 campers at 14 community locations across Montgomery County. This is an 8% increase in the number of students from last year.

“Mom, I want to go back to that camp next year, and the year after that, and the year after that... until I’m too old to go to theatre camp!”

- Summer Camp Student
CELEBRATING OUR SUPPORTERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
This year, Theatre Horizon’s Board of Directors increased from 12 to 16 members, and Board giving increased 62%, with 100% of Board members making gifts. Theatre Horizon values diversity in all its forms: 19% of our Board members identify as people of color, and our Board is diverse in terms of gender, income level, age, and areas of expertise.

Teresa Wallace, President
Diane Reilly, Vice President
Kristin Midha, Treasurer
Lee Reilly, Secretary
Olivia Brady
Matthew Decker
Gail Fishman
Linda Lipscomb
Zandra Maffett
Erin Reilly
James Schneider
Hugh Simmons
Jeff Smith
Ruth Rosenblatt
Robert Vogel
Andrea Wikerd

FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDERS
We are proud to steward grants from local, national, private, corporate and governmental funders.

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The Barra Foundation
Charlotte Cushman Foundation
CHG Charitable Trust
Child Development Foundation
Connelly Foundation
Delta Kappa Gamma Society International
Dolfinger McMahon Foundation
Hess Foundation
Hirsig Family Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation
Independence Foundation
Lida Foundation
Little Tower Foundation
Loeb Performing Arts Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation
Macy’s
National Endowment for the Arts / Art Works
Patricia Kind Family Foundation
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts
Pennsylvania Department of Education
PHILO Project
PNC Arts Alive
The Shubert Foundation
The Stratton Foundation
The Victory Foundation
Virginia Brown Martin Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation
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