

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

REPORTING ON FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014



CONNECTION





The Great Gatsby, March 2014



A Little Princess, May 2014



Freckleface Strawberry, November 2013

Front cover:
cast of **Mary Poppins**,
December 2013

MISSION

The Erie Playhouse enriches the greater Erie region by providing life-long opportunities to participate in quality theatre.

VISION

The Playhouse's artistic vision is to entertain, educate and enrich our community by providing diverse audiences with an opportunity to see live theatre by presenting affordable, high-quality productions that reflect and enlighten our community. The Playhouse pursues three basic artistic goals:

- The presentation of musical and dramatic theatre experiences which excite, challenge, and transform Playhouse performers and audiences. Each season is a fusion of mainstream and contemporary works that appeal to a wide range of performers and audiences.
- Theatre training that empowers and inspires artists of all ages. The education and training programs cater to young people, emerging artists, and amateur performers and musicians.
- The production of quality theatrical experiences within realistic means.



The Princess Ball, March 2014

ERIE PLAYHOUSE
13 West 10th Street
Erie, PA 16501
814.454.2852 EXT. 0
www.erieplayhouse.org

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY FOR 97 SEASONS

The Erie Playhouse has become one of the premier community theaters in the country, and we never could have done any of it without you. Your encouragement, attendance, and financial gifts have been critically important in maintaining our historical significance.

At root, our goal is to help the community we serve become a place where mutual regard is prized and opportunities for participation are within everyone's reach. We believe theatre can, and often does, enrich the soul and function as a way for performers and patrons to make positive differences in their own lives and in the lives of others. We make every effort for our productions and educational programs to play a significant role in the vitality of our community.

The success of the 2013-2014 Season is a tribute to the gifted performers whose work graced our stage; to the leadership of our artistic and production staff; and to the passionate support and generosity of our donors and patrons. As you read on, I hope you learn something new about the programming on our stage, our outreach opportunities, and our restoration efforts.

The foundation of our work has always been—and continues to be—a fierce, shared sense of community and purpose. I thank you for continuing to make the Erie Playhouse strong through your presence, your patronage, and your positive words.

See you at the theatre,

Almitra Clerkin



Youtheatre Showstoppers, Summer 2014



Reverends Uncork'd, June 2014



YMCA Kids, Summer 2014

2013-2014 ANNUAL FUND SMASHES GOAL

BEST CAMPAIGN EVER

Gifts to the 2013-2014 Annual Fund ranged from small to major and, when combined, were tremendous! We are excited to report the Annual Fund Campaign surpassed its goal by 29%, raising \$192,993. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Doris Becker, the annual fund chair - a 75-year performer, dedicated volunteer and zealous advocate.

Giving at any level is critically important and highly valued. Your donation allows us to address our most urgent priorities. Whatever you give, we thank you for the role you continue to play. The Erie Playhouse is truly a jewel in our community and it shines even more brightly because of support from committed donors like you!

MEET THE KENNEDYS

We are pleased to announce the 2014-2015 Annual Fund chairs are the Kennedy family - Keith, Kelly, Morgan, Keegan and Reagan. Although new to Erie, their commitment to the Erie Playhouse is already making a difference.

The Kennedys relocated to Erie in 2012 for Keith's career at Erie Insurance. Morgan and Keegan were already in high school and Reagan was entering 7th grade, clearly, difficult ages for children to relocate. Little did the Kennedys know that their children's love for theater would be instrumental to making Erie feel like home. Within one week of arriving in Erie, the Kennedys attended a *Les Misérables* performance and Reagan was cast in her first Erie Playhouse Youtheatre show. Since then, Morgan, Keegan, and Reagan have participated in a combined 20 Erie Playhouse Youtheatre and Mainstage productions. The Kennedys look forward to sharing the impact the Erie Playhouse has had on them. In short, it has been life changing.



Keith, Kelly, Keegan, Morgan and Reagan Kennedy

2013-2014 GRANTS

ArtsErie: Project Grant
Erie Arts and Culture
Erie Community Foundation
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Erie Sports Commission
Gannon University GAINS
Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit
Distance Learning Mini-Grant
PA Council on the Arts
Schuster Re-Grant

2013-2014 SPONSORS

A Friend of the Erie Playhouse
Al and Peggy Richardson
The Arlington Family
Arrowhead Wine Cellars
Connoisseur Media
Cumulus Media
David A. Femovich, M.D.
Dias Spring Service
Dusckas Funeral Home, Inc.
Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority
Erie Bank
Erie Beer
Erie Community Foundation

Erie Insurance Group
Erie Playhouse WING
Erie Times News
Fluid Engineering
Gannon University - GAINS
GoErie.com
Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield
Housing Authority of the City of Erie
Jefferson Educational Society
Lamar Advertising
Larese Floral Design
LECOM
Marquette Savings Bank
National Fuel Gas Company
Nautilus Fitness & Racquet Club

Newline Creations
Organ Supply Industries
Penn Shore Vineyard
PNC Bank
Printing Concepts, Inc.
Saint Mary's Home of Erie
Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel
St. Vincent Hospital Foundation
UPMC Hamot
UPMC Health Plan
WJET/FOX 66/YourErie.com
WMCE



Once On This Island, February 2014



Mark Twain's Is He Dead?, July 2014

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) enables companies doing business in PA to support an authorized Education Improvement Organization (EIO) like the Erie Playhouse.

EITC contributions enable the Playhouse to inspire, challenge, amaze, and educate children who might otherwise never experience the joy of live theatre. Thanks to our EITC partners, over 6,000 students attended school matinees, 300 students participated in classes and camps, 15 students completed internships, and 250 students, ages 5-18, learned the craft of theatre by volunteering on stage and behind the scenes, putting in 26,000+ volunteer hours.

The EITC program reduces a portion of your business' tax liability for the contribution tax year. To take advantage of this program, your business must apply through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and pledge to donate to an approved EIO.

In addition to the state tax credit received, many companies can also deduct their contribution on their federal tax return, costing them virtually nothing to strengthen and enhance the educational experience for thousands of local children. This program only funds pre-approved "innovative educational programs."

For more information on how your business can support the Erie Playhouse through the EITC Program, please contact Teri Marshall, Development Director, at 814.454.2852, ext. 4.

The Erie Playhouse would like to thank the following companies for supporting our innovative Educational Improvement Tax Credit Programs.

**ERIE INSURANCE, PNC BANK, MACDONALD ILLIG,
FIRST NATIONAL BANK, SCOTT ENTERPRISES,
WESTLAKE WOODS ASSISTED LIVING**



Father Mike DeMartinis, Reverend Shawn Clerkin,
Joanna and Rabbi John Bush

REVERENDS, AN ELDER AND A RABBI... ALL UNCORK'D!

THE REVIVAL AT THE RIVERSIDE

On Sunday, June 29, 2014, the Playhouse staged a revival of the ever popular Reverends Uncork'd at Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs. Guests enjoyed cocktails and appetizers in the breezeway, serenaded by the Youtheatre Showstoppers, followed by dinner and a show in the ballroom. The celebrity religious—Reverend Donald Baxter, Reverend Shawn Clerkin, Father Mike DeMartinis, Reverend Derrick Ulmer, Elder Sharon P. Newell and Rabbi John Bush—teamed up with their favorite duet partners and thrilled the audience with their religious humor and favorite Broadway tunes.

Mark your calendar for the next Reverends Uncork'd on Sunday, June 28, 2015, once again at Riverside: The Inn at Cambridge Springs. A special thank you to Susan Marshall, who was instrumental in the revival of Reverends Uncork'd, after a one year hiatus.

EXTENDING A LIFETIME OF GIVING

ERIE PLAYHOUSE: 97 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING

We invite you to consider extending your lifetime of support for the Erie Playhouse by becoming a member of the Elisha H. Mack Community Bequest Society. A planned gift guarantees that as long as there is an Erie Playhouse, your legacy will be a part of it.

A bequest is simple and may include a will or trust; lifetime income arrangement such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust, charitable lead trust, or life insurance; or an IRA/401(k) designation. Members do not need to disclose the amount of the gift.

Please contact Susannah Weis Frigon at the Erie Community Foundation at 814.454.0843 or sfrigon@eriecommunityfoundation.org or Almitra Clerkin at 814.454.2852 ext. 7 or almi@erieplayhouse.org to support the Erie Playhouse in perpetuity.



Jesus Christ Superstar, June 2014



Carrie the Musical, October 2013

I was brought to Erie County in summer 2012 when my wife, Julie Wollman, took the presidency at Edinboro University. Since our arrival, I've attended almost all of the Erie Playhouse productions. I've been especially impressed by the high quality of each. As one who many, many years ago served as a musical director for a community theatre company in Michigan, I know, first-hand, the challenges that are present in your work. The quality of Erie Playhouse productions is nothing short of outstanding...the quality of life in the City of Erie and Erie County is measurably better because of the presence of the Erie Playhouse.

Dan L. King - Season Ticket Holder

FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

ERIE PLAYHOUSE ENDS FISCAL YEAR WITH A SURPLUS

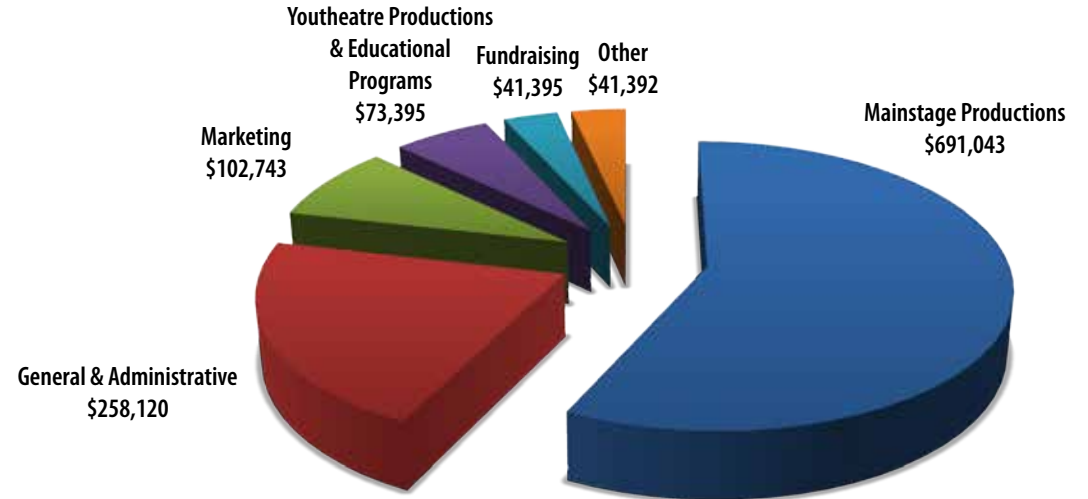
The solid financial performance of fiscal year 2014 was driven largely by the success of the operating fund campaign and sponsorship line item. We continue to keep day-to-day operating expenses within or below budget and remain dedicated to being a focused and accountable institution. Our success is predicated on the talent and hard work of the Erie Playhouse staff. We are pleased to present a fiscal report showing a surplus balance of \$13,399 on an operating budget of \$1.2 million.



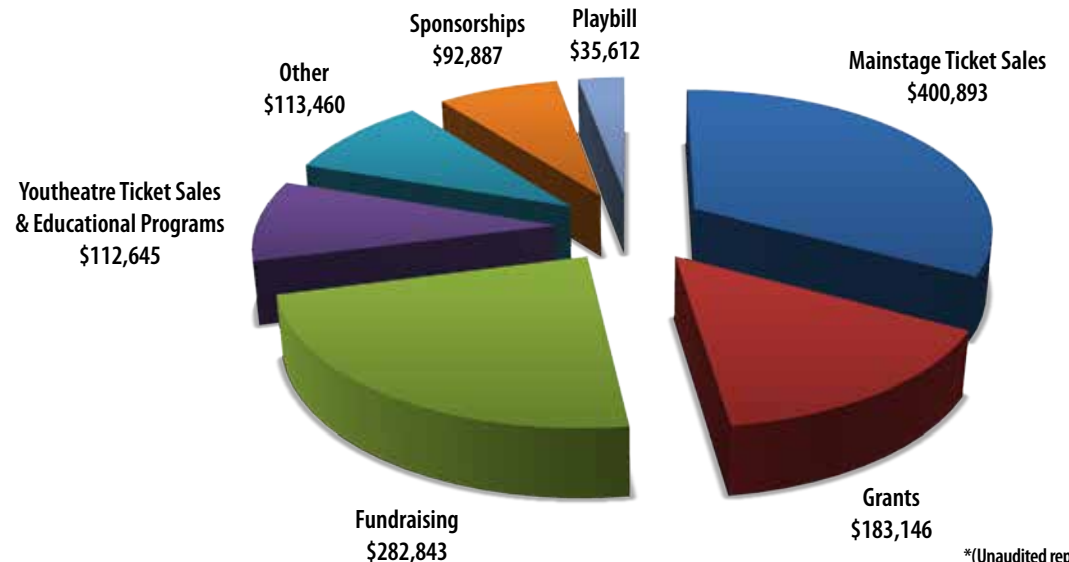
Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein, August 2014

FISCAL YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31, 2014

EXPENSES \$1,208,088



REVENUE \$1,221,486



*(Unaudited report)

YOUTHEATRE—A LEADING FORCE IN THE REGION

BUILDING 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

The Erie Playhouse embraces education and community as vital components of its mission and has succeeded in making its education and community programs a leading force in the region.

Our Youtheatre offers a rich environment that facilitates learning; fosters self-respect, discipline, perseverance, and cooperation; shapes imaginative and creative skill; and develops a life-long appreciation for the arts. Prior to the school matinees, the Youtheatre and Education Director provides standard-based study guides to teachers to facilitate curriculum integration in reading, writing, speaking, arts & humanities, history, and science.

THE GOALS OF THE PLAYHOUSE YOUTHEATRE PROGRAMS:

- Build 21st century skills: time management, creative thinking, problem-solving, decision making, responsibility, flexibility, self-management, teamwork, and leadership.
- Increase the number of students benefitting from performing arts programs.
- Make live theatre available and affordable for all students in and around the Erie region.
- Maintain the high quality of Youtheatre performances.
- Encourage the creative potential of children.
- Foster an appreciation for the arts.
- Build community identity and pride.
- Increase respect and compassion for others and emotional self-control.
- Bolster tolerance of community diversity.
- Raise academic skill levels and performance by students, especially in reading, writing, speaking, and listening.



Aladdin, JR, January 2014

DID YOU KNOW?

The Erie Playhouse Youtheatre has been in existence since the 1940's. Staffed by volunteers for over 50 seasons, it produced hundreds of theatrical productions. In 1992, the Erie Playhouse, with the generous support of the Erie Community Foundation, added our first full-time Youtheatre Director, Almitra Clerkin. The Youtheatre provides students ages 5 to 18 the opportunity to take theatrical classes, attend acting camps, participate in staged productions and internships, and perform in THE SHOWSTOPPERS, a traveling song and dance troupe.

DO SOMETHING SPECIAL WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE

THE BONITATIBUS STORY

There is something to be said for taking time to do something special with the one you love. Just ask Pat Bonitatibus.

In 1985, Pat began dating Dominick Bonitatibus. Their preferred date was dinner and an Erie Playhouse show. After their marriage in 1987, they bought season tickets, and dinner and a show became an integral part of their 27 year love affair. Pat laughed when she recalled that “our season ticket seats started in the back section in front of the sound booth, but we were gradually able to move up to row E, seats 105 & 106, on the 2nd Saturday of each run. We dressed up special and Dom always held my hand as we watched the shows.”

In those 27 years, Pat says they missed only two shows. It was so important that they worked their schedules around show dates. When her father came to live with them in 2011, they arranged for a sitter so they never skipped a dinner and a show night. Pat said, “Over the years we saw some shows multiple times, some shows we knew nothing about that became our favorites and some shows that we weren’t crazy about, but we never walked out. Even shows we weren’t crazy about gave us something to think and talk about.”

They learned through the years that they would much rather receive each other’s time and attention than some fancy gift. When Dominick died in 2013, Pat requested that in lieu of flowers, their family and friends send donations to the Erie Playhouse – a place that held such special meaning and memories. Pat did not renew her season ticket in 2014. “There was no way I could go to the Playhouse without Dom. Maybe some time later I will be able to, but not now. I’ll always cherish the memories we had of our Saturday date nights at the Playhouse.”



Dominick and Pat Bonitatibus

THANK YOU

TO OUR 2013-2014 FUND DRIVE CONTRIBUTORS

The following businesses, foundations and individuals made gifts to the Erie Playhouse and are listed according to Circle of Friends levels. Their support touched thousands of lives in the community. Contributors are updated in every Mainstage Playbill and prior to each performance on our preshow video.

Producer Circle

(2,500 +)

Don & Susan Baxter

Richard & Victoria Brogdon

Erie Community Foundation +

Erie Insurance Matching
Gifts Program +

Eriez Magnetics

GE Matching Grant Foundation

Dr. & Mrs. R. T. Guelcher

Ms. Barbara Clark Huang in
Memory of Becky Flynt

Anonymous +

Bruce & Nancy Kern +

The Kern Family Foundation Fund
of the Erie Community Foundation

Bob & Christy Koontz +

Howard & Mary Lincoln

Bob Malyuk in Memory
of Melanie Pulice

Sara Mapstone +

The Merwin Foundation

Barbara R. Pollock

Reverends Uncork'd Patrons

Al & Peggy Richardson

Vorsheck Family Foundation, Inc. +

Young Frankenstein Audiences

Director Circle

(\$1,000-\$2,499)

Rebecca & Evan Adair

American Legion Post 771

Michael & Paula Barrett +

Shelly & David Benjamin

Broadway on the Bay

Dr. Michael Butler

Circolo Nazionale Lodge #122

Carla W. Clark +

Erie Maennerchor Club

Claire & John Fair

Greg & Janis Filbeck

Dr. Doug & Kathy Grisier

Susan & Tom Hagan +

Keith & Kelly Kennedy

Rick & Marjie Klein

Carl Larese +

Anonymous

Robert W. & Mercedes McNutt +

Anonymous

Marco & Betsy Monsalve

Douglas & Deborah Murphy

Jim O'Leary +

Paul Ostergaard +

Mrs. Russell B. Roth

Judith Selling

Matthew L. Sherr +

Jeffrey & Barbara Shivers +

Dr. & Mrs. Barry Stamm

Carl & Donna Steiner +

Heather Steiner

South Erie Turners

The Sunflower Club

Atty. & Mrs. James Toohey +

Timothy & Susan Trott Family
Charitable Fund +

The Gerard T. Uht, Sr. Family Fund
of the Erie Community Foundation

Lorraine & Hillert Vitt +

William A. J. (Bill) Williams

Benefactor Circle

(\$600-\$999)

Jim & Wendy Bahm

Jeanne R. Clemente +

Rev. Shawn & Almitra Clerkin

Richard Davis & Jerry Gill +

Gary & Emy Dougan +

Pat & Linda Federici +

Dr. Brad & Becky Fox

Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Kuzma +

Tom & Cindy Madura

Seth & Teri Marshall

B. McLaughlin

Nancy & Michael Meyer +

Ann Moffatt-Link

Jill & Ronald Over

Dr. Timothy Pelkowski &
Dr. Cassie Harrington

Joan F. Rutkowski

Thomas Unger &
Marisa Moks-Unger

Joanna & Roger Zurn

Sustainer Circle

(\$300-\$599)

American Legion Carl Neff Post 571

Jane & Gil Asher

Jim & Mary Ann Baldauf

Ron, Bonnie & Tim Barthelmes

Chuck & Diana Bool +

Bob & Carole Brotherson +

Leo Brugger

Ken & Julie Brundage +

Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program

Eileen Clemente +

Contine Corporation

Charles Corritore +

Mr. & Mrs. James Dammeyer +



Monty Python's Spamalot, September 2013



Jesus Christ Superstar, June 2014

Dale R. DeMarco
 Dr. & Mrs. David Dulabon
 Anonymous
 Dr. & Mrs. Greg Engel +
Erie Press Systems
 George & Cyndy Espy
 Jim & Linda Fleming +
 Dick & Sandra Fry
 Marion Gallivan
 Gas Grill Raffle
 Jim & Nancy Griffey +
 Richard & Noreen Griffith +
 Michael & Patricia Hall
 Bill & Martha Hilbert

Peg & Phil Iobst
 Susan E. Kaliszewski
 Joan & Alan Karns
 Paul King
 Juanita & Phillip Kleckner
 Dr. & Mrs. Dave Kruszewski +
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Chads & Kate Martin
 Robert Martin
 Gary, Sara & Amy Matczak +
 Margaret & David Matthews
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Mr. Gordon Osborn
 Marge & Chuck Phillips
Kristin Prechtel +
 Dick & Willie Rahner +
 Anonymous
 Steven J. Ropski &
 Melanie Gustafson Ropski
 Lois & Nels Sandberg +
 Martha Schaaf +
 Dr. & Mrs. Jack Schaaf
 Janet C. Sesler
 Marilyn Sharp

Specialty Tree Care
 Sportsman's Athletic Club
 Roberta J. Stoughton
 George Strenio +
**UBS Community Affairs
 & Corporate Responsibility**
Jerry & Holly Villella
 Bruce & Phyllis Vollbrecht
 Bob & JoAnn Wagner +
 Al & Beverly Walz +
 Sam & Cheryl Ward
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael Watts
 Julie & Phil Wilson +
 Bruce & Janice Wittmershaus
 Caroline Wolf

Supporter Circle
 (\$125-\$299)
 Dan & Christina Alfieri
 In Memory of John Alleruzzo +
Bob & Marcia Allshouse
 Donald M. Alstadt Fund of the
 Erie Community Foundation
 Bruce & Kathleen Arkwright
Diane Baumgardner
 Warren & Christine Beaver
 Doris M. Becker
 Mr. Tom Bedner +
Judy Benedict
 Sheryl Bennett
Joan & Boyd Bert
 Diane M. Blake +
 Richard D. & Juldith L. Bliley
 Dennis Borczon &
 MaryAnne Albaugh
 Ed & Linda Buetikofer
 Diane Verdecchia Byrne
Les Caldwell
Nancy & Dennis Carlson
 David & Debbie Carter +
 Glenn & Sue Chichester +
 John & Judy Cipriani
 Theresa Conti +
**Mr. & Mrs. Kevin M. Cooney
 & Family**

Les Crago, Jeweler, Inc.
 Dr. Ron & Kelly Craig
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 Dancewear Center
 Sharon L. Davenport
 Atty. Mark & Amy Denlinger +
 Ernest & Elizabeth Disantis
 Ellie DuCharme
 Eades Insurance Agency +
Chuck Eisert
John B. & Arlene J. Evans
 Jeff & Emily Evans +
 Gary & Deb Faulkner +
 Anonymous +
 Kitty Felion +
Robert & Christie Ferrier
 Richard F. Flynn
Vic & Judy Glembocki
 Jim & Sandy Globa
 Mrs. Dawn Gloss
 The John P. & Billie R. Grondon
 Fund of the Erie Community
 Foundation
 Prof. David J. Gustafson +
 Gary & Connie Haibach +
 Mike & Lynn Halasz +
 Patti Hammond +
Don & Becky Hart

Luke & Kristen Henry +
Daniel & Denise Hesch
Garth & Peggy Hetz
The William & Rebecca Hilbert
Family Charitable Endowment
Fund of the Erie Community
Foundation +

Derek & Rebekah Holmes

Fred & Bernie Infield +

Maureen Jeffreys

Matt Jorden

Bruce & Bonnie Kern

Raymond & Adelle Klappa

Midge Klebes

Knights of St. John

Mark & Sharon Kresse

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel J. Laughlin +

Sue & Bob Lechner +

Jim & Susan Leri

Renie & Brady Louis +

Mark & Diane Lugin

Joan & Frank Mainzer +

Michael P. Martin

Frank & Mary McCann +

H. Jean McMillin

Anonymous +

Forrest & Shirley Mischler

Moniuszko Singing Society

Betty L. Motsch +
Anonymous
Rol & Marge Nord
Allen C. Ogden
Nancy O'Neill +
Sue & George Pfeiffer +
PNC Bank Foundation +
Anonymous

Carol Lee Restifo

Gene & Marcia Rougeux

Ron, Cindi & Jess Ruf +

John & Pat Rushe

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sadler

Chester Sceiford

Peggy Schaaf

In memory of Jaci Schmidt

Carol & Richard Schroeck

Gary & Barbara Shapira

Slovak National Club

Ms. Florence M. Smith

Michael J. & Kathleen A. Smith

Mrs. Kathleen Spafford

Ron & Mary Kay Sturga

Carole A. Suesser

Leo & Linda Swantek

Mary D. Tellers

Amy Tevis

Gerry & Peggy Trichel
Diane & Richard Valahovic
Dr. Randall & Amy Valentine
Rahul & Nisha Warriar
Mr. & Mrs. William R. Weborg +
J. Howard & Carol K. Wright
Richard & Diane Yeager
George & Betty Zehner

+ indicates increase giving

bold indicates new donors

Italics indicates matching

*Donors as of 8/31/14



Mel Brooks' Young Frankenstein, August 2014



Mary Poppins, December 2013

MAINSTAGE and YOUTHEATRE

PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

The 2013-2014 Season presented a variety of topnotch shows, most of which were debuts. Our eight Mainstage productions of six musicals and two plays ranged from flights of medieval merriment to high-flying kites and actors! Our Youtheatre productions introduced audiences to a lovable princess, street urchin and his comic Genie, and a freckle-face girl.



MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$77,861
Production Expenses: \$37,631
Performances: 13
Attendance: 4,238
Percent Capacity: 75%



CARRIE THE MUSICAL

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$32,652
Production Expenses: \$21,125
Performances: 11
Attendance: 2,271
Percent Capacity: 48%



YOUTHEATRE:

FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$22,151
Production Expenses: \$13,599
Performances: 11
Attendance: 2,363
Percent Capacity: 50%



MARY POPPINS

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$98,100
 Production Expenses: \$69,463
 Performances: 19
 Attendance: 6,428
 Percent Capacity: 78%



YOUTHEATRE:

ALADDIN, JR

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$36,865
 Production Expenses: \$17,644
 Performances: 13
 Attendance: 4,515
 Percent Capacity: 80%



ONCE ON THIS ISLAND

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$33,627
 Production Expenses: \$20,903
 Performances: 11
 Attendance: 2,125
 Percent Capacity: 45%

I have been involved in anything theatre ever since I was eight years old. When it came time to pick a college, I sought one that allowed me to be surrounded by my passion for theatre and make a steady income. I found Penn State Erie, The Behrend College had the perfect program - Arts Administration, which includes business courses alongside classes in the arts. As part of my program, I interned at the Erie Playhouse. Sue Lechner, Marketing, and Teri Marshall, Development, helped me gain a true understanding of what a career in this field is really all about. I thank them for their guidance, patience and the opportunity to get first-hand experience in my life-long passion.

Vee Butler, Erie Playhouse Marketing and Development Intern



THE GREAT GATSBY

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$37,760
 Production Expenses: \$20,819
 Performances: 12
 Attendance: 2,734
 Percent Capacity: 53%



YOUTHEATRE:

A LITTLE PRINCESS

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$28,673
 Production Expenses: \$16,453
 Performances: 11
 Attendance: 2,831
 Percent Capacity: 59%



JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$75,611
 Production Expenses: \$27,865
 Performances: 15
 Attendance: 4,476
 Percent Capacity: 69%

We had a mini EP reunion last night in the city...it was an absolute blast. Hours and hours of stories, laughter and just incredible fun. It is clear to all of us, whether in the industry or not, that our love of theatre and collaboration was nurtured and fostered at the Erie Playhouse and the lifelong relationships that have been forged are literally priceless.

Matthew Sherr, Youtheatre and Mainstage Performer and Annual Fund Donor



MARK TWAIN'S IS HE DEAD?

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$28,096
 Production Expenses: \$15,534
 Performances: 11
 Attendance: 1,793
 Percent Capacity: 38%



MEL BROOKS' YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

Ticket & Sponsorship Revenue: \$46,478
 Production Expenses: \$35,251
 Performances: 11
 Attendance: 2,943
 Percent Capacity: 62%

THE PRINCESS BALL

MUSIC, TOILE, TIARAS AND SMILES

Every little girl who dreams of being a princess can have her dream come true by attending The Princess Ball!

The 4th annual Princess Ball was held on March 30, 2014 at the Ambassador Conference Center. The princesses, in their royal attire (princess costumes or fancy dresses), had the option of visiting the Royal Hair & Nail Salon, Princess Boutique and Royal Raffle before being ushered to their elaborately decorated tables to enjoy food fit for a princess. Following refreshments, their favorite Prince and Princesses made their Grand Entrance and everyone had a chance for picture-perfect photo ops and royal dancing.

Tickets for this magical event sell out within weeks. Tickets for the April 12, 2015 Princess Ball at the Bayfront Convention Center go on sale February 2.



The Princess Ball, March 2014



MILESTONES ACHIEVED

This year we were honored to recognize two people who are such important members of the Erie Playhouse community and whose contributions are absolutely key to the success of our theatre and productions.



RICHARD DAVIS

VISION AND DEDICATION FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

In August, we added a bronze star in the floor of the outer lobby to commemorate Richard Davis' 25 years of service.

Whether he has stepped into the limelight or worked tirelessly behind the scenes as producing director, director or choreographer, his dedication has been invaluable.



CHARLES CORRITORE

INDELIBLE IMPACT ON THE LAST FOUR DECADES

In July, we celebrated Charlie Corritore's 40 years of continuous, persistent, and exemplary service and leadership. His contributions as a playwright, actor, singer, dancer, director, business manager and ticket seller extraordinaire have been instrumental to our artistic and financial growth.



TEACHERS ON TAP

ROBERTA STOUGHTON AWARDED DR. DORIS SNELL AWARD

Congratulations to Roberta Stoughton, who received the Dr. Doris Snell Award at the 4th annual Teachers on Tap concert on March 29, 2014. The award is named after its first recipient, Dr. Doris Snell, whose commitment to her community and love of theatre is legendary. The second recipient, Bob Martin, is a veteran Playhouse performer and musician. The third recipient, Judy Matthews, has appeared in over 60 Playhouse productions and conducted over 50 shows. Bob, Judy and Roberta embody the heart of this award.

Roberta Stoughton has dedicated her life to both the classroom and the Erie Playhouse. Her association with the Playhouse began 28 years ago in 1986. She has volunteered for over 35 shows as vocal director, music director and pit pianist, and was instrumental in designing the Playhouse summer camp. Roberta sets the bar high; she holds all of us accountable to meet these high expectations. She can do this because she expects nothing less from herself; everyone who has worked with her knows Roberta delivers. Her life-long philosophy in theatre is, "If you are cast as a rock, the production needs you to be the best rock you can be!" Congratulations on a well-deserved honor!



Roberta Stoughton, with grandchildren Morgan and Will Olson and daughter Sarah



Tammy and Jim Gandolfo, and Rev. Shawn Clerkin with their dear friend Roberta Stoughton



The **YOUTHEATRE SHOWSTOPPERS** are the Erie Playhouse ambassadors in Erie County. Throughout the year, this talented song and dance troupe performs musical variety shows for organizational meetings, parties, school functions, festivals, and holiday events. For booking or information, contact Kate Neubert-Lechner at kate@erieplayhouse.org or 814.454.2852 ext. 6.



Bruce and Nancy Kern

DONOR APPRECIATION DINNER

BENEFACTOR, DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER CIRCLES

Donna, Heather and Hannah Steiner, the Annual Fund Chairs for the 2012-13 Season, hosted our donor appreciation dinner on November 12, 2013 on the set of *Freckleface Strawberry*. Invitations for this annual event are sent to our **Circle of Friends** patrons at the **Benefactor, Director** and **Producer** levels. Sixty-four guests enjoyed the signature cocktail, Strawberry Champagne Punch, and the strawberry-themed four-course dinner prepared by Dr. Donald Baxter with wine-pairing by Dr. Dennis Borczon. Following dinner, *Freckleface Strawberry* cast members entertained the guests with highlights from the Youtheatre show.



Sara Mapstone, Georgi Harrington and Almitra Clerkin

HOLIDAY PARTY

PRACTICALLY PERFECT MARTINI A PEPPERMINT SENSATION

Doris Becker, the 2013-2014 annual fund chair, hosted the Erie Playhouse holiday party on December 10th, 2013 from 5:30 to 7:30pm at the Erie Playhouse. Guests could mingle with friends and watch a Showstopper performance on the set of *Mary Poppins* while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, along with the featured drink, a *Practically Perfect Martini*.

Many thanks to the wonderful holiday party Planning Committee of Thomas Bedner, Diana Bool, Kathy Grisier, Carl Larese, and Teri Marshall. Also, thank you to additional helpers Emily Cassano, Almitra Clerkin, Sue Lechner, Don Baxter, Amy Tevis and the Erie Playhouse Board of Directors.

We are so looking forward to the next holiday party! Invitations are sent to our **Circle of Friends** patrons at the **Sustainer, Benefactor, Director** and **Producer** levels.



Mary Poppins, December 2013



Almitra Clerkin, Jeanne Clemente and Betsy Guelcher

LAUNCH PARTY

PLAYHOUSE ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET

On March 25, 2014, over 400 VIP guests joined us on the red carpet for our first ever Launch Party. Guests enjoyed butlered hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and an exclusive preview of our 2014-2015 Season. We offered special promotions to guests who renewed or purchased traditional or open card season tickets that night!



Ben Speggen, Rebecca Styn and Brad Triana



Board member Bill Williams with Christine Pennsy and Doug Massey



Kelly Craig, Almitra Clerkin, Luke Weyand and his mom Julie



Richard and Victoria Brogdon with Jim Toohey

97th SEASON OPENS WITH

MONTY PYTHON'S SPAMALOT

On September 12, 2014, we celebrated the opening of our 97th season with a pre-show gathering at 21 la rue dix, followed by the premiere performance of *Monty Python's SPAMALOT*. Thank you to Arrowhead Wine Cellar, Erie Beer, Penn Shore Winery and Vineyards, and the following restaurants who made this event such a resounding success: Make It Fabulous, 1201 Kitchen, Pufferbelly, Plymouth Tavern, La Bella, Erie Ale House, Bertrand's Bistro, Molly Brannigans, Wegmans West, Sheraton Erie Bayfront, Sabella's Catering, Calamaris Squid Row, Pineapple Eddie, Jekyll & Hyde's Gastropub, and Frankie & May.



Board members Carl Larese, Chads Martin and Patrick Hesidence with Carole Brotherson (Playhouse Advertising)

AUDIO AND VISUAL UPGRADES ACCOMPLISHED

PATRONS ENJOY NEW LOOK AND IMPROVED SOUND

The audio and visual upgrades to the Playhouse proceeded according to schedule. Generous gifts from individual donors, corporate sponsorships and foundation grants funded this \$200,000 project.



BEFORE

Phase One, completed in 2013, included the installation of a digital, state-of-the-art soundboard; a production staff communication system; an advanced rear projector system; flat screen TV so the actors on stage can see the conductor; a Grand Curtain and wooden stage floor. We also purchased a Yamaha keyboard, a Yamaha piano that can double as a midi keyboard, LED orchestra lights, and three new spotlights.

Phase Two, completed several days prior to the September 19 opening of our 98th season, included installing a new Infrared Listening System and replacing the damaged sound insulation and acoustical wall treatment fabric with 3,735 square feet of acoustical insulation and flame resistant fabric. The 14 existing wall light fixtures were replaced with 10 fluorescent wall sconces, which provide the same light output as the old fixtures using 25% of the wattage. Also installed was 256 lineal feet of oak chair rail. Local contractors repaired and painted the water-damaged ceiling and side walls. A special thank you goes to Pittsburgh Stage, Vogt Finishes, LLC, Acclaim Electric, and Gris  Audio Visual.

These renovations ensure that our audiences receive the maximum of enjoyment and understanding in a visually inviting space, inspire performers to give their best, provide the closest communication between performers and audiences, and attract additional events to our venue. It also gives performers a full sense of the sound, so that they, actors or musicians, can control it for greatest expressiveness.



DURING



AFTER

This project became a reality by the generous support of American Legion Carl Neff Post 571, American Legion East Erie Post 771, anonymous, David & Shelly Benjamin, Richard & Victoria Brogdon, Circolo National Lodge, Erie Arts & Culture, Erie Community Foundation, Erie Gives Day, Erie Insurance Matching, Erie Maennerchor Club, Erie Playhouse Wing, Eriez Magnetics, G.E. Matching, Bob & Betsy Guelcher, Cheryl Hirst, Barbara Huang in Memory of Becky Flynt, Kern Family Foundation, Knights of St. John, Bob & Christy Koontz, Mary & Howard Lincoln (M. J. Surgala Trust), Bob Malyuk in Memory of Melanie Pulice, Sara Mapstone, Marquette Savings Bank, Michael P. Martin, Norbert M. Meister, Richard A. Merwin, PNC Foundation, Barbara Pollock, Slovak National Club, South Erie Turners, Sportsman's Athletic Club, Saint Mary's Home of Erie, Hillert & Lorraine Vitt, and Roger & Joanna Zurn.

2013-14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Monty Python's *Spamalot*, September 2013

2013-2014 STAFF

Almitra Clerkin, *Executive Director*
 Richard Davis, *Producing Director*
 Charles Corritore, *Business Manager*
 Carolin Lynn, *Asst. Business Manager*
 Susan Lechner, *Marketing Director*
 Emily Cassano, *Youtheatre/Education Director*
 Teri Marshall, *Dev. Asst./Season Ticket Manager*
 Angela Howell, *Costume Designer*
 Crystal Corritore, *Asst. Costume Designer*
 Joe Hassler, *Scenic & Lighting Design*
 Matt Hornyak, *Scenic & Lighting Asst.*
 Domenic Del Greco, *Scenic Asst.*
 Andrew Rainbow, *Music Director*
 Carole Brotherson, *Playbill Ads*
 Michael Evans, *House Manager*
 Karen Etter, *Box Office Asst.*



4TH ANNUAL ERIE GIVES DAY A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS

ERIE PLAYHOUSE ONE OF 313 NONPROFITS BENEFITTING

On Aug. 12, 2014, the Erie Community Foundation hosted the 4th Annual Erie Gives. Participating nonprofits also received a percentage of the \$200,000 pro-rated match pool from GE Transportation, Erie Insurance, Presque Isle Downs & Casino, and the Erie Community Foundation. In 12 hours, \$2,225,550 was raised.

The Erie Playhouse ranked sixth in the number of donors with 216 and fifth in the amount raised at \$55,085. With the pro-rated match, our total was \$60,350.82. We dedicated these funds to the acoustics and visual renovation project.

Donors could text, call, email or Facebook Almitra for a thank-you shout out on the marquee. Our sincerest gratitude to all organizations and individuals who support the Erie Playhouse from coast to coast on Erie Gives Day.

THE NEXT ERIE GIVES DAY IS AUGUST 11, 2015!



ERIE PLAYHOUSE WING

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