2010 – 2011 Season of Plays and Educational Programming

ONSTAGE and in your Classroom

Bringing excitement to your curriculum at unbeatable prices!

www.FirstStage.org
**DEAR EDUCATORS**

First Stage Children’s Theater is proud to serve as the leader of Wisconsin’s arts-in-education programming.

The Education Department’s goal is to incite young people’s excitement for learning, and we do so by helping classroom teachers explore their curriculum in interactive, imaginative, and integrated methods. Through our professional theater performances, classroom workshops and residencies, we encourage students of all grade levels and ages to experience their world differently and find new connections to their school curriculum.

The benefits of taking your students to a First Stage Children’s Theater performance are instantly recognizable and can be limitless. The resources, workshops and residencies provided by our Education Department will ensure that the discussion, wonder, amazement and curiosity that begins by attending our shows will last throughout the school year. Moreover, our educational programs and enrichment materials are designed to help you address the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Standards and the Milwaukee Public School Learning Targets in your classroom. We hope you and your students join us for a First Stage Children’s Theater production this season—a springboard for learning across the entire curriculum!

Best regards,

Julia Magnasco
Education Director

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Cover photo by Jen McClellan
An innovative year-long program combining performances and in-school workshops at an affordable price.

Benefits to the Classroom Partnership Program include:

- **Tickets to First Stage Children’s Theater**
  Plus, school groups receive one additional chaperone ticket for every 10 students attending a school show.

- **In-School Setting the Stage Pre-Show Workshop**
  A 45-minute in-school workshop lead by a First Stage Teaching Artist prior to seeing a production at First Stage – see Page 3 for further details.

- **In-School Curtain Call Post-Show Workshop**
  A 45-minute in-school workshop lead by a First Stage Teaching Artist after seeing a production at First Stage – see Page 3 for further details.

- **T³—Teaching Through Theater Workshop**
  A weeklong T³ in-school workshop, choosen from a list of over 15 workshops. See Page 4 for further details.

- **Specially designed art and music projects**
  Partnership classrooms receive first priority in displaying student artwork relating to First Stage productions in the lobby of the Todd Wehr Theater. Our Education Department will work with art and music teachers to incorporate dramatic themes and music from First Stage productions into their already existing fine arts curriculum.

  *Our Partnership classrooms receive a discount of over 25% on all First Stage programming. The cost for each student is only $15!*

  *For more information, see page 17.*
Setting the Stage Pre-Show & Curtain Call Post-Show Workshops

Let your students’ enriching experience start well before their trip to the theater with our Setting the Stage workshops, and continue well after the show with our Curtain Call workshops!

Setting the Stage workshops are 45-minute interactive pre-show sessions that take place right in your classroom the week before your trip to the performance. From these workshops, your students will gain a meaningful understanding and awareness of the play’s subject, while developing strong, personal connections to the themes explored throughout the performance.

Curtain Call workshops are 45-minute post-show sessions that take place right in your classroom the week after your trip to the theater. These workshops continue to develop understanding and connections to themes and issues presented in the show, and include an extended talk back with the Teaching Artist.

For only $40 per classroom, Setting the Stage workshops and Curtain Call workshops ensure your students enjoy a well-rounded experience with First Stage.

For schools outside Milwaukee County, a mileage fee will be added to the workshop costs, in accordance with current IRS mileage rates.

Theater Etiquette Workshop Add-On

For only $10 more, enhance your Setting the Stage workshop experience by incorporating a 15-minute exploration of the theatrical elements of each show and proper theater etiquette.

For more information, see page 17.
Creative Drama Workshops
introduce theater to young people (typically grades K-4). Students will imagine, interact, and reflect upon stories and improvised situations.

Core Drama Workshops
provide actor training for students (typically grades 3-12). Core classes can concentrate on several areas, including stage movement, voice and speech, improvisation, acting theory, and Shakespeare.

Professional Development Workshops for Teachers
bring the Education Director and Teaching Artists at First Stage to your school to work with teachers and staff on integrating drama into the traditional curriculum. These workshops can take place during staff meetings or on in-service days. For information on our three-credit Professional Development course offered in collaboration with Alverno College: Methods of Utilizing Theater Arts in the Traditional Elementary, Middle and High School Curriculum see page 2.

Limitless Workshops
The Education Department will customize a workshop to fit your individual needs. If you have a subject you wish to explore, consider having a conversation with the creative staff of First Stage Children’s Theater’s Education Department to discover just how much we can bring to you and your students. Perfect for High Interest Days, Forensics team coaching, Girl Scout and Boy Scout troop meetings, team building, and more!

Our Theater Workshop fee is $100 per hour for a class of up to 30 students. For more information, see page 17.

The Teaching Through Theater (T³) workshops are weeklong lessons, in which First Stage Teaching Artists visit individual classrooms for 50 – 75 minute sessions on two separate occasions during the week. Classroom teachers are supplied with comprehensive lesson plans to continue the learning experience in between the Teaching Artists’ visits.

T³ workshops utilize dramatic activities to teach lessons throughout the elementary and middle school curricula, and are directly linked to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Standards. Our T³ programs enhance students’ understanding and comprehension of curricular topics by developing their personal connections to these subjects through active learning.

To book a T³ Program for your school
The T³ fee is $350 for the first classroom and $250 for each subsequent classroom of the same program content. The fee for the development of a new T³ Program is $500. For more information see page 17.
A School of Fish Stays Together (grades K4-1)
Join *Swimmy* as he travels through the ocean meeting new creatures such as a jellyfish, lobster and eel. These sea creatures teach *Swimmy* important skills in teamwork and *Swimmy* uses these new tools to help his red fish friends work together to conquer their fear of the big tuna fish.

Letter Detectives (grades K4-1)
Students become detectives in this mystery of the lost letters as they discover specific letters missing from words in all the picture books throughout the classroom. Students work together to sound out letters, discover words that rhyme, and eventually put the words in the books back together.

Frog and Toad (grades K5-2)
Using story drama, the Teaching Artists will guide students through an exploration of friendship, theater and the elements of a narrative story structure.

Our Stellar Solar System (grades K5-2)
Students will join Ms. Frizzle and the rest of the Magic School Bus gang as they explore and learn all about the different planets in our solar system, using the story of The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System. Students will learn about space travel, the sun, meteors, and discover how Earth differs from the other planets in the solar system.

Differences (grades 2-3)
Students experience the importance of accepting differences in others through the use of creative drama connected to the book *Zink the Zebra* and Dr. Seuss's *The Sneetches*.

Fractured Fairytales (grades 2-4)
The characters in fairytale land want a change. They have fallen out of their stories and insist on exploring new fairytale domains. Students will discover how character, setting, and given circumstances affect a story as they act out old classics with a twist.

The Oregon Trail (grades 3-4)
Working in family groups, students plan their journey and then set off on the trail. In order to survive they must work together to solve the many problems that arise for these pioneers.

Invention Convention (grades 3-5)
Students become fantastic inventors from around the world. They are asked to aid in the development of a museum of inventions. Suddenly a mystery ensues and they must learn how to apply simple physics in order to solve the dilemma.

Journey to the Center of the Earth (grades 3-5)
Students participate in a dramatic journey to the center of the earth. Along the way they must work together to solve problems, including the identification of the various layers of the earth and their corresponding types of rocks and minerals.

Communication (grades 3-5)
Cast as experts in communication, the students travel through time to witness and participate in important events in the history of communication, including Early Man, Ancient Egypt, the Romans, the Pony Express, Radio Drama and a visit with Thomas Edison.

Life of the Lumberjack (grades 4-5)
Explore Wisconsin history as you travel back in time to experience life in a turn of the century lumber camp.

“T³ experience really helped my students grasp this subject better than ever before. I could tell they really understood the content because they didn’t just forget about it after the test— they are still talking about it.”

- Blakewood Elementary Classroom Teacher

Super Creative Writing! (grades 4-6)
Students will create and become their own Super Heroes, all while exploring adjectives, verbs, prepositions and other rules of grammar, along with different writing styles in this action-packed workshop! Students will devise and play out adventures of protagonist heroes and antagonist villains and write their own Super Hero comic adventures!

Immigration (grades 5-6)
Students explore immigration through dramatic role playing—from the reasons people left their homes behind to their travels in steerage, from the dreams of America to their arrival at Ellis Island.

Colonial America (grades 5-7)
Beginning in a colonial classroom, students experience life through a colonist’s eyes. Students will create their own colonist character immersed in a world of hot seat debates and trouble within their community. Through process drama, the class will make decisions about their future as a colony, search for British spies, and explore the Boston Tea Party and its consequences.

The Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. (grades 6-8)
Students will explore Rosa Parks and the Bus Boycott, the Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, along with additional events and influential people involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. Students will have the opportunity to learn about and develop a deeper understanding of this important time in history through role play, debate, hot-seating, and other dramatic activities.

Purely Poetry (grades 6-8)
Through activities involving music, movement and dramatic devising, students will explore a multitude of styles of poetry, from rhyming verse to free verse. Students will make interpretations, create their own poetry, and develop a personal connection to this artistic style of writing.

Einstein (grades 6-8)
Participants explore the world of scientific discovery with special emphasis placed on the ideas and theories set forth by Albert Einstein. Students follow the history of physics, from Galileo through Sir Isaac Newton, and finally to Einstein’s role in the creation of the atom bomb.

Design your own T³ program
We can work with you to customize a T³ program for your classroom. Perfect if you have a unit in your curriculum that you wish to enhance with a unique and innovative program.
Bullying is an increasingly serious concern in our school communities, and can take on many forms. There is extensive research available suggesting that comprehensive bullying prevention programs are effective tools that should be explored by school administrators and teachers.

This weeklong classroom residency examines the different forms of bullying that occur in the school community, while working further to promote respect and tolerance among classmates and teach tactics in problem solving, positive conflict resolution, and overcoming obstacles.

The Bully Ban is tailored for each individual grade, from K-8; younger students will investigate bullying through stories and creative drama activities, while older students will role-play and devise their own scenes and writing samples through this workshop.

The Bully Ban fee is $300 for the first classroom and $250 for each subsequent classroom. (If you book four or more classrooms, the mileage fee is waived for classrooms outside of Milwaukee County.)

To schedule the Bully Ban for your classroom, see page 17.

“First Stage Teaching Artists were very effective in using creative drama to address such a serious problem. These children were lucky to be part of a school that cared enough to bring in a program like The Bully Ban Workshop. As a future educator I truly valued the experience.”

– Alverno College Education Major

Photo by Jen McClellan
A year-long language arts classroom residency for grades 2–5

The arts can be used as a powerful vehicle for learning, rather than detached from traditional curriculum as an "extra." Drama in particular lends itself to integration with literature and language arts. As a result, First Stage has developed the S.C.O.R.E. program with the exclusive goal of developing critical literacy skills among students for the purpose of increasing achievement on standardized tests and enhancing their overall comprehension and retention of grade appropriate English Language Arts Model Academic Standards.

Results you will see…

S.C.O.R.E. builds students' skills and knowledge in the following key learning areas:

- Story comprehension
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Language and oratory skills
- Presentation/public speaking
- Group/team work
- Multicultural perspectives

“...I teared up a few times during the Pre-S.C.O.R.E. lesson because the teaching artists were so good with the children! The students asked the next day if Miss Julia was returning and I was thrilled to tell them we would see her in two weeks with a new adventure to act out.”

– ALBA School K4 Teacher

PRE-S.C.O.R.E. RESIDENCY

A year-long literacy classroom residency for K3-1

First Stage recognizes the important role that literacy plays in a child’s life—and for very young children, exploring and playing with books is essential in laying the building blocks for the development of early and long-term literacy skills.

Using beloved picture books as springboards for lessons, this program brings stories to life with dramatic activities and theater exercises. This active learning approach ensures all students are engaged and excited, making the learning experience natural and fun.

For more information and residency fees, see page 17.
Journey to Neverland in this fast-paced adaptation of the classic tale. Promising to be a mother for Peter and the Lost Boys, Wendy and her brothers embark on an incredible adventure filled with swashbuckling pirates, fantastic natives and the fearsome Captain Hook. In the end, she must choose whether to stay with the Lost Boys forever or face the adventure of a lifetime: growing up.

Most suitable for lower elementary school students and teachers. Interpreted performances: November 4, 2010 at 10 a.m. and noon

TICKETS ARE $6 PER SEAT
See page 17 for details on placing your order

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS!
Enhance your field trip even further with a Setting the Stage Workshop or a Curtain Call Workshop exploring adventure, overcoming obstacles and the fantasy genre—only $40 for a classroom!
See page 3 for details.

Special workshops for Peter Pan and Wendy
Ask about our weeklong Super Creative Writing! workshop, a perfect complement to themes explored in this play.
Cozy up this holiday season with a musical story of hope, love and family. The legend of Pinocchio comes to life in this exciting stage premiere as we join Geppetto after his wish has been granted: problem is, the new father has found that raising any child is a tall task. Overhearing Geppetto’s regrets, Pinocchio runs away to become a star in a traveling show. Join Geppetto on his heart-warming and comical journey to find his son.

Featuring an original score by Stephen Schwartz, the award-winning composer of Wicked.

Most suitable for lower and upper elementary, middle and high school students and teachers.

Interpreted performances: December 9, 2010 at 10 a.m. and noon.

TICKETS ARE $7.25 PER SEAT
See Inside page 17 for details on placing your order

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS!
Enhance your field trip even further with a Setting the Stage Workshop or a Curtain Call Workshop exploring family, individuality and perspective—only $40 for a classroom!
See page 3 for details.

Special workshops for My Son Pinocchio
Ask about our weeklong Fractured Fairytales workshop, a perfect complement to themes explored in this play.
Strap yourself in for comedy, adventure and plenty of heart. Young Lilah has just escaped the orphanage that has been her home since her mother died when a boy appears out of nowhere on a curious looking bicycle. As the police surround them, they disappear for an escapade through time to discover the secret of the bike, save the boy’s ancestors and, most importantly, find Lilah a good home with a family to love.

Most suitable for upper elementary, middle and high school students and teachers.

Interpreted performances: January 27, 2011 at 10 a.m. and noon

TICKETS ARE $6 PER SEAT
See page 17 for details on placing your order
It’s an epic tale of miniature proportions. Join Pico the Fly and his best friend Esteban, a clever earwig, as they get ready for the Queen Bee’s annual Soil Contest. With high hopes, the oddly paired bugs have plans to revolutionize the world until the bitter horsefly Packo steals their formula…and kidnaps Pico! Now Pico needs to escape, retrieve the formula and make things right with Esteban before it’s too late.

The “Ant-Hill Band” will be live and ready to rock with hilarious songs.

Most suitable for lower elementary school students and teachers.
Interpreted performances: March 3, 2011 at 10 a.m. and noon

TICKETS ARE $6 PER SEAT
See page 17 for details on placing your order

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS!
Enhance your field trip even further with a Setting the Stage Workshop or a Curtain Call Workshop exploring differences and feelings—only $40 for a classroom!
See page 3 for details.

Special workshops for U:Bug:Me
Ask about our weeklong Differences workshop, a perfect complement to themes explored in this play.
MARCH 25 – APRIL 14, 2011

Based on the award-winning children’s novel by Eleanor Estes
Adapted by Mary Hall Surface

Would you have the courage to stand up for someone even if it meant you might be picked on, too? That’s the question Maddie Reeves faces when Wanda Petronski moves to town and is teased for claiming to have 100 beautiful dresses at home…despite wearing the same one to school every day. Follow Maddie’s personal journey to see if she can muster the strength to defend her new friend, and maybe even find out what’s really in Wanda’s closet.

Most suitable for elementary and middle school students and teachers.
Interpreted performances: April 7, 2011 at 10 a.m. and noon

TICKETS ARE $6 PER SEAT
See page 17 for details on placing your order

IN–SCHOOL WORKSHOPS!
Enhance your field trip even further with a Setting the Stage Workshop or a Curtain Call Workshop exploring courage, perseverance and compassion—only $40 for a classroom!
See page 3 for details.

Special workshops for The Hundred Dresses
Ask about our weeklong Bully Ban workshop, a perfect complement to themes explored in this play.
April 29 – June 3, 2011

Adapted from the book by Harry Allard and James Marshall
Book, music and lyrics by Joan Cushing

You never know what you’ve got until it’s gone, and the students in Room 207 are about to find out the hard way. Their bad behavior has poor Miss Nelson at her wit’s end. But that all changes when she goes missing and the ruthless, homework-assigning substitute teacher Viola Swamp steps in. Now the students must scramble to clean up their act and find their beloved Miss Nelson before things get any worse.

Originally produced by First Stage in 2003, this classic is back with a brand new scene and musical number.

Most suitable for lower elementary school students and teachers.
Interpreted performances: May 26, 2011 at 10 a.m. and noon

Tickets are $6 per seat
See page 17 for details on placing your order

In-school Workshops!
Enhance your field trip even further with a Setting the Stage Workshop or a Curtain Call Workshop exploring drawing conclusions and character—only $40 for a classroom!
See page 3 for details.

Special workshops for Miss Nelson is Missing!
Ask about our weeklong Letter Detectives workshop, a perfect complement to themes explored in this play.
Our First Steps series consists of two plays for students grades Pre-K through K5 that are designed to introduce our youngest audience members to the theater in a fun, interactive environment. With smaller audiences, these productions are specifically designed to engage and involve young people through wonderful stories and familiar characters in an intimate environment.

Both First Steps shows are held at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 West Walnut Street in Milwaukee.

“Having personally read If You Take A Mouse To School over a hundred times, First Stage really brought the story to life. The set and props were amazing, and the kids had fun participating in recalling the events throughout the play. Little did they know, they were actually learning story sequence!”

- First Stage Subscriber
THEMES

- overcoming obstacles
- courage
- friendship
- feelings
- imagination

CURRICULAR CONNECTIONS

• LANGUAGE ARTS
  Adjectives

• SOCIAL STUDIES
  Trains
  Mapping Skills

• SCIENCE
  Steam Engines
  Coal

• MATH
  Problem Solving

• ARTS
  Theater
    Character Relationships
    Movement
  Music
    Storytelling through Music
    Rhythm
  Visual Arts
    Patterns
    Picture Books

FEBRUARY 1 – 11, 2011

By Watty Piper
Adapted for the stage by James Larson
Music and lyrics by Stuart Kenny

A train full of toys is waiting to go to the good little girls and boys on the other side of the imposing mountain. But who will get it there? The Little Blue Engine may be the smallest, but it’s the only train willing to step up to the task. Now your little ones will learn the value of perseverance and self-confidence as they watch, hope and help cheer the Little Engine over that mountain.

Most suitable for Pre-K and lower elementary school students and teachers.
Interpreted performance: February 10 at 9:30 a.m.

TICKETS ARE $5 PER SEAT
See page 17 for details on placing your order

IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS!

Enhance your field trip even further with a Setting the Stage Workshop or a Curtain Call Workshop exploring friendship and overcoming obstacles—only $40 for a classroom!
See page 3 for details.

Special workshops for The Little Engine That Could
Ask about our weeklong Frog and Toad workshop, a perfect complement to themes explored in this play.
1. Make your reservation for…

- Performances at the Todd Wehr Theater ($6/seat, except MY SON PINOCCHIO is $7.25/seat)
- First Steps performances at the Milwaukee Youth Arts Center ($5/seat)

Call our School Sales Specialist at (414) 267-2962 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or email fieldtrips@firststage.org

✦ A minimum of 10 people is required to make a school group purchase.
✦ A non-refundable $50 per production deposit is due upon making your reservation.
✦ You receive one complimentary chaperone seat for every 20 seats purchased to ensure adequate adult supervision for your group. Please provide us with the total number of seats you need, including all chaperones. The cost of your free ticket(s) will be deducted from the amount due.
✦ Group size may be adjusted as needed until one month before your performance date, when final payment is due. If additional seats are needed, they may be added up to 48 hours before your scheduled performance, pending seating availability.
✦ Full payment is due no later than 30 days prior to the performance. No refunds or exchanges are possible after final payment. Refunds will not be given for students who are ill. Payment must be made on a single school check – no cash or checks from individual students, please.

Ways to save on your school group reservation

✦ When your school books three or more productions within one season, you will receive a discount of $0.50 per student. Orders must be booked together to receive the discount.
✦ Families with season tickets to First Stage enjoy the benefit of free admission when their children attend a performance with their school. Please provide a list of these students’ names and phone numbers with your initial order; we will deduct the proper amount from your group’s total due.

Special seating needs

✦ Seating for persons with disabilities and audio describer services are available upon request. Please notify us of these needs when placing your order.

✦ Please remember that children under age 3 will not be admitted in the theater. Please notify parent chaperones.

Interpreted Performances

✦ We offer a limited number of sign language interpreted performances for our school matinees. Please see Pages 8-16 for the dates of the interpreted performances per production.

✦ If your group is unable to attend one of the scheduled interpreted performances, you are welcome to bring your own interpreter. Groups that bring their own interpreter will receive two complimentary tickets for the interpreter to preview the show and an additional ten complimentary tickets for your school order, which will only be held until July 1.

2. Enhance your experience with…

- Setting the Stage Pre-Show Workshops, page 3 ($40/classroom)
- Curtain Call Post-Show Workshops, page 3 ($40/classroom)

Call our School Sales Specialist at (414) 267-2962 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or email fieldtrips@firststage.org

In-School pre and post-show workshops are designed for the individual classroom, ideally a 30-student maximum. For schools outside Milwaukee County, a mileage fee in accordance with IRS rates, will be added.

3. Expand your curriculum with…

- Classroom Partnership Program, page 2 ($15/student)
- Alverno Professional Development Course, page 2 ($175/credit + $15/student)
- Theater Workshops, page 4 ($100/hour/classroom)
- Teaching Through Theater (T³), page 4-5 ($350/first classroom, $250/subsequent classroom)
- Bully Ban Workshops, page 6 ($300/first classroom, $250/subsequent classroom)
- S.C.O.R.E or Pre-S.C.O.R.E Residency, page 7 (pricing to be determined)

Call our Education Director Julia Magnasco at (414) 267-2971 or email Julia@firststage.org for more information.